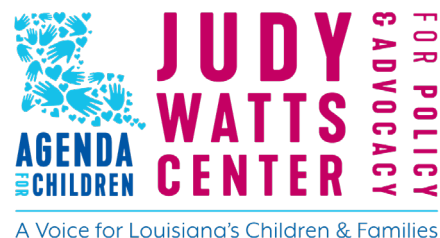
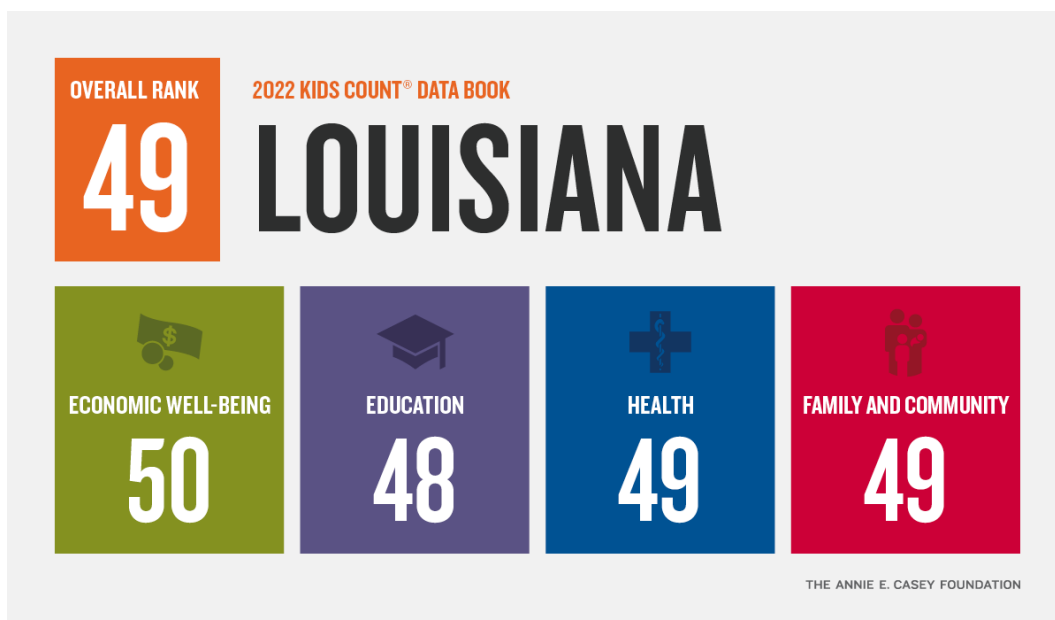


Louisiana's Kids Are Counting On Us



Let's Make This Legislative Session Count for Louisiana's Children and Families



Our Kids Matter

Louisiana ranked 49th in overall child well-being, according to the 2022 KIDS COUNT® Data Book, a 50-state report developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation that examines how children and families are faring.

Who We Are

Agenda for Children is a child advocacy organization that was founded to make Louisiana a state in which all children can thrive. Agenda for Children serves as the KIDS COUNT grantee for Louisiana, and is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to inform public conversations about child well-being using timely, accurate data on children at the state and local levels. In 2021, Agenda for Children launched The Judy Watts Center for Policy and Advocacy to honor the legacy of our beloved founder, Judy Watts, who served as our CEO until her retirement in 2010.

Judy was a fierce advocate for Louisiana's children who often worked 80+ hours a week to make Louisiana a better place for all children, from testifying in the legislature to organizing coalitions to support children's issues.



Contact: Courtney Rogers, Director
Judy Watts Center for Policy & Advocacy
Agenda for Children
crogers@agendaforchildren.org

Teresa Falgoust, Director
Data & Research
Agenda for Children
tfalgoust@agendaforchildren.org

agendaforchildren.org

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Our 2023 Legislative Agenda

The future of Louisiana depends on our collective ability to ensure that our children have their basic needs met, and that they are safe, healthy, and well-educated. Agenda for Children created this legislative agenda to improve outcomes for children and families across four different areas of child well-being. Together, we can make a lasting impact in our state and move up our ranking from 49th by focusing attention on the following policy priorities:



A Voice for Louisiana's Children & Families



Economic Opportunity

An investment in working families is an investment in our children.

Children's basic needs must be met in order for them to thrive.

- Establish a State Minimum Wage
- Increase Earned Income Tax Credit from 5% to 10% ([HB 162](#))
- Expand Access to Paid Family and Medical Leave ([HB 596](#) & [HB 366](#))



Education

An investment in education is an investment in our state's future prosperity.

Every child deserves a strong educational foundation.

- Improve compensation and benefits for the early care and education workforce ([HB 338](#))
- Invest in early care and education, including \$200M to preserve existing seats and \$115M for new seats ([HB 1](#)), and appropriate 10% of excess revenue to the Early Childhood Education Fund
- Increase young children's access to books ([HB 412](#))



Health

A healthier Louisiana starts with healthy children and families.

Children need access to affordable health care, including mental health services, to grow healthy and strong.

- Address maternal health disparities through expanded access to doula services ([HB 272](#))
- Improve transition of services for young children with disabilities ([HB 367](#))
- Invest in mental health services for children and youth ([HB 1](#))



Family & Community

Fostering opportunity-rich communities will build a stronger, safer Louisiana.

Children deserve to be nurtured and protected from harm while growing up in safe, welcoming communities.

- Create the Office of the Child Ombuds at the Louisiana Legislature ([SB 137](#))
- Invest in the child welfare program ([HB 1](#))