



FY2024-25

Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth's Budget Recommendations

HEALTH

- **Implement Multi-Year Continuous Eligibility for all children on TennCare or CoverKids until age 5.**

MENTAL HEALTH

- **Develop a state-funded grant to cover the cost of supervision hours needed for mental health professionals to obtain licensure.**

CHILD CARE

- **Use a Cost-Estimation Model to increase reimbursement rates.**
- **Expand income eligibility of Smart Steps to 100% median income.**
- **Remove Smart Steps co-pay fee for families under 150% Federal Poverty Line.**

EDUCATION

- **Expand use of the Free Care Rule Reversal beyond behavioral health services to cover all health services.**

ECONOMICS

- **Implement a permanent sales tax holiday on grocery items.**

YOUTH JUSTICE

- **Implement a re-entry pilot program with wrap-around services focused on family engagement, mentoring and employment.**
- **Implement a third-party review of Tennessee's youth justice system (Youth Development Centers, Hardware Secure Facilities, Staff Secure and Detention Centers) to evaluate program success, recidivism and ensure that children are safe and receiving appropriate education, food and activity.**

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

- **Re-implement and enhance state-level employer child care tax credit.**