



# *The Kid Angle*

*Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children*

---

## **5 things the Biden Administration can do for kids right now November 30, 2023**

Contact: Michele Kayal, VP Media and Communications,  
[MicheleK@FirstFocus.org](mailto:MicheleK@FirstFocus.org)

---

We recently outlined in this space [the crisis consuming our nation's children](#): Increasing mortality rates, mental health emergencies, rising rates of kids without health insurance, a child care system close to collapse.

It is up to Congress to fix these problems. But given Congressional dysfunction and the perception of greater needs than tending to our children, lawmakers are unlikely to step up any time soon. But President Biden can.

[First Focus on Children shared with the Biden-Harris Administration a Children's Agenda](#) that outlines solutions to many of these issues. Now is the time to put these into action.

### **Here are 5 things the Biden Administration can do for kids right now:**

1. **Establish a Child Poverty Reduction Target:** The Administration led the enactment of an expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty to the lowest level ever recorded. Since its expiration, child poverty has more than doubled to 12.4%. The Administration has the authority, through Executive Order, to establish a [Child Poverty Reduction Target](#) for the nation, for example, to cut child poverty in half by 2026.
2. **Require Child Impact Statements:** [Child Impact Statements](#) would require government agencies to answer fundamental questions about effects — positive and negative — of proposed regulations, rules, policies, programs, and guidance on children. The Administration could establish this approach — similar to impact statements concerning the environment, business, and unfunded mandates to state, local, and tribal governments — through Executive Order.
3. **Create a White House Office of Children and Youth and/or a Children's Cabinet:** [More than 80% of voters](#) in a May 2022 poll by Lake Research Partners said that “programs for children need greater attention and coordination.” A White House Office on Children and Youth and/or a Children's Cabinet would help ensure that government better coordinates services for children — both here and abroad — across federal agencies and departments.

4. **Increase Data Collection and Disaggregation:** With improved data, policymakers and advocates could better identify disparities, track progress, and tailor interventions to the needs of specific groups of children. The Administration has the authority to require enhanced data collection on issues such as children’s health, education, welfare, and safety and disaggregation of this data across demographics such as age, race, gender, ethnicity, disability status, and socioeconomic status.
5. **Continue providing 10% of HIV funding to Orphans and Vulnerable Children:** Congress allowed the 10% set aside for orphans and vulnerable children served under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to expire Oct. 1. These funds are now available — and likely — to be diverted elsewhere. The Administration has the power to ensure that they continue to support children in need.

The Administration has a solid track record on helping kids. President Biden has sought to shore up child care through supplemental requests and legislation that requires applicants for some government contracts to offer child care to employees. The Administration fixed the “family glitch” that kept more than 2 million children without health insurance and has proposed new regulations that better direct funding to children experiencing poverty, food insecurity and homelessness.

***Now is not the time to stop.***



Photo by [Josue Michel](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*The Kid Angle is published weekly by First Focus on Children, except during Congressional recesses.*



First Focus on Children  
1400 I Street NW  
Suite 450

Washington, DC 20005  
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please  
(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).