

Pre-Session Reading: Taking Action to Address Child Poverty

Learning Goal and Objectives

Communicate the effect of policy on child health.

- a. Outline the priorities of child advocacy organizations related to child poverty. (*Knowledge*)
- b. Discuss the unique voice and power that pediatricians and child health providers possess as advocates for policy. (*Skill*)
- c. Tailor a message to communicate effectively with different stakeholders about child poverty. (*Skill*)

This session will help you integrate your knowledge of the impact of poverty on health with an understanding of how social structures and policies at all levels (federal, state, local, and clinical) can be influenced to reduce the harms of child poverty. We expect this session will provide you an opportunity to put what they've learned about child poverty, its causes, and its solutions into action.

The following should take about 20-30 minutes to complete PRIOR to the in-class session.

- Read **The AAP policy on Poverty and Child Health**
 - <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/03/07/peds.2016-0339>
- Explore Legislative website for 5 minutes
 - What area of advocacy did you choose to focus on? Why?
- Pick 2 of the following child advocacy organizations to familiarize yourself with. Explore their website for a few minutes:
 1. **First Focus:** A bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions.
 - a. National scope
 - b. <https://firstfocus.org>
 2. **The Children's Defense Fund (CDF):** A non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for more than 40 years to ensure a level playing field for all children. We champion policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education and a moral and spiritual foundation. Supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations, CDF advocates nationwide on behalf of children to ensure children are always a priority.
 - a. National scope with some state chapters
 - b. <http://www.childrensdefense.org/about/#About>
 3. **Children Now:** Children Now is the only umbrella children's organization working to improve children's health, education and overall well-being.

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- a. State level: Focus is in CA
 - b. <https://www.childrennow.org>
4. **Stand for Children:** For 20 years, we have advocated for better and equal education standards for all children by utilizing a strong three-pillared approach: Parents, Politics, and Policy.
 - a. State level: In eleven states: AZ, CO, IL, IN, LA, MA, OK, OR, TN TX, WA
 - b. <http://stand.org/national/about>
5. **Too Small to Fail:** Too Small to Fail aims to help parents and businesses take meaningful actions to improve the health and well-being of children ages zero to five, so that more of America’s children are prepared to succeed in the 21st century.
 - a. National scope
 - b. <http://toosmall.org>
6. **America’s Promise Alliance:** The collective work of the Alliance involves keeping Five Promises to children and youth that form the conditions they need to achieve adult success.
 - a. National scope – an alliance of 360 national partner organizations
 - b. <http://www.americaspromise.org/promises>
7. **ReadyNation:** ReadyNation is the preeminent business leader organization working to strengthen business through better policies for children and youth. Our members educate policymakers and the public about effective investments that will help business compete in today’s global marketplace, build a foundation for lasting economic security, and help children get on the right track to succeed in school and in life.
 - a. National scope with some state chapters.
 - b. <http://www.readynation.org/about-us/overview-mission/>
8. **National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP):** NCCP is one of the nation’s leading public policy centers dedicated to promoting the economic security, health, and well-being of America’s low-income families and children.
 - a. National and state scope
 - b. <http://www.nccp.org>
9. **Docs for Tots:** Docs for Tots is a non-profit, non-partisan organization led by pediatricians to promote practices, policies, and investments that will enable young children to thrive. Docs for Tots creates linkages between doctors, policymakers, early childhood practitioners, and other stakeholders to ensure that children grow up healthy.
 - a. <http://docsfortots.org>
10. **Ounce of Prevention:** The Ounce of Prevention Fund gives children in poverty the best chance for success in school and in life by advocating for and providing the highest-quality care and education from birth to age five. The organization serves children and families in Illinois through a network of home visiting programs and trains community-based early childhood professionals. They partner with advocacy organizations in 17 states and Washington, DC to build capacity to advance policy change and increase public investments in effective birth-to-five programs.
 - a. <http://www.theounce.org/>