

# 2023

# Policy Agenda



**The Bold Goals Coalition takes on large, systemic issues by building partnerships that accelerate lasting change.**

We bring more than 200 local partner organizations together to collectively improve outcomes for children and families across Central Alabama. We believe that the following priority issues are foundational for the long-term success of our communities, and are committed to supporting promising solutions that address pressing challenges and strengthen our region.

## CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION

- Support state investments to expand Alabama's First Class Pre-K Program.
- Support state investments for Alabama Quality STARS to increase access to quality licensed child care opportunities for families.
- Support efforts to strengthen the early childhood workforce through career tech programs, scholarships, higher education, apprenticeships, professional development.
- Provide tax credits to businesses that provide on-site child care or child care benefits to employees.
- Create a statewide interagency council to address child care access and affordability for families.

## ACADEMIC STUDENT SUPPORT

- Support investments in high-quality out-of-school enrichment programs.
- Support investments in evidence-based programs to accelerate student learning, such as high-dose tutoring programs and high-quality instructional materials.
- Support broadband expansion to ensure all students have access to virtual learning resources.
- Support efforts to ensure students are proficient in reading and math by the end of the 3rd grade.
- Support investments to ensure successful implementation of FAFSA completion requirements.

## HUNGER RELIEF

- Support the expansion of programs that provide meals and snacks to children during after-school hours and summer months.
- Support the protection of proven nutritional programs that support healthy families.
- Support the expansion of local programs that improve food access to families facing hunger.

## MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Support the expansion of mental health training programs for teachers and school staff.
- Support the expansion of school-based mental health support services for students.
- Support investments to expand and sustain Mental Health Coordinators within school districts.

## HEALTH CARE

- Support efforts to increase affordable health care coverage for children and families through Medicaid expansion.
- Support efforts to reduce overdose deaths by providing tools and resources that allow for immediate response to overdose events.
- Support efforts to limit youth tobacco use and vaping.
- Support the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council's recommendations related to opioid settlement funding.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Support a state General Fund appropriation to ADECA's Public Transportation Trust Fund.
- Support greater coordination of local funding to enhance regional transportation options, particularly for seniors and people with a disability.

**Policy change is essential to creating equitable communities across Central Alabama. The recommendations included in this Policy Agenda reflect the Coalition's desire to see individuals and families thriving, and to advance social, economic, health and racial equity across the region.**

While the Coalition collectively supports these policy goals, each organization may choose to emphasize and prioritize work on goals specifically related to the mission of their organization. The foundation of this policy agenda is built on the shared goals of participating organizations to collectively address critical issues in Central Alabama.

If you have questions or would like more information, please visit **BoldGoals.org** or contact:

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