

## GET INVOLVED!

The phrase “there is strength in numbers” is especially true when it comes to child advocacy. We can’t be successful without the help and support of concerned citizens like you.

We’ll keep you informed about what we’re working on and give you opportunities to get involved. Sign up for our newsletters, make a donation to support our work at the capitol or attend one of the many advocacy workshops and policy conferences we hold each year.



The mission of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families is to ensure that all children and their families have the resources and opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives and to realize their full potential. We:

- Serve as a voice for children at the state Capitol and in Washington, D.C.
- Gather and analyze data to support public policy that serves all children and families.
- Mobilize coalitions of diverse groups to drive change.



## ADVOCATE WITH US ONLINE

AACF’s website, [www.aradvocates.org](http://www.aradvocates.org) features the most comprehensive set of research and reports on the well-being of children and families in Arkansas. While there, don’t forget to sign up for our e-mail alerts and newsletters.

AACF compiles data on child wellness from every county in Arkansas. Go to our website and click on our Kids Count Data Center to begin your exploration of the data and create charts and specialized maps.

You can also follow AACF on Facebook and Twitter!

1400 W. Markham  
Union Station, Suite 306  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 371-9678  
(501) 371-9681 Fax

614 East Emma, Suite 127  
Springdale, AR 72764  
(479) 927-9800

[www.aradvocates.org](http://www.aradvocates.org)



Since 1977, AACF has provided leadership, research and advocacy to promote wide-ranging reforms that have improved the lives of Arkansas children, and we have never been afraid to lead the way when the need arose.



#### **PROTECTING CHILDREN.**

Through the years, AACF has played a major role in challenging Arkansas's juvenile justice and child welfare systems to perform better. In 1983, our research into juvenile court hearings led to a major overhaul of the state's juvenile justice system. Today we are part of several coalitions working on long-range reforms in both systems.

#### **IMPROVING CHILDREN'S HEALTH.**

We led the effort to create ARKids First, which provides children's health insurance to working families. Since 1997, the rate of uninsured children in Arkansas has fallen from 21 percent to 9 percent. Now we're driving the state to cross the finish line to covering all kids by enrolling eligible children and extending more options to families who can't afford private insurance.



#### **FIGHTING FOR EARLY EDUCATION AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES.**

We have been a leader in the fight to make quality preschool available to at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds in the state. Beginning in 2003, AACF and others convinced the



legislature to expand annual funding for pre-k by \$100 million. Now the state can serve every at-risk 3- and 4-year-old. As we move forward, we're working to expand pre-k to more low-income

children and we're leading a coalition fighting for high-quality afterschool and summer programs for children of all ages throughout the state.

#### **PROMOTING ECONOMIC SECURITY.**

AACF is a champion for the economic well-being of Arkansas families. We have led efforts to make our tax and budget system more fair, including recent victories of exempting most low-income families from the state income tax and closing down predatory payday lenders. Our next goal is to secure a state Earned Income Tax Credit to help balance our regressive tax system.

AACF will continue to be a voice for Arkansas kids when it comes to these issues and others. Only when improvements are made in these areas can Arkansas's children truly realize their full potential. And until that day arrives, AACF will continue fighting on their behalf.

