



TENNESSEE
COMMISSION ON
**CHILDREN &
YOUTH**

THE ADVOCATE

Welcoming New Beginnings



April symbolizes renewal, growth, and hope, themes that resonate deeply within our advocacy community.

In this season of fresh starts, we extend a warm welcome to all new members joining our cause! Your passion and dedication enrich our collective efforts to create safer, happier environments for children and families in Tennessee.

Let us harness the spirit of April to sow seeds of positive change, to nurture resilience, and to cultivate opportunities for children and youth. Together, let's embrace this season of new beginnings with open hearts and unwavering commitment to Tennessee's children and families.

Legislative Updates

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Children and Youth Articles



A recent OJJDP-supported study on firearm injury and mortality found that system-involved youth were up to 23 times more likely than the general population to die from gun violence. While some jurisdictions have experienced increases in violent crime, data from the 2022 National Crime Victimization Survey show no major shift in the incidence and patterns of youth crime. Click the link to learn more about a holistic approach that serves both youth who are at risk for delinquency and those at risk for victimization.

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Scientists are taking a more detailed look at how children's language development is influenced by the number of people in their households, evaluating the impact of the adult-to-child ratio within each residence. Currently, more children are living in homes with



The Office of Child Support Services publishes a monthly newsletter which aims to help arm service providers, parents, guardians and families with helpful tools and information pertaining to child support. Click the link to learn how to; bring social work principles to child support, build partnerships within your community and learn if you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit!

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The Future of Families & Child Wellbeing Study consists of a core survey with mothers, fathers, primary caregivers, and the focal child. The seventh wave of this study was published last month. The interviews conducted collected information on a wide range of

extended family members. Studies show the greater number of people in the home can have a negative impact on children's language development. Click the link to learn more!

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topics including: attitudes, relationships, parenting behavior, demographic characteristics, health (mental and physical), economic and employment status, neighborhood characteristics, and program participation. Click the link to learn more!

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Mental Health Resources

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Find the most updated grant funding opportunities through the Federal Government as well as the State of Tennessee.

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The Department of Children Services has partnered with the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to start a program that aims to put money in the pockets of families and guardians who are caring for children in foster care that also have intellectual disabilities. The Tennessee Strong Families Healthcare Reimbursement Account provides up to \$20,000 annually for those families. Podcast host, Jonquil Newland, sits down with Babs Tierno, the

deputy director of Tennessee Strong Families with the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to discuss the details.

Listen Now

Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 4 - Building Bridges 2024: West Tennessee's Path to Resilience and Empowerment - Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 1770 U.S. 45 Bypass Jackson, TN

Friday, April 5 - Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth's Legislative Breakfast Event - Upper Cumberland Development District, 1104 England Dr. Cookeville, TN

Friday, April 5 - Family Ties: Detangling the Myths of Familial Trafficking in Northeast TN - 3515 Bristol HWY, Johnson City, TN

Friday, April 5 - ETCCY's There's No Excuse for Child Abuse - Calhoun's on the River, 400 Neyland Dr. Knoxville, TN

Tuesday, April 9 - Second Look Commission Meeting - contact Kylie Graves at kylie.graves@tn.gov for more information

Tuesday, April 16 - Child Abuse Awareness Training - Upper Cumberland Development District, 1104 England Dr. Cookeville, TN

Wednesday, April 17 - Rural Health Disparities Across Tennessee and the Upper Cumberland - 1100 England Dr. Cookeville, TN

Wednesday, April 17 - Leaders of the Pack Panel Discussion "Lunch & Learn" - Hamilton Co. Family Justice Center, 5705 Uptain Rd. Chattanooga, TN

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth | [Website](#)



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