Advocacy Works

Accomplishments in Washington’s 2012 legislative sessions

May 2012
Hard times have hurt Washington’s children

Four out of 10 kids live in families that can’t afford the basics. Hunger has nearly doubled since the onset of the recession. Tens of thousands of additional children have been pushed into poverty. These hardships disproportionately affect children of color.

When legislators gathered in Olympia, we were there, too.

**Kids need protection**

Kids need nutritious food, health care, a loving place to learn and grow, and the opportunity to dream big. To get and keep these basics, they need smart, effective people asking, “Is it good for kids?”

In short, they need us

**We urged lawmakers to**

- Protect what works
- Reject unfair cuts
- Adopt new solutions

**Outcomes for kids**

**Child care** for working parents was restored to 2010 levels. Working Connections Child Care will reach an estimated 2,500 additional families who struggle to pay for child care.

**Food assistance** for thousands of children in immigrant families was maintained. Though targeted for elimination, legislators changed course, protecting half of the monthly benefits that help feed 31,000 people.

**Apple health for kids**. Our state’s popular, successful, comprehensive health coverage for children, was protected from any cuts. We also persuaded lawmakers to step up efforts to enroll 100,000 uninsured children in health coverage.

Children’s Alliance advocacy earned a total of $223 million in public investments for kids.
In coming months we’ll be working alongside you to ensure kids’ needs are front and center in the elections. We’ll be organizing meetings so you can connect with legislators in local communities to urge them to step up and support good policies for kids. We’ll be monitoring what happens in the other Washington and giving you a chance to speak up for kids in federal policy.

Join: If you aren’t on our email list, sign up today: www.action.voices.org/signup.

Give: Make a donation online and put your money to work protecting kids: www.childrensalliance.org.

Act: Build the movement for kids at Advocacy Camp, October 17-19, 2012. Contact Community Organizer Emijah Smith for more information: emijah@childrensalliance.org or (206) 324-0340, extension 25.