

The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

The First 100 Days: The Kid Edition

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Text/Call/Email: [Michele Kayal](#), VP Media and Communications, 703-919-8778

Dear Friends,

These first 100 days of the Biden Administration have offered monumental and historic possibilities for our nation's children, a fact sealed with yesterday's release of the [American Families Plan](#).

Here are FIVE of the most important actions the Biden Administration has taken for kids in its first 100 days:

1. **Child Poverty:** Fortified the American Rescue Plan with changes to the Child Tax Credit and other tax provisions that will cut child poverty in half in 2021. Extended those credits in the American Families Plan, which, if passed by Congress, would [cut child poverty almost in half in 2022](#).
2. **Federal Budget:** Included significant increases for children's funding in the FY 2022 budget request, [reversing the downward trend](#) in investments over past years. First Focus budget team estimates that roughly \$42 billion would go toward programs that benefit kids.
3. **Hunger:** Increased the maximum benefit available under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by 15% and extended it until September, aiding the lowest income families. Increased Pandemic-EBT benefits by 15% and extended [them through the summer, which will reach more than 30 million children](#), a measure that First Focus has been urging for many years. Made it easier for schools to get meals to kids who need them once they return to the classroom.
4. **Child care and early childhood education:** As part of the American Families Plan, called for **free, high-quality preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds** in the United States, benefitting an estimated five million children. Called on Congress to **make child care more affordable** by covering all child care expenses for low-income families and capping child care expenses at no more than 7% of their income for all children under the age of 5. The plan also seeks to improve the quality of child care by investing in curriculum development, smaller classes and a better-paid workforce.
5. **Immigration: Ended harmful Trump-era policies** such as the Remain in Mexico program, the information-sharing agreement between DHS and HHS, and the public charge rule. **Created a task force to reunify separated families**, restarted the Central American Minors Program, and taken steps to refortify DACA. Introduced a long-awaited immigration reform bill that, for the first time, would require border policies based on the best interest of the child.

Here are **THREE** of the most important items we'd like the Administration to address in the *next 100 days* (or sooner):

1. **Child poverty:** Make the poverty-cutting tax provisions of the American Rescue Plan permanent, a request that has received support from [nearly 300 organizations](#).
2. **COVID-19 and health care:** [Devise a robust, national plan](#), tailored to the needs of children, to distribute a children's vaccine as soon as one becomes available. Encourage and sign legislation that makes the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) permanent. End all waivers and guidance that limit access to care, including the Medicaid Block Grant guidance.
3. **Immigration: Resume asylum processing at the border** by ending Title 42 and ensure that unaccompanied children are placed in small, community-based settings and promptly released to family and other sponsors.

And, if you missed it live, check out the video of our [First 100 Days Event: "What if kids were in charge?"](#) We've got some super clips of children telling their leaders exactly what they'd like them to do.

