

Priorities for New Hampshire Children | 2015

OVERARCHING PRIORITY: Investing In Our Children and Our Future

Priority Leader: NH CAN Steering Committee

BACKGROUND

New Hampshire's success is based on the power of people working together to maintain our way of life through the careful protection of public structures such as police, fire protection, highways and education. Solid public structures are the foundation of a healthy Granite State on which children, families, and businesses build their lives.

New Hampshire faces a number of challenges that must be addressed by decision makers for New Hampshire to continue its prosperity. We need to invest in the structures that will build on our economic and social successes. Citizens, businesses, and decision makers must work together to develop options that provide an equitable future for all our children.

THE OPPORTUNITY

New Hampshire's biennial budget is one of the chief means by which the state invests in its children, builds healthy and vibrant communities, and maintains the quality of life for which the Granite State is so well known.

Long-standing flaws in New Hampshire's tax system, as well as economic circumstances and recent policy changes, jeopardize New Hampshire's ability to achieve those ends. In fact, in real terms, state revenues remain more than \$250 million below their pre-recession levels, dramatically impairing New Hampshire's capacity to provide education, health, and other services critical to the well-being of children and families.

At the same time, New Hampshire's tax system continues to ask much more of low-income families and individuals than of more affluent ones, limiting their opportunities to achieve economic security and independence.

TAKE ACTION

Partners should work with NH CAN to explore incremental reforms to our tax system, making it more equitable and sustainable for New Hampshire.

PRIORITY LEADER

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REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.nhfpi.org/research/state-budget>