



Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth's Budget Recommendations FY2026-27



YOUTH JUSTICE

Create a state-supported grant program to help communities implement evidence-based practices that address anger, aggression, and domestic violence education, targeting the growing trend of assault charges among adolescent girls.

CHILD WELFARE

Reduce time in custody by strengthening services that help caregivers fulfill permanency plan requirements.

Recognize TEN-4 Day statewide and support regional awareness through state-funded educational events aimed at preventing child abuse.

CHILD WELFARE & YOUTH JUSTICE

Create a publicly accessible database containing licensure information for all child care agencies defined under TCA § 37-5-501, to enhance transparency and accountability in placements.

HEALTH

Provide state-supported swim instruction for TennCare-enrolled children ages 1-4 as a preventive health and safety measure aimed at reducing the risk of drowning and promoting early childhood water safety.

Create a comprehensive approach to absorb additional SNAP financial obligations at the state level while implementing measures to reduce administrative error rates.

MENTAL HEALTH

Establish a grant program to offset the cost of licensure supervision hours for mental health professionals, helping to grow and sustain Tennessee's behavioral health workforce.

CHILD CARE

Establish a statewide paid family leave program to support early parent-child bonding, reduce financial hardship for working families, and ease pressure on Tennessee's limited infant care system.

FAMILY ECONOMICS

Build an easy-to-use, centralized website where families can explore all publicly funded children's programs in Tennessee, complete a common eligibility screener, apply for services, and connect with benefits navigators