

How to Influence the State Budget for Kids



The state has until June 30 to adopt a final state budget. During the spring months, legislators are debating the proposed spending plan. You can influence the decisions they make so kids win! Here's how:

Contact your legislators.

Your elected officials want to hear from you. You can e-mail, call or visit. Be sure to have a simple and clear message when contacting your legislators. ACNJ's Kids Count data can help you build a case and show your legislators how children are faring in their districts. To identify your Legislative representatives go to www.congress.org.

Respond to Advocates for Children of New Jersey's Budget Alerts.

Throughout the budget season, ACNJ will send brief e-mails that you can click through to send a quick message to your elected officials on a variety of issues. Please be on the lookout for these e-mails and respond. They do make a difference! If you are not receiving our Action Alerts, sign up at www.acnj.org. You must specifically indicate that you want to receive Action Alerts.

Write a letter to the editor.

The media is a good place to influence decision-makers. Writing a letter to your local paper shows that people are concerned about issues that affect kids. A sample letter is included in this packet and posted online at www.acnj.org. (Click the link for the state budget).

Share ACNJ's information with your networks.

Forward ACNJ's informative e-mails to your networks, share our reports and data at your events and provide this information to your elected officials.

Comment online.

Many news stories that promote an investment in children receive negative comments. We can counter that by posting comments from people who support putting children first in the state budget.

If you would like to help ACNJ counter these negative messages, please contact Mary Coogan at mcoogan@acnj.org.



Spread the word through social media.

ACNJ regularly posts news items, events and issue about children on our Facebook and Twitter pages, including state budget issues. This is a great way to get the word out and ask people to join the fight and take action on behalf of New Jersey's children.

If you are a social media user, help us spread the word:

- ⇒ "Friend" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/acnjforkids.
- ⇒ "Like" our posts.
- ⇒ Share posts with your friends.
- ⇒ Invite your friends to "like" ACNJ on Facebook.
- ⇒ Share your posts of issues and events on ACNJ's Facebook page.
- ⇒ Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/acnjforkids.
- ⇒ Retweet our tweets to your network.
- ⇒ Post kid-friendly messages on the social media pages of your legislator, the Governor and other decision-makers

Giving Every Child A Chance