

CURRENT POLICY PLATFORM: 2012-13

Now in its fifth year, the Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (COPC) and its 46 member organizations advocate for policies that help to build a healthier generation for Washington. In 2012-13, we are calling on key decision makers and partners to support the following specific recommendations for securing the health and well being of Washington's children and families.

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- The Coalition will impact federal policy by supporting progressive versions of specific budgetary vehicles (e.g., Farm and Transportation bills).
- Monitor implementation of the Affordable Care Act bill, the Fresh Food Financing Initiative and the [prevention and wellness funds](#) and key policy provisions (like nutrition labeling in restaurants).

STATE/LOCAL LEVEL PRIORITIES

NUTRITION

- **Access to Healthy Foods:**
 - *Enable small grocers to be authorized retailers for WIC benefits.*
 - *Expanding Free/Reduced School Breakfast.* Support OSPI budget to improve the quality of school breakfasts and the share of eligible children receiving them in order to increase access to and availability of healthy, nutritious foods.
 - *Restore "Farm to School" program* in the state Department of Agriculture budget. This now unfunded program is contained within their "Domestic Marketing" budget.
 - *Examine policy barriers to locally-based innovative food distribution systems* (e.g., current requirement to have farmers dispense EBT paper receipts at farmer's markets)
- **Breastfeeding:** Support institutional policy level changes, (e.g., hospitals) to ensure that all healthcare providers and staff follow protocols and distribute consistent, accurate information.
- **Food Policy:** Creation of a strong Food Policy Council for Washington State. Engage with emergent statewide workgroup that was spawned from the Governor's Executive Order.
- **Institutional Food Purchasing:** Support stronger standards for State of Washington's institutional purchasing of nutritious foods (like [HB 1801](#) from the last two legislative sessions).
- **Soda Pop and Sugary Drinks:** Encourage and support local and institutional policy approaches to reduce our addiction/consumption of [soda pop and sugary drinks](#).

- **Child Care Standards:** Develop stronger nutrition and physical activity standards in all child care settings, and encourage the provision of technical assistance from the State for providers to fully implement these standards (*family home; after-school; center*).
- **School Standards:** Develop stronger [Nutrition](#) and [Physical Activity](#) (NPA) Standards in School Settings. Convert the prior NPA “goals” from SB 5903 enacted in 2007 (that lapsed in 2010) into actual standards. Promote physical education, in addition to physical activity in schools.
- **Health & Productivity:** Support the statewide [Worksite Wellness program](#) (housed in Health Care Authority) which has faced budgetary challenges of late. This issue area can engage businesses and their associations and also connects to our institutional procurement work.

BUILDING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- **Active Transportation**
 - Support reintroduction of [HB 2370, a bill to include health as a goal in transportation planning](#), from the 2012 session
 - Support reintroduction of [HB 1217](#) – the Neighborhood Safe Speeds bill from 2012
 - Impact future State transportation revenue and budgets to achieve better equity in multi-modal funding in a sustainable way, including direct funding for full implementation of the [Complete Streets](#) legislation passed in 2011.
- **Safe Routes to School (SRTS):** Revitalize the SRTS Workgroup from several years ago to maintain a policy presence with this issue, especially with regards to maintaining and expanding funding opportunities, including sustainable funding for a state-level center that can provide technical assistance to grantees.
- **Shared Use (“Open Playgrounds”):** Promote the [COPC toolkit](#) as a way to create stronger, lasting partnerships between cities, school districts and community-based organizations.
- **Parks and Rec – Sustainable Funding:** Make up the difference in funding needed to support our state parks. The state has recently mandated that its parks operate without state funding beginning in 2013; however the Discover Pass parking permit program has brought in less than half the dollars needed for parks to operate.

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