



PARENT & CAREGIVER

Quarterly Newsletter

Since our establishment in 1985, Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota (CDF-MN) has been at the forefront of addressing the unique needs of Minnesota's children, youth, and families envisioning a nation where marginalized children flourish, leaders prioritize their well-being, and communities wield the power to ensure they thrive.

To achieve this vision, we are committed to a strategy of movement-building and institutional growth, focusing on child-centered public policy, racial equity, and the lived experiences of young people. In addition to our advocacy efforts, which include extensive research, community engagement and organizing, economic justice outreach and youth development programs, CDF-MN is proud to have launched its Parents and Caregiver Ambassador Network in 2024. This network centers the voices of parents and caregivers to mobilize for systems change.

Community Engagement: Our team is establishing a network of activists, leaders, community members and parents for the organization and the broader child advocacy movement. We recruit new supporters, engage activists, build partnerships, and develop new leaders who identify with the mission and vision of Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota. We lead the execution of grassroots outreach plans to further the programmatic goals of the Voices and Choices for Children coalition and development of an organizing cohort of emerging leaders.



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Make Your Voice Heard: Pledge to Vote for Child Well-Being in November and All Elections

At Children's Defense Fund, we believe that every child deserves a bright future. With critical elections coming up, your vote is more important than ever in shaping policies that impact the well-being of children and families across our nation.



[Take the Pledge](#) >

In 2024, the stakes are high. Our democracy thrives when all voices are heard, and this year's elections will determine the future of many vital issues, including the rights and welfare of our children. By pledging to vote, you commit to being a powerful voice for child well-being and justice.



Early Voting Is Open!

Early voting is now available in Minnesota. You can vote early [in person](#) or [by mail](#). You don't need a special reason or excuse to vote early. If you're ready to vote and it's more convenient to do it now, go for it! Request an absentee ballot or find out where early voting is happening in your area on the [Minnesota Secretary of State's website](#).

[Find out More](#) >



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Energy Assistance Program is open again for winter 24/25

Energy Assistance Program is open again for winter 24/25.

The deadline to apply for Energy Assistance during the winter of 2024-2025 is May 31, 2025.

[Find out More](#) 

COVIDTEST.gov Now Open for Ordering

The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) reopened the website [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) earlier this week, so that households across the country can order four additional over-the-counter COVID-19 tests for free.

These tests are intended for use throughout the 2024 holiday season to detect currently circulating COVID-19 variants. Clear instructions are included on how to verify extended expiration dates.

Bridge to Benefits Screening Tool

Bridge to Benefits is a project by Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota to improve the well-being of families and individuals by linking them to public work support programs and tax credits. By answering a few simple questions, you will be able to see if you or someone else may be eligible for public work support programs. We will NOT ask you for information that identifies you.

[Find out More](#) 

Solutions Not Suspensions (SNS) Hotline


(651) 252-1863
CALL-OR-TEXT

SNS Hotline

- Receive advice on school discipline issues
- Get answers to your questions
- Connect to local resources that are *here for you!*

HOURS

Live Representatives
4-6pm Tuesday and Wednesday
Voicemail : Monday-Friday
Call back within **2 days**



The SNS Hotline couldn't happen without the support of these partners:

- Disability Law Center
- Youth Law Project
- The Arc MN
- Legal Rights Center
- S.T.A.N.D. Up - MN Parents United



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Early Risers Podcast

Host of Early Risers Dianne Haulcy launched season six last week, with a focus this season on empowering kids and parents with media literacy skills to navigate the world around them – especially when it comes to race. Throughout the season you'll hear host Dianne Haulcy talk with authors, researchers, and practitioners who focus on media – from books to AI – and the role it plays in kids' perceptions about race.


Episodes will be released every other Wednesday through December 4 and can be found at Early Risers or wherever you get your podcasts. Here's a link to the first episode of the new season: [Seeing Race Through Picture Books](#).




Early Risers recently launched a monthly newsletter, as well. The Early Risers e-newsletter provides curated content and resources designed to help parents and caregivers understand how young children learn about race. Inside are stories, tips, and suggestions for having better conversations about race and differences with the little ones in our lives. You can sign up to receive the monthly Early Risers newsletter [here](#).

Discipline Policy Meeting

 Lucy Laney
Elementary School

 October 29

 6:00pm

Join **Solutions Not Suspensions** and the **Legal Rights Center!** We are creating a space for the community to learn all about the new discipline policies at MPS!

Share your voice!
Know your rights!

**LEGAL
RIGHTS
CENTER**

and

**SOLUTIONS
NOT
SUSPENSIONS**



RSVP!

Minneapolis Public Schools New Student Handbook & Discipline Policy

EVENT DATE CHANGE

October 29, 2024
6:00 pm

Join SNS and the Legal Rights Center (LRC) at Lucy Laney Elementary School on Tuesday October 29th!



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The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF)

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), powered by Children's Defense Fund (CDF), will convene on November 8, 2024, to explore the impact of the 2024 election on children and youth legislation. As a critical platform, this event will gather key policymakers, advocates, and educators to discuss how national, state, and local policies can better serve young people, particularly those marginalized by systemic inequities. With panels, an opening plenary, and a networking lunch, the forum will provide a unique opportunity to engage with youth policy issues, amplifying the voices of young people and focusing on the ways collective action will drive positive change. Register to get the link for the virtual option!

**children's
defense fund**
unleashing the joy in growing up

AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM

POWERED BY CDF

Join us for a timely discussion exploring the implications of the 2024 election on our nation's children and youth.

Opening Plenary

 Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson President and CEO Children's Defense Fund	 Sharon Parrott President Center on Budget and Policy Priorities	 Bruce Lesley President First Focus on Children	 Toni Maxwell CDF Black Student Leadership Network Senior, University of South Florida
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Breakout Collaboratives

- Embracing Childhood, Embracing Joy: Setting the Stage for Success
- Empowering Tomorrow: Youth Voices Leading on Youth Issues

NOVEMBER 8, 2024
699 FOURTEENTH STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC
9:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Free event—registration required.
Please scan the QR code below to register.



[Register Here](#)





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Spare the Kids

WHY WHUPPING CHILDREN
WON'T SAVE BLACK AMERICA



Stacey Patton
author of *That Mean Old Yesterday*

"Without condescension or unnecessary moralizing, this book will challenge your most deeply held assumptions and refute your strongest arguments."
—Marc Lamont Hill, author of *Nobody: Casualties of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond*

2 Days with Dr. Stacey Patton

MN Association for Children's Mental Health (MACMH) is bringing Dr. Stacey Patton to the Twin Cities for two days **February 27 & 28, 2025**.

CAREGIVERS SUMMIT: a day long workshop that will lead parents and caregivers on a transformative journey to reform Black parenting.

BONUS WORKSHOP: a daylong training workshop for professional development and a continuing education opportunity.

There are a few ways that we can work together to provide this awesome experience to Minnesota caregivers and children's mental health professionals. Let's talk!



Do You Take Care of a Child for your Family, Friend, or Neighbor?

All Nations Rise (ANR) provides **free resources & supplies** to aunts, grandmas, neighbors etc. (FFN's) who are unlicensed childcare providers and care for children while parents work or attend school.

Why are we doing this?
Childcare providers, like you, are essential for children, families and our communities. ANR aims to improve the health and safety, child development, literacy, social/emotional, school readiness, and cultural needs of the FFNs and the children they care for.

What services do we offer?
FFNs can receive a **\$1,200 grant** to support child(ren); **free cultural books, toys, training opportunities, networking** with other caregivers, and many more resources! We also assist with the process of becoming legally non-licensed if they wish.

Join our Indigenous FFN Child Care Network! It only takes 5 mins.

SCAN  OR **Doreen**  **(218) 850-4803**
CALL or TEXT

FUNDING PROVIDED BY A GRANT FROM
m DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Learn more about what we can offer you at: <https://tinyurl.com/AllNationsRise>



Examples of Resources You May Receive

Health & Safety Equipment **Trainings** **Educational/Cultural Toys and Books**

Connect now! Together we can make sure every child gets the best care possible.

Scan here! 

<https://tinyurl.com/AllNationsRise>





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Jobs & Opportunities

State of Minnesota

The State of Minnesota has several job openings within various departments. To browse career openings, please visit the [Career Page](#) and search by job ID numbers.

Department of Employment and Economic Development
Rehabilitation Counselor Senior or Career. Job ID 78258
Due December 4

Restorative Grant Reviewers

[Learn More](#)



The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is recruiting community members to evaluate grant applications for the 2024 Restorative Practices Initiatives Grant Program application review process and other requests for proposals (RFPs) coming from OJP. OJP is interested in reviewers who reflect the ethnic, racial, economic, cultural, and geographic diversity of Minnesota. For each RFP, OJP recruits individuals with knowledge, expertise, or lived experience specific to that RFP's subject matter. OJP is often looking for individuals such as community members with justice system experience, survivors of crime, crime victim service providers, youth service providers, county attorney staff, social service workers, evaluators, and educators. Serving in this capacity offers unique insights into the grant-making process.

Reviewers who fully participate in the process are eligible for a \$100 honorarium. For more information on what is required, tasks, time commitment, and for specific information on the Restorative Practices Initiative RFP review, please visit the OJP grants website.