



## 2024-2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

The EarlyWell Coalition collaborates with parents, families, health practitioners, care providers, and community leaders to promote public policies that enhance the social-emotional health of North Carolinians aged 0 to 8.

### FAMILY SUPPORT IN NAVIGATING A DISABILITY INCREASES POSITIVE OUTCOMES

The Family Support Network provides tools for parents and families to support children with a disability or special healthcare needs through a peer to peer model.

**POLICY PRIORITY:** The Family Support Network requests \$728,000 in recurring state budget funding to expand the program, allowing for 1 FSN staff member in each county.

### REACH OUT AND READ PROVIDES SUPPORTIVE CONNECTIONS & PROMOTES HEALTH

Reach Out and Read uses shared reading between parents and children to foster positive, language-rich interactions between families beginning at birth.

**POLICY PRIORITY:** Reach Out and Read requests \$500,000 in recurring state funding to support statewide outreach. This budget allocation was included within the House Budget. We are waiting to see if it would will be included in the final version.

### CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITHIN THE NC FOSTER CARE SYSTEM NEED SUPPORT

Children in kinship foster care show overall positive behavior development, mental health, and placement stability.

**POLICY PRIORITY:** This priority is currently “under construction,” and will be ready to be revealed in November 2024.