

## **Priorities and Strategies for Addressing Policy Issues**

The policy work supporting these objectives is aimed at identifying federal, state and local policy trends and the implications affecting our members and the least served in the San Antonio/Bexar County area. The policy issues are organized by priority level:

1. The highest priorities are listed under the “**level 1**” category, in which we actively campaign, strategize and work with coalitions related to the issue.
2. Other issues are in the “**level 2**” category, defined as assisting with the efforts of others if the opportunity arises, primarily testimony, letters of support, and disseminating information. This also includes following committees, coalitions to track key developments

The Advocacy Committee assigns each issue a priority through a careful evaluation of persons affected, political climate, support by coalitions, and internal organizational priorities. Changes in these factors may warrant adjustments in priority level. New objectives not currently listed may also emerge in response to the ever-changing landscape. In addition, goals and objectives in the state agenda may expand in the local agenda to support the Nonprofit Council’s policy and advocacy efforts.

This document highlights The San Antonio Nonprofit Council’s 2009 legislative agenda. Advocacy and policy strategies include, but are not limited to:

- Direct engagement with elected officials at the state and local level.
- Strengthening relationships with partners and cultivating new relationships.
- Monitoring and shaping policy.

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### ***San Antonio Nonprofit Council***

#### **Public Policy Issues and Priorities for the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session**

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##### **Level 1: Full Engagement & Attention**

##### **CHIP/Children’s Medicaid**

Goal: Restore and expand Texas CHIP and Children’s Medicaid programs

Objectives:

1. Work with state CHIP coalition to improve CHIP
2. Promote effective outreach and enrollment policies
3. Promote better mental health and oral health benefits
4. Promote 12 month continuous eligibility
5. Monitor safety net impact of Medicaid reform
6. Establish annual criteria to average monthly income & eliminate ineligibility in months with three paychecks

### **CPS Reform/Foster Care**

Goal: Promote policies that improve Texas' Child Protective Services

Objectives:

1. Allow local region to establish more control over operations and human resources
2. Sharing of information on physical and mental health status of children
3. Consistently apply a standardized method of state licensing for foster homes and nonprofit foster homes
4. Establish reimbursement rates sufficient to cover required costs of care

### **Childhood Obesity Prevention**

Goal: Improve childhood wellness and obesity prevention

Objectives:

1. Support Partnership for a Healthy Texas
2. Improve nutrition standards to create a healthier Texas
3. Improve physical education and physical activity standards
4. Improve reporting of surveillance data supporting SB530

### **Level 2: Support & Monitor**

#### **Drop Out Prevention**

Goal: Decrease the drop out rate in Texas schools

Objectives:

1. Support additional funding for drop out prevention, including nonprofit organizations in the competitive application process
2. Re-design of high school graduation course requirements to include areas of concentration in math and science, fine arts, career and technology

#### **Teen Pregnancy Prevention**

1. Support Women's Health Medicaid waiver reform & extend coverage to minors
2. Support Healthy Future Alliance

***Commitment to legislative Budget process as it related to HHS issues – members are encouraged to update their member profiles with revenue stream information.***

***Seek opportunities, as they arise, that will advance the profile and stature of the Council and act on them quickly. Examples:***

- \* Testimony – Professional, Client
- \* Hearings
- \* Letters
- \* Email activation from membership
- \* Media
- \* Lobby visits (coordinated/organized)