

## ADVOCACY

As part of our Mission, Lutheran Family and Children's Services is called to help families, children and individuals experience greater hope and wholeness of life. LFCS Advocacy works to help achieve this goal by promoting public education and policy changes.

Our main areas of focus are:

- Child Welfare & Adoption
- Health & Mental Health Care
- Youth Protection & Development
- Missouri's Budget

Lutheran Family and Children's Services' dedication to social justice and advocacy began in the early 1900's with Rev. Dr. Arnold H. Bringewatt. Rev. Bringewatt served as President of Lutheran Family and Children's Services from 1964-1976. During his tenure at LFCS, Rev. Bringewatt firmly established the agency's commitment to provide quality social services and to be involved with social action, a legacy that continues to shape the agency today. The agency continues to advocate for positive change and improvement in social institutions, systems, legislation and practices.

Lutheran Family & Children's Services is a statewide organization with offices in:

#### St. Louis Metropolitan Area

9666 Olive Boulevard, Suite 400  
St. Louis, MO 63132  
314-787-5100 • 1-866-326-5327

#### Mid-Missouri

401 West Boulevard North, Suite B  
Columbia, MO 65203  
573-815-9955

#### St. Charles

3670 West Clay Street  
St. Charles, MO 63301  
636-949-5522

#### Southeast Missouri

3178 Blattner Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703  
573-334-5866

#### Southwest Missouri

2130 N. Glenstone Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65803  
417-862-1972

#### Hilltop Child Development Center

6155 West Florissant Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63136  
314-389-1001



314-787-5100 or 1-866-326-LFCS (5327)

If interested in learning more about our services, volunteering, or making a donation to LFCS, call or visit our website

[www.lfcsmo.org](http://www.lfcsmo.org)



## Advocacy

"I, the Lord have called you and given you the power to see that justice is done on earth."

Isaiah 42:6



## ADVOCACY SERVICES

### Individual

Advocating on behalf of clients experiencing problems with government benefits or other systems that affect quality of life.

### Legislative

Advocating for policy changes that affect vulnerable populations.

Testifying, lobbying and networking within the legislative system.

### Administrative

Advocating within government agencies to ensure that policy changes and programs intentionally address specific needs.

### Educational

Providing educational activities for community and church-based groups, as needed.

Distributing educational information, including LFCS Legislative Updates and Alerts, keeping advocates and the public informed about children and family issues and providing avenues for action.

If you would like to arrange a presentation, workshop or discussion on social issues of your group's interest, or to learn more about the legislative process and the importance of advocacy, please call the LFCS Advocacy Facilitator at 314-787-5100.

## ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

### Child Welfare & Adoption

LFCS believes that all children deserve a safe and loving home. We also believe that it is the shared responsibility of families, faith and community-based organizations, and government (federal, state, and local), to ensure the safety and well being of these children.

### Health & Mental Health Care

LFCS takes the position that all Americans should have access to quality physical and mental health care in their communities. We believe that health care should:

- Provide quality, accessible choices for all Americans, especially for the children and other vulnerable populations who are uninsured
- Include access to physical and mental health care, substance abuse treatment, dental and vision care

### Youth Protection & Development

Given the historical roots of LFCS we see all children and youth as deserving of opportunities to reach their full potential and be productive in a global world. Many of our children and youth face significant barriers (including living in poverty and the lack of quality child care) and we believe it is the shared responsibility of families, schools, faith and community-based organizations and government (federal, state, and local) to ensure that there are supports in place to help them succeed.

### Missouri's Budget

The Missouri budget reflects the state's priorities more clearly than any other document - and has a stronger impact on the quality of life experienced by all Missourians than any other document. A good budget should invest in infrastructure, transportation, education and social services that strengthen our families, our communities, and our state as a whole.

## JOIN OUR NETWORK

The LFCS Advocacy Program invites you to join the online Advocacy Network, through which you will receive periodic Legislative Updates and Action Alerts to keep you informed of issues affecting children and families.

To sign up for the online advocacy network, visit [www.lfcsmo.org](http://www.lfcsmo.org) and click on "Get Involved"