

Purpose:

These position statement serves as an advocacy guide for ***honestly*** acting in accordance with the mission of the Collaboration. We have outlined key issues and data that shape our advocacy priorities and messaging positions. When necessary, we will host proactive efforts to advance supportive policies and protective responses related to these topics.

The position statements will guide our implementation of the Public Policy Change Lever of our Strategic Plan: Forward Together. This is where our guiding principles meet the social and institutional landscape of Oklahoma.

Issue Area 1: Sexual Health Education

We want sexual health education in schools that is comprehensive, evidence-based, and inclusive. High-quality, age-appropriate sexual health education helps young people build knowledge and skills to make informed choices, prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, and support healthy relationships and overall well-being.^{i,ii}

We will closely monitor all proposed legislation on sexual health education and assess whether it meets established standards for comprehensive, inclusive, and medically accurate instruction.

Issue Area 2: Adolescent Access to Contraception

We want reasonable access to contraception for adolescents. Confidential and affordable access to contraception reduces unintended pregnancy and supports adolescent health. Restrictions on minors' ability to consent to care, and limited funding for clinics, present undue barriers to necessary healthcare for adolescents.^{iii,iv}

Issue Area 3: Equitable Health Outcomes for Priority Populations

We want guaranteed rights and protections in place for priority population youth in Oklahoma, specifically in schools and healthcare settings. All young people should have access to accurate sexual health information and essential care in safe, supportive environments. This includes addressing the needs of youth who experience higher rates of teen births and sexually transmitted infections, as well as greater barriers to care.^{v,vi vii,viii, ix} Prioritizing equitable access and inclusive practices promotes the health and well-being of all young people in Oklahoma.