

A statewide nonprofit group says more struggles lie ahead to ensure better outcomes for families in the state. Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families held its annual Friends of Children award ceremony today (Tues) in Little Rock. Executive director Rich Huddleston said the legislative session that just ended was one of the most challenging his organization has ever seen.

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“...of the legislature.”

Huddleston said the group is now focusing on an upcoming special session aimed at lowering taxes. One honoree at the event was Health Secretary Dr. Jose Romero, who said the award came as a surprise.

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“...for their, uh, betterment.”

Also honored at the awards banquet were JoAnn Nalley, director of Arkansas State University Childhood Services, and Rhonda Sanders, C-E-O of the Arkansas Food Bank.

Officials with the nonprofit Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families say the legislative session that just ended was one of the most challenging for their efforts. Executive director Rich Huddleston spoke at an awards banquet today (Tues) in Little Rock and outlined the group's priorities for an upcoming special session of the Arkansas Legislature to consider tax cuts proposed by Governor Asa Hutchinson.

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"...children and families."

Huddleston says his group will also focus on closing education equity gaps that grew during the COVID-19 pandemic and attempt to guide federal American Rescue Plan funds toward programs that help families in the state. The group also honored three people at its award banquet today (Tues) including Arkansas Health Secretary Dr. Jose Romero.