



CHILDREN'S AGENDA 2008

Priority Legislative Issues for Children and Families • 25th Release

Investment in Early Years

Progress Made

- ❑ Access to preconceptional care and early prenatal care for all pregnant women
 - *Progress: State implemented Plan First*
- ❑ Assure quality early childhood education and care for children age 0-5 years
- ❑ *Progress: Expanded services to prevent expulsion from child care*
- ❑ In December 2007, the child care subsidy rate to current market rates (now at 1996 rate)
 - *Progress: Increase of 2 percent rates for subsidized child day care.*
- ❑ Increase the number of child care licensing consultants to oversee quality and safety standards
- ❑ Require training for child care providers
 - *Progress: New (2006) child care licensing rules require annual training for all regulated child care providers*
- ❑ Increase the per slot allotment for the Michigan School Readiness Program
 - *Progress: Expanded funding to \$2.4 million for MSRP to add approximately 3,000 new slots. Increase \$100 per slot. Total funding \$93.55 million up \$2.4 million over FY 07. 2 half day slots can be used for full day experience.*
- ❑ Expand infant mental health and other home visiting services for expectant parents and families with infants and toddlers
 - *Progress: Increased funding for 0-3 secondary prevention programs by \$750,000. Up from \$1.75 million to \$2.125 million.*
 - *Progress: Substantial increase in infant mental health specialists in Wayne and Bay Counties.*
 - *Progress: Development of standard screening criteria to increase access to infant mental health services.*
- ❑ Expand funding for Parenting Education
- ❑ Oversight of special education child find procedures and assessment for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, especially infants and toddlers in foster care

Opportunities in 2008

- Develop infant mental health assessment and intervention for maltreated infants/toddlers before the courts.
- Restore the number of eligible hours for subsidized childcare from 90 to 100 per two-week period.
- Implement the Quality Rating System for child care licensing.



- Add another \$4.75 million in K-12 budget that will allow for 7,000 new MSRP slots in FY 08 supplemental. Maintain \$4.74 in FY 09 for total of \$98.3 million. Maximize use of federal Head Start and State MSRP slots for full day experience and enhance collaboration.
- Zero to Five add \$375 in K-12 Supplemental FY 08. Maintain \$2.5 million in FY 09 budget. In DCH, \$524,000 in DCH opportunity to increase \$1 million. DHS maintain near \$4 million.
- In the FY 09 budget The Family Independence Program would get its first grant increase since 1990 and hourly day care reimbursement rates would be infused with an additional \$10 million under the executive budget recommendation for the Department of Human Services.
- Provide \$200,000 for Nurse Family Partnership in Kalamazoo in MDCH budget in FY09.

Contact MCCF members for more information:

Michigan's Children
Fight Crime Invest in Kids
MI 4C Association
MI Association for the Education of Young Children
MI Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan League for Human Services



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