



CHILDREN'S AGENDA 2008

Priority Legislative Issues for Children and Families • 25th Release

Investment in Family Preservation Services

An investment in children and families is an investment in our communities, in our future. MCCF urge the continuation and increase in efforts and funding for services supporting vulnerable children and their families. MCCF recognizes of the challenges today's families face with economic and social concerns and the value of extended family or kin in raising children.

Progress Made:

- ❑ Prevention of domestic violence
- ❑ Prevention of abuse and neglect by connecting families to supports beginning at birth
- ❑ Access to respite care for families with children with special needs
- ❑ Prevention of and reduction in out-of-home placement through better use of mental health services, parenting education, Families First, federally funded community-based care and Family to Family strategies
- ❑ Reduction in the number of children under the care of the state by increasing the pool of qualified adoptive parents
 - *Partial Progress: HB 4259, Will expand the pool of adoptive parents, and offer to children, currently under the care of the state, further opportunity to be adopted into permanent loving homes, passed out of the Judiciary Committee. A full vote of the house is forthcoming.*
- ❑ Statewide, coordinated post adoption support services
- ❑ Prevention and treatment of substance abuse
 - *Lost ground: Cuts in Medicaid rehab for children in foster care*
 - *Lost ground: Shift of Federal Title IVE onto state and county*

Opportunities in 2008

- Encourage the Governor to establish an interdepartmental work group to recommend ways to draw down more child welfare and Medicaid funds for children's services by using state, local, and private funds more creatively and by advocating at the national level to provide and maintain adequate and appropriate funding for children's services

Contact MCCF members for more information:

**Michigan Federation for Children and Families
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services**





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MICHIGAN COALITION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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