

## 2009 Missouri Policy Agenda

### HEALTH

**Goal:** All children have access to quality, affordable health care services to meet their medical, dental, vision, and mental health needs.

#### **Children's Health Insurance**

Increase enrollment and retention of children in MO HealthNet for Kids by:

- Supporting innovative ways to reach out to eligible, yet unenrolled children
- Removing administrative barriers
- Establishing a state children's health insurance buy-in program

#### **Medicaid Reimbursement Rates**

Increase access to quality health, dental, and vision care for children and youth by supporting increases in reimbursement rates for providers.

#### **Childhood Obesity**

Promote active living lifestyles and healthy eating by supporting state and local policies that increase state physical education requirements and improve access to fresh foods and school based nutrition services.

### SAFETY & SECURITY

**Goal:** All children avoid risky behaviors and are safe in their homes and communities from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

#### **Foster & Adoptive Care**

Support increases for the foster care maintenance reimbursement and adoption subsidy rates and elimination of the disparity between them.

#### **Children's Division Accreditation**

Support annual budget recommendations to provide adequate resources for the Children's Division to maintain full accreditation.

### EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

**Goal:** All families have access to high quality, affordable early care and education opportunities that enable children to start school prepared for success and help parents advance and be productive in the workforce.

#### **Child Care Assistance Eligibility**

Increase income eligibility for Missouri's Child Care Assistance Program.

#### **Child Care Reimbursement Rate**

Increase state reimbursement rates to child care providers serving families receiving state child care assistance.

#### **Quality Rating System**

Support legislation establishing a statewide, voluntary Quality Rating System for early care and education and before/after school programs.

#### **Background Checks**

Support comprehensive fingerprint-based background checks for all individuals who work or volunteer in any licensed, registered, or license-exempt child care program or who live in a licensed or registered home child care setting.

### K-12 EDUCATION

**Goal:** All children receive the necessary services and supports to succeed in school, graduate on time, and be prepared for post-secondary career and educational opportunities.

#### **Drop-Out Prevention**

Support funding for community and school strategies to reduce student drop-outs.

