

2008 Kansas & 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:

- Securing outreach funding.
- Supporting presumptive eligibility at federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics.
- Instituting express-lane eligibility, online enrollment, and 12 month continuous eligibility.
- Expanding the definition of affordability to include co-pays.

Expand eligibility for Healthwave to 250% of federal poverty. (Kansas)

Increase access to quality health, dental, and vision care for children and youth by increasing reimbursement rates for providers. (Kansas & Missouri)

Fully fund dental and vision services for MO HealthNet for Kids in the state budget. (Missouri)

Oppose any new restrictions to eligibility and access for MO HealthNet for Kids, including decreasing income eligibility standards, increasing the affordability provision, and increasing premiums or co-pays. (Missouri)

Home Visiting Programs

Improve outcomes for at risk children by increasing funding for and access to home visiting programs. (Kansas & Missouri)

Childhood Obesity

Promote healthy lifestyles and reduce childhood obesity by increasing state requirements for physical education and recess. (Missouri)

Immunizations

Oppose efforts to reduce, eliminate, or expand exemptions to current requirements for childhood immunizations. (Kansas and Missouri)

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.

Child Care Subsidy

Ensure that working parents have access to affordable, quality child care by increasing income eligibility for Missouri's Child Care Subsidy Program to at least 135% FPL in 2008, and to 185% FPL by 2012. (Missouri)

Secure requisite funding to maintain income eligibility for the Kansas Child Care Subsidy Program at 185%. (Kansas)

Child Care Provider Reimbursement

Increase reimbursement rates for child care providers serving subsidized children to the 75th percentile of the most recent state market rate survey. (Missouri)

Quality Rating System

Implement a statewide Quality Rating System for early care, early education, and before/after school programs that improves the quality of child care by providing adequate professional development, technical assistance, and subsidy reimbursement rates for providers. (Kansas & Missouri)

Pre-K

Expand access to quality pre-k opportunities for all children, ages 3-4. (Kansas, Missouri, & KC Metro)

Early Head Start

Expand access to comprehensive services that support low-income families and promote healthy development of infants and toddlers by increasing state funding for Early Head Start. (Kansas & Missouri)

Parents as Teachers

Assist parents in being their child's first and most important teacher by reducing waiting lists for Parents as Teachers. (Kansas)

Background Checks

Require comprehensive criminal fingerprint background checks for all employees of registered, licensed, and license-exempt child care and early education programs, paid for in total or in part with state funds. (Missouri)

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.

All-Day Kindergarten

Increase educational investments in children's youngest years by mandating and funding all-day kindergarten throughout the state. (Kansas)

School Readiness

Implement statewide school readiness standards to track children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive preparedness for kindergarten and to identify indicators that contribute to school readiness. (Kansas & Missouri)

Afterschool

Strengthen and increase access to afterschool programs for youth in order to promote learning, develop life skills, and provide safe, supervised environments outside of school. (Kansas, Missouri, & KC Metro)

COALITION BUILDING

Goal: Parents, community members, businesses, elected officials, and policy makers will work together to ensure that the well-being of children and youth is our #1 priority.

Commission on Children & Youth

Advocate for the establishment of a Mayor's commission dedicated to improving outcomes for children and youth in Kansas City, Missouri.

Missouri Coalition for School Readiness

Support the establishment of a statewide coalition for school readiness to advocate for quality early learning opportunities for all Missouri children.

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.

Children's Division Accreditation

Support annual budget recommendations to provide adequate resources for the Children's Division to achieve full accreditation by August 28th, 2009. (Missouri)

Foster Parent Reimbursement

Increase foster parent payments to the Missouri Foster Care Minimum Adequate Rates of Care (M.A.R.C.) recommended by the National Foster Parent Association. (Missouri)

Adoption Subsidy

Reduce disincentives for adoption by eliminating the disparity between foster care rates and adoption subsidies. (Missouri)

Youth Aging out of Foster Care

Improve access to guidance, education, job skills, and housing for children aging out of foster care. (Missouri)

Graduated Driver's License

Reduce youth motor vehicle injuries and fatalities by implementing a graduated driver's license system. (Kansas)



Partnership for Children

4510 Belleview, Suite 200 • Kansas City, MO 64111 • 816-531-9200 (p) • 816-531-8996 (f)

Carrie Shapton
Policy & Outreach Coordinator
shapton@pfc.org
816-531-9200 x227 (w)
909-239-0547 (c)

Emily Smith
Policy & Outreach Coordinator
smith@pfc.org
816-531-9200 x225 (w)
573-639-0392 (c)