

## 2010 Missouri Policy Agenda

### STATE BUDGET & FINANCE

Missouri's state budget prioritizes children as a critical investment to ensure Missouri's long-term economic success while raising adequate revenue for public services.

#### **Adequate Revenue**

Support responsible revenue policies to ensure adequate state investments in children's health, education, and well-being.

#### **TABOR**

Oppose constitutional and statutory limitations on government spending, including the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR).

#### **Tax Equity**

Oppose regressive tax policies that adversely affect Missouri's low-income families.

### EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

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.

#### **Background Checks**

Support legislation requiring national fingerprint background checks for all individuals who work, volunteer, or reside in a child care program or home.

#### **Child Care Assistance**

Maintain state general revenue funding for child care assistance eligibility and rates while utilizing available federal stimulus funding to improve the affordability and quality of child care programs.

#### **Quality Improvement**

Support initiatives to improve the quality of early childhood programs and professional development of the child care workforce.

#### **Pre-K**

Support efforts to expand access to quality, voluntary pre-k opportunities that prepare children for success in school and life.

#### **Child Care Licensing**

Support recommendations by the 2009 Work Group for Child Care Rule Revision to strengthen licensing requirements for child care centers and group homes.

### HEALTH

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

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

Support legislation that mandates strategies to enroll currently eligible children in MO Healthnet for Kids.

#### **Childhood Obesity**

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

#### **Maintain Critical Funding for:**

- Presumptive Eligibility in children's health coverage.
- Youth tobacco prevention and cessation programs.
- Medicaid reimbursement rates.

### SAFETY & SECURITY

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

#### **Sibling Placement**

Support legislation that strengthens current department policy regarding the placement and adoption of siblings within the same families.

#### **Maintain Critical Funding for:**

- Foster care reimbursement rates and adoption subsidies.
- Youth mentoring programs.
- Child abuse prevention programs.
- Continuing accreditation of the Children's Division.

### K-12 EDUCATION

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.

#### **School Readiness**

Support implementation of a statewide school readiness assessment to track children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive preparedness for kindergarten and to help all young students succeed in school.

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FOR THE  
CHILDREN®

