



2010 Legislative/Policy Priorities

BUDGET & REVENUE STRATEGIES

Priority 1: Identify and pursue new statewide revenue sources (internet sales tax, repeal of sales tax exemptions, etc.)

Priority 2: Use new revenues. Assure that state and federal trust funds are only used for their designated purposes.

CHILD WELFARE

Priority 1: Protect funding for child welfare. Maintain the IV-E waiver by meeting federal "maintenance of effort" requirements.

Priority 2: Support efforts to assure that Medicaid benefits are "portable" and follow children in placements throughout the state. (Particularly critical for dependent and delinquent children.)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE

Priority 1: Consolidate governance and administration of Florida's early learning system in one State-level agency.

Priority 2: Protect and restore General Revenue funding for School Readiness (child care) and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) programs.

EDUCATION K-12

Priority 1: Develop a stable state funding source dedicated to public education.

Priority 2: Keep class size amendment at school-wide averages.

ELDER/AGING

Priority 1: Preserve funding for the Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) program, a cost-saving nursing home diversion program.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Priority 1: Promote the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to Florida's families through public and private partnerships.

Priority 2: Oppose predatory financial products that impede personal wealth-building opportunities, reduce savings and perpetuate a cycle of poverty. Support efforts to make predatory lending illegal and assure tighter enforcement.



HEALTH

*Priority 1: Expand children's health care to include 1) projected growth and necessary services, 2) dental coverage (increase Medicaid reimbursement rate and add "dental only" buy-in option to Florida KidCare.) Support 12 month continuous coverage across all children's health insurance programs.

Priority 2: Preserve the current or required "maintenance of effort" funding for Healthy Start and Early Steps in order to maximize federal funding.

HOUSING & HOMELESS

Priority 1: Support legislative efforts that propose voluntary contributions for homeless relief on DMV forms.

Priority 2: Support legislation to remove cap on the state Housing Trust Fund so that funds are used for affordable housing.

JUVENILE/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Priority 1: Support efforts to maximize cost savings for juvenile detention or alternatives. Support local control over juvenile booking, assessment, screening and detention services.

Priority 2: Prohibit the distribution or sale of juvenile offense information by FDLE to private individuals or companies.

MENTAL HEALTH/ SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Priority 1: Support efforts to require parity in behavioral health insurance coverage that is equivalent to medical coverage.

*Priority 2: Support DCF Budget Request which includes funding for the Zero Exposure Program and other critical programs.

OTHER

Priority 1: Oppose legislation that removes local control and authority from the administration of local public employer charitable giving campaigns.

TRANSPORTATION

Priority 1: Support efforts to make composing, sending, reading or viewing text messages while operating a motor vehicle a non-criminal moving violation subject to a fine.

Priority 2: Support efforts to require use of appropriate child restraint devices (booster seats) for children aged 4-8.