



4th Annual Community Legislative Summit 2011 Priorities (draft 2)

CHILD WELFARE

***Priority 1:** Restore funding for the Florida Kinship Center, and analyze opportunities under the Florida Title IV-E waiver and the Fostering Connections Act to support the statewide Center.

***Priority 2:** Support restoration and expansion of funding for Healthy Families and other programs and services that prevent child abuse and neglect.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE

***Priority 1:** Maintain current General Revenue funding for School Readiness (child care) and maintain current Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) teacher/ student ratios.

Priority 2: Extend current State requirements for health, safety, staff training and adult/child ratios for licensed programs to all child care programs.

EDUCATION K-12

Priority 1: Support the adoption and implementation the Common Core States Standards Initiative, a set of consistent, voluntary and internationally benchmarked standards in mathematics and language arts, in the state of Florida.

Priority 2: Develop a stable state funding source dedicated to public education.

ELDER/AGING

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

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Priority 1: Promote financial literacy efforts, such as the Child Care Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, to promote prosperity and self-sufficiency for Florida's families.

Priority 2: Assure that all available local and private funds are used to match appropriate state and federal funds that are available to support children and families.

HEALTH

***Priority 1:** Protect and maintain federal (Title V) and state funding for coordinated systems of health care for young children and pregnant mothers, such as Healthy Start.

***Priority 2:** Expand funding for Florida's child health insurance program (KidCare) to include 1) projected growth and necessary services for all eligible children; 2) dental coverage; and 3) twelve month continuous coverage.

HOUSING & HOMELESS

***Priority 1:** Support creation of a state Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing program to provide assistance to homeless families and those at risk of becoming homeless.

***Priority 2:** Restore Grant in Aid funding to the FY 09 level and restore the Homeless Housing Assistance grant to \$5 M.

INFANT AND TODDLER CONCERNS

***Priority 1:** Protect funding for programs that serve infant and toddlers including Early Steps, and maintain funding for Healthy Start and Healthy Families programs.

***Priority 2:** Support training for practitioners in the area of social and emotional development and mental health / behavioral interventions for children, aged birth to age 5.

JUVENILE/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Priority 1: Support efforts to require automatic sealing / expungement of certain juvenile offender information, and prohibit distribution or sale of such information to private individuals or companies.

MENTAL HEALTH/ SUBSTANCE ABUSE

***Priority 1:** Support funding for the Zero Exposure Program and other mental health/ substance abuse programs that are currently allocated as "special projects". Work with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to add these critical programs into the base DCF budget.

***Priority 2:** Support the replication of the Alcohol and Drug Intervention program which has demonstrated large reductions in criminal justice re-offending.

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.