

How are Kids in the Michigan 4th Doing?

- Almost half of all children living in the 4th live in families making below \$44,000 a year.
- 1 in 3 children in the 4th rely on food stamps for their meals.
- 1 of every 4 families with children has not had enough money to buy food at some point in the last 12 months.
- Michigan's Infant Mortality Rate ranks 41st out of 50 states and is equal to that of French Polynesia and Bermuda.
- 40 percent of Michigan's children have health insurance because of Medicaid.

To ensure our nation's prosperity, children must be at the front of this committee's focus. As children and families struggle across the nation, the Super Committee must preserve programs with a proven record of success. This means protecting programs like Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), food stamps, and the child tax credits, while continuing to invest in early learning.

Medicaid & CHIP

Medicaid and CHIP are a lifeline for more than 30 million American children. These programs provide preventive health services for low income children and essential care for children with special needs.

- Extremely cost effective, children make up 50 percent of the Medicaid beneficiaries but only 20 percent of the programs cost.
- Because of Medicaid and CHIP, the number of children with health insurance held steady, despite a substantial increase in child poverty over the past year.

Child Nutrition

To grow up healthy and concentrate in school, children need access to nutritious foods. SNAP helps provide this food for low income children, reducing hunger and providing a lifetime of benefits.

- More than 20 million children are enrolled in SNAP and depend on the program for a portion of their daily nutrition.
- Investing early in childhood nutrition helps prevent disease, childhood obesity, and makes kids more likely to become productive adults.

Tax Credits

Hailed as the most successful anti-poverty program, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) are designed to support low income working families.

- In 2009, the EITC & CTC lifted 4 million children out of poverty.
- A family's receipt of these tax credits is linked to many positive benefits such as better school achievement.

Investments in Early Learning

Investing in early learning strengthens our economy now and in the future. Nobel Laureate Economist James Heckman estimates that we save between \$7 and \$17 for every dollar invested during this critical point of development.

- More investments are needed as millions of working and struggling families do not have access to such important supports.
- Only 1 in 6 eligible children receives child care assistance.