

# **The State Budget Process:**

## Strengthening Your Voice on Behalf of Michigan's Youngest Residents

March 7, 2014

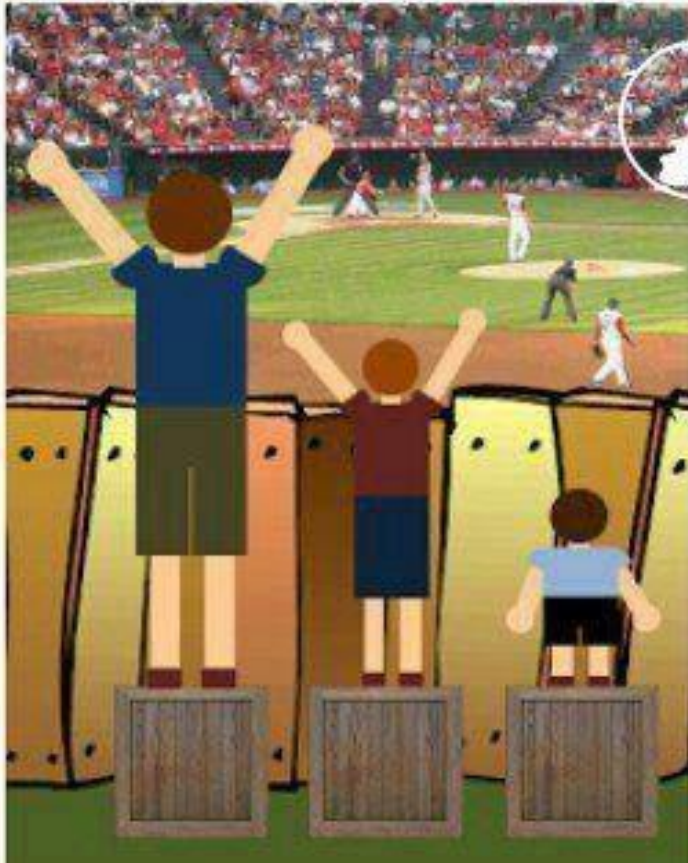
Michigan's Children

[www.michiganschildren.org](http://www.michiganschildren.org)

# Who We Are

- Michigan's Children is the only statewide independent voice working to ensure that public policies are made in the best interest of children from cradle to career.
- We work with lawmakers, business leaders, and communities to make Michigan a place where all children have equitable opportunities to thrive.

## Equality



## Equity



The state budget, as the single most powerful expression of the state's priorities, is a powerful tool for either improving equity or widening gaps.

Funding decisions that do not explicitly address underlying inequities in resource and opportunity will lead to larger disparities in child and family outcomes and longer-term fiscal hardships for all Michigan residents

# Why Get Involved?

- You Can
  - You already have the skills you need
  - It doesn't take that many of us
- You Should
  - There are things we want changed
  - Democracy=Responsibility
  - Decision-makers REALLY need our help

# How Do We Make Change?

- *Get the attention of the people who can make the change you want*
- Talk to Decision-Makers
  - A concern that you have about your life
  - A concern that you have about their work
- Talk to Other People
  - About an issue
  - About policymaker's views or positions
  - About how to act

# What You Need to Know

- WHAT we are talking about – the issues
- WHO can give us what we want – the players
- WHEN to target them – the process
- HOW to get them to listen – the message

# How You Can Get Engaged

- Build relationships with decision-makers
- Educate decision-makers on the issues that matter to you
- Build decision-maker champions
- Mobilize constituents and key stakeholders on a specific issue
- Specific policy and budget asks



# Where We Are Today

# Children in Washtenaw County

- 17.5% kids living in poverty in 2011 – up 47% since 2005
- 23.9% kids ages 0-5 eligible for SNAP – up 67% since 2005
- 602 kids were confirmed to be abused or neglected in 2011 – a 59% increase since 2005
- 24.0% 4<sup>th</sup> graders not proficient in reading – an improvement from 2005

# Good News for Young Kids

- Michigan awarded the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant
- Focus on the Great Start Readiness Program
- Healthy Kids Dental expansion to Washtenaw county
- Increased focus on mental health needs
- Healthy Michigan Plan

# Not So Good News for Young Kids

- Continued disinvestment in family support programs like FIP, FAP, EITC, and child abuse/neglect prevention programs
- Minimal focus on services for very young children from birth through age three
- Pitiful child care subsidy system

# **Governor Snyder's Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: Implications for Young Children**

# Great Start Readiness Program

- Additional \$65 million increase in FY2015.
- Per slot allotment increased from \$3,625 to \$3,725.
- Focus on children with significant challenges:
  - Homeless children
  - Children in foster care
  - Children with special needs (IEPs)
  - After low-income children are served, children from families living at 250%-300% FPL with risk factors

# Early Childhood Block Grant

- Flat funding for the early childhood block grant at \$10.9 million for ISDs
- Allowable use for Early On services but significant underinvestment

# Child Development and Care Program

- \$6.9 million to increase the maximum number of reimbursable hours from 80 hours to 90 hours in a two-week period.
- \$3.7 million for tiered reimbursement.

Program Type	Current Rate		Proposed 3 Star Rate		Proposed 4 Star Rate		Proposed 5 Star Rate	
	Birth to 2.5	Over 2.5	Birth to 2.5	Over 2.5	Birth to 2.5	Over 2.5	Birth to 2.5	Over 2.5
Child Care & Preschool Centers	\$ 3.75	\$ 2.50	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.75	\$ 4.25	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.50	\$ 3.25
Family and Group Child Care Homes	\$ 2.90	\$ 2.40	\$ 3.15	\$ 2.65	\$ 3.40	\$ 2.90	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.15



# Voluntary Home Visiting

\$2.5 million GF/GP to expand evidence-based home visiting programs to serve 200-500 pregnant women and families with young children in rural northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

# Health

- *Healthy Michigan Plan Implementation*
- *Healthy Kids Dental Program*: \$15.7 million (\$5.4 million GF) to expand the program to an additional 100,000 eligible children in Kalamazoo and Macomb counties
- *Health and Wellness Initiative*: Flat funded at \$8.1 million for programs that promote healthy behaviors and wellness, and reduce infant mortality and obesity
- *Mental Health & Wellness Commission*: \$10.6 million GF/GP and one time funds of \$5.0 million GF/GP for implementation of recommendations included in the State of Michigan Mental Health and Wellness Commission 2013 report.

# Welfare

- No changes to FIP, FAP, or EITC
- No significant changes to child abuse/neglect prevention programs or family preservation programs

# Washtenaw County Legislators

- State Senator Randy Richardville
- State Senator Rebekah Warren
- State Rep. Gretchen Driskell
- State Rep. Jeff Irwin
- State Rep. David Rutledge
- State Rep. Adam Zemke

# I'd Like To Hear From You!

What are Washtenaw County's top priorities in the fiscal year 2015 budget?



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