



## Early Childhood ACTION NETWORK

April 25, 2014

Dear Early Childhood Supporter,

Welcome to Michigan's Children's Early Childhood Action Network. We are using this network to provide timely information on a variety of topics related to early childhood issues in Michigan, with a focus on race equity and how early childhood is critical to the cradle to career continuum of child development, education, and economic success. If you have any questions about the information provided, please feel free to contact me. I welcome your input.

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### **Take Me Out to the Ball Game: A Family-Friendly Spring Benefit**

Please join the Board of Directors of Michigan's Children and other supporters on May 15th at our family-friendly spring benefit at the Lansing Lugnuts Stadium. This event will provide you with the opportunity to meet our new President & CEO Matt Gillard and his family and the rest of the Michigan's Children team. And of course, you can stay for the ball game! Please purchase your tickets by [visiting our website](#). RSVPs due by April 30th.

### **State Budget Update**

The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee have approved their budget bills for fiscal year 2015, which begins October 1, 2014 and ends September 30, 2015. The budget bills will now head to the House and Senate floors for approval before heading to Conference Committee where differences will be negotiated. As expected, another \$65 million to expand the Great Start Readiness preschool Program was included but differences do remain between the House and

Senate version. Differences that will be taken up by Conference Committee include the following:

- The House included no slot increase, whereas the Senate included a \$50 increase (the Governor had recommended a \$100 per slot increase).
- The House allocates \$10 million of the \$65 million for transportation reimbursements in an amount up to \$150 per half day slot. The Senate allocates \$3.3 million of the \$65 million for transportation reimbursements up to \$50 per half day slot.
- The House included additional clarifying language to ensure that Intermediate School Districts are working with community-based providers to ensure that at least 30% of the total slots are contracted out to community-based organizations.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees agreed on some other changes impacting young children including:

- Appropriating an additional \$2.5 million using TANF funds to expand evidence-based home visiting services to rural Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.
- \$6.9 million increase in federal funds to allow the number of reimbursable Child Development and Care (child care subsidy) hours from 80 to 90 hours in a two-week period.
- \$3.7 million increase in federal funds to implement tiered reimbursement based on Great Start to Quality star ratings for the Child Development and Care program.

Learn more about how the different budget proposals will increase or reduce disparities in child and family outcomes by reading our latest [Budget Basics report](#).

## Latest Speaking for Kids Blog Posts

As you may have noticed, we have a new website! We encourage you to spend some time perusing our new site. As a result of our new site, we also have shifted our Speaking for Kids blog page. If you were previously receiving email alerts every time we posted a new blog, you will need to [resubscribe](#).

- [Doc-Fix Bill Add-Ons Good for Michigan Children](#) by Mina Hong (4/11/2014)
- [Race for Results in the State Budget](#) by Matt Gillard (4/7/2014)
- [April is Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) by Emily Schuster-Wachsberger (4/2/2014)
- [The Power of Us Parents](#) by Michele Corey (3/13/2014)
- [Equity vs. Equality and the State Budget](#) by Mina Hong (3/6/2014)

Sincerely,  
Mina Hong  
Senior Policy Associate  
[mina@michiganschildren.org](mailto:mina@michiganschildren.org)  
517-485-3500 ext. 2815



330 Marshall Street, Suite 211  
Lansing, MI 48912  
(517) 485-3500  
[www.michiganschildren.org](http://www.michiganschildren.org)

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