

DRAFT 10/18/2007

BLUEPRINT FOR KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

Safe & Healthy Families

Expand Access to KCHIP (Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program)

- Implement and approve appropriations for 12 month continuous eligibility for KCHIP recipients.
- Eliminate face-to-face interview requirement for enrollment and create an online application and renewal process.

Improve Access to Dental Care Services for Children

- Implement a state funded loan forgiveness program for dental providers serving Kentucky's Medicaid and KCHIP population.
- Mandate dental legislation requiring public school students (ages 3 to 5) to receive a dental exam within 30 days of enrollment.

Fair Opportunity for All Children

Ensure an integrated, birth-to-five, early learning system

- Create a demand for high quality child care programs by doubling the state dependent care tax credit for those families who use nationally accredited child care programs or programs earning a 3 or 4 STAR rating in the KIDS Now Early Childhood Initiative.
- Invest in a high quality voluntary pre-kindergarten system that serves all of Kentucky's 4 year olds by utilizing the existing early childhood infrastructure of high quality community based child care programs; current school based preschool programs; and Head Start.

Enhance resources for accessible child care services

- Increase child care subsidy payments to a level that supports quality programs for low income working families. Raise the eligibility level of the Child Care Assistance Program to 165% of the federal poverty level, and allow families to stay on the program until they reach an income level equivalent to 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Encourage positive educational outcomes and workforce development by allowing a combination of school and employment hours to reach the 20 hours/week work eligibility requirement for parents using the Child Care Assistance Program.

Fair Opportunity for Working Adults

Protect working, low-income families from abusive lending practices

- Set a cap on the fees check-cashing establishments can charge to process checks in order to curb excessive costs incurred by Kentucky's low-income families.

Provide working, low-income families with tax relief

- Implement a state-level refundable EITC that offers the approximately 350,000 Kentucky working families a tax credit, allowing them to keep more of their earned money for daily needs and asset building.