

**The Governor's Children's Cabinet Advisory Board
Children's Budget Recommendations to the Children's
Cabinet**

November 2010

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Introduction

One of the primary objectives of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board is to offer recommendations to the Children's Cabinet on funding and budget priorities. To accomplish this objective, the Advisory Board has implemented a two step process. The first step is an initial budget retreat to articulate general budget priorities so that state agencies can have a unified focus when building their children's budget. The second step occurs in November when the state agencies present their specific programs and initiatives to the Advisory Board that address the general priority categories. This report details the results of this process and provides specific priority program recommendations from the Advisory Board for continued and/or increased support in the upcoming budget.

The Advisory Board completed the first step of the budget recommendations process by agreeing on six broad budget priorities for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. These priorities are:

- Behavioral health
- BrightStart initiatives for early childhood
- Prevention and early intervention services
- Transitional needs of children throughout systems
- Parenting education and family support
- Disengaged youth (including workforce development and education initiatives)

The primary state entities that provide programs or services that address at least one of the six budget priorities as identified by the Advisory Board were then invited to make presentations. These presentations were focused on the budget needs of the program and performance measures or outcome data that were available. Presentations were provided by:

- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Hospitals
- Department of Children and Family Services
- Office of Juvenile Justice

After the presentations, the Advisory Board deliberated, voted, and identified the priority programs within each of the six budget priority areas.

Recommendations

The following programs were identified as the priority programs for funding by the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board and are listed in order of the Advisory Board's recommended priorities.

Behavioral Health

Mental Health Community Services for Youth – The Office of Behavioral Health provides mental health community services which include clinic services and a wide array of contracted services including residential, supportive living, family support and respite services, day programs and crisis services.

School Based Health Centers – Health services are provided to school aged children by physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, and licensed mental health professionals in School Based Health Centers (SBHC).

MST – Multi Systemic Therapy is an intensive in-home program operated by Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) and Department of Children and Family Services.

BrightStart Initiatives for Early Childhood

Child Care Quality Rating System – The Department of Children and Family Services' child care quality rating system is a tiered bonus payment system issued to qualified Class A child care centers that have earned a star rating and that care for children receiving assistance for the Child Care Assistance Program in accordance with the star level rating for each quarter.

Nurse Family Partnership – This program is led by the Office of Public Health. It is a prenatal and early childhood home visiting intervention designed to improve the health and social functioning of low-income first-time mothers and their babies. Numerous studies have documented the effectiveness of this program model including significant decreases in child abuse and neglect, childhood injuries, subsequent pregnancy, welfare and food stamp utilization.

LA 4 Pre-K Program – An early childhood education and enrichment program for four-year-old children designed to increase their success later in school.

Prevention and Early Intervention Services

Medicaid Services – The Louisiana Medicaid Program operates within Department of Health and Hospitals and is administered by the Bureau of Health Services Financing. Its mission is to finance and oversee access to comprehensive, quality health care in order to improve the health outcomes for eligible low income citizens.

Early Childhood Supports and Services – Early Childhood Supports and Services (ECSS) under the Office of Behavioral Health is a prevention and intervention program with an interagency process as one of its key operating principles. ECSS provides a variety of supports and services, which include mental health intervention for young children and their families.

Maternal and Child Health Program – This program provides preventative health interventions for pregnant women and children statewide.

Transitional Needs of Children Throughout Systems

School Based Health Centers – Health services are provided to school aged children by physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, and licensed mental health professionals in School Based Health Centers (SBHC).

Residential Facility Board Payment Program – Because many foster children have very complex needs and extremely challenging behaviors that make it impossible for them to be cared for in a family setting, Department of Children and Family Services operates the Residential Facility Board Payment Program. These children require the structured environment and intensive treatment of a residential treatment care setting or psychiatric hospitalization.

Residential Programming – This OJJ program provides out of home placement for youth in non-secure residential treatment facilities.

Parenting Education and Family Support

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) statewide initiatives provide opportunities to assist needy families who meet the program eligibility requirements to obtain services in the area of education and literacy, employment and family stability.

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Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program – Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) is the major hunger prevention and nutrition program in Louisiana. It promotes the general welfare and safeguards the health and well being of individuals by raising levels of nutrition among low income households.

Disengaged Youth

Career and Technical Education – This program prepares all youth with the education and technical skills needed for successful employment in various careers and professions. Students are prepared to join the workforce or continue their education at the post-secondary level.

IDEA Education Services - IDEA Education Services for special populations provides funds to ensure children with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education to meet each child's unique needs and prepare each child for further education, employment and independent living.

High School Initiatives – The High School Initiatives program's mission is to redesign high school programs to create rigorous academic and career pathways enabling all Louisiana youth to graduate from high school college and career ready.