



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Maintain the ability for local communities to determine the best use of resources to develop, implement and administer programs that address the needs of children and families.
- Support evidence-based policies and programs to ensure healthy, educated children, stable families, and safe and supportive communities.
- Ensure equitable funding for programs affecting children and families that are adequate and respect regional economic differences.
- Maximize all available revenue streams for strategies that support child development and economic stabilization.
- Support programs that promote family engagement.
- Ensure the health, safety and well-being of children in all publicly funded programs.
- Support programs that promote the ability for families to continue toward economic self-sufficiency without losing access to services that support children's development.

TWO-GENERATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Develop more effective policies for families with young children in poverty by aligning targeted social services that support children's development with workforce development services to increase family economic self-sufficiency.
- Expand accessibility of workforce housing for families with young children in poverty.
- Develop Summer Youth Employment Programs to assist youth in obtaining on-the-job experiences to better prepare them for full employment.

EARLY LEARNING

- Align increased investments in Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Program for four-year-olds to quality benchmarks to improve kindergarten readiness and later school success.
- Recognize learning gains in the calculation of readiness rates using the current VPK assessment administered during the VPK program year.
- Maintain ability for School Readiness providers to receive payment differential based on results of observational assessment.
- Maintain option for School Readiness providers to receive payment differential for implementation of approved child assessment.
- Increase access for families to community resources through Help Me Grow to support the healthy development of young children.

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

- Maximize out-of-school time investments for K-12 students to foster grade promotion, graduation, and college and career preparedness.
- Ensure all providers of school-age childcare are monitored for compliance with basic health and safety standards and clarify definitions of school-age childcare and exemptions.



- Streamline duplicative background screenings for personnel subject to public school and clearinghouse requirements.

HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT

- Expand funding and access for mental health services including telehealth services.
- Reduce infant mortality and disparities in birth outcomes by increasing the capacity of Healthy Start.
- Develop policy and resources to support community action teams and mobile crisis teams.
- Revise the eligibility requirements and parent fee structure in Florida KidCare to ensure continued access to preventative health care resources.
- Align state law with federal policies to allow federal reimbursement for access to school-based health services for all students eligible for Medicaid.
- Support increased standards related to swimming pool safety in residential and business settings.

CHILDREN WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES

- Maximize the impact of intervention services by managing caseloads and adequately serving infants and toddlers with significant delays or with pre-existing conditions in the Early Steps program.
- Support the prohibition of the use of seclusion and restraint rooms in school settings.
- Implement universal developmental screening and improve the process for referrals to the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) for comprehensive assessment and access to appropriate interventions to optimize investments supporting children's healthy development.
- Streamline the transition between Part C and Part B services to ensure families can navigate the changes between infant and toddler services offered through the Department of Health and preschool services offered through the Department of Education.

CHILD PROTECTION

- Develop a network of high quality early learning programs with practitioners trained in trauma informed care for children in foster care with dedicated revenue for services.
- Support young adults who are leaving foster care and are transitioning to independence.
- Ensure that children who have been abused and/or neglected are provided with safe, stable and permanent homes.
- Support the expansion of evidence-based programs that promote early intervention and safe, but expedited, permanency for the child.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

- Expand evidence-based prevention, mentoring, and diversion programs.
- Permit state attorney discretion on filing charges against juveniles who receive concurrent civil citations rather than mandatory filing requirements and provide sentencing parity to reduce the number of children held in detention.



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2019 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

- Support the state's pilots for in-home services as an alternative to detention for youth in the child welfare system who are involved in the juvenile justice system.