



State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Commission on Children

## 2007 Appropriation Budget Update

The following, compiled by Commission on Children Legislative Director Elizabeth C. Brown, summarizes children's spending in the 2007-2009 budget proposed by the legislature's Appropriations Committee. (4/18/07)

### I. Prevention and Early Intervention

#### Children's Trust Fund

- Continues funding for the expansion of Nurturing Families Network in New Haven for \$614,106;
- Increases funding for Help Me Grow, \$75,000 in each year; new prevention pilot program for middle school children, \$250,000 in each year; expands Family School Connection Program that provides home visiting and support services to families whose children are struggling with truancy, behavioral, or academic issues at school for programs in New Haven, Norwich, Middletown, and Windham, \$1,080,000 in each year.
- Restores funding to the Children's Law Center, \$150,000 in each year.
- Restores funding to for the Parent Trust Act, \$500,000 in each year.
- Enhances funding for the Kinship Fund in the Probate Court for small grants to relative caregivers (amounts range from \$50 to \$250 dollars per child) from \$325,000 to \$500,000.
- Grandparents Respite Fund, increase from \$500,000 to \$750,000 in each year.
- Restores funding to the Safe Harbor Respite program - \$200,000 in each year.

### II. Healthy Expectations for Children

#### WIC Program

- Allocates \$120,000 in both years to fund two Department of Public Health staffers for the WIC program.

#### Children with Special Health Care Needs

- Allocates \$550,000 to fund 20 additional slots under the Katie Beckett waiver that provides funding to prevent institutionalization of medically fragile children, for a total of 200 slots.
- Allocates \$2.5 million in '08 and \$5 million in '09 for expanded services under the SCHIP program;

- Allocates \$250,000 in both years for case management services for medically fragile children.

### **HUSKY Health Insurance Program**

- Increases eligibility for parents of children in the HUSKY programs from 150% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to 185% FPL. Estimated that approximately 9,700 additional people will be covered for annual cost of \$22.7 million.
- Provides 2% rate increases for Managed Care Organizations, \$14,490,032 in '08 and \$30,066,884 in '09;
- Expands Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women, \$3.5 in both years; establishes two Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) pilots in Windham and Waterbury for \$2.5 million in '08 and '09;
- Extends premium costs for uninsured newborns from two to six months, \$3.9 million in '08 and \$ 8.2 million in '09;
- \$1 million for HUSKY outreach in both years;
- \$2 million in both years for disease management ( hypertension, obesity, diabetes and asthma);
- \$500,000 in DPH for Easy Breathing anti asthma program statewide;
- \$20 million in '08 and '09 to raise dental rates.

### **Lead Poisoning Prevention**

- Allocates funding to implement provisions in HB 6723 and SB 1324:
- \$1,295,409 in '08 and \$1,492,590 in '09 to implement universal screening and lowering the elevated blood lead level (ebll) to 15 micrograms per deciliter for a mandatory epidemiological investigation by the local health director from current ebll of 20 ug/dl.

### **Childhood Obesity**

- Allocates \$500,000 in '08 and '09 to support competitive grants to towns of between \$5,000 and \$50,000 each to support programming aimed at promoting health lifestyles. Will require a local match of 50%.
- Allocates \$500,000 to support physical fitness and nutrition programming for children who are overweight or at risk of being overweight.

### **School Based Health Clinics**

- Increase of \$2.5 million in '08 and '09

### **Birth to Three Program**

- Allocates funding to expand eligibility for children with very low birth weight newborns (currently at less than 750 grams, this change increases that to less than 1,000 grams);
- Restores eligibility for children with significant delays in speech only with biological risk factors; and eligibility for children with mild or unilateral hearing loss. \$913,507 in '08 and \$ 2,181,419 in '09.

### **Board of Autism Spectrum Disorders – New Board**

- Funding of \$1.1 million in '09 is provided to create a new agency to serve individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

## **III. School Readiness: Early Care and Education Coordinated System**

### **Direct Early Care and Education Services**

- Allocates an additional \$28,050,000 over the next two years for readiness slots to accommodate up to 3,000 children.
- Increases pre-K reimbursement rates for DSS centers to strive for parity with School readiness grant funding - \$2,160,000 in '08 and \$44,460,000 in '09
- Care4Kids - increase of \$18.7 million in '08 and \$21.8 in '09.

### **Early Care and Education System- Quality and Accountability**

- Provides funding \$3,900,000 in '08 and \$4,550,000 in '09 for the Early Childhood Cabinet to coordinate, plan and develop core components of a quality early care and education system, including:
- Development of a quality rating improvement system for all types of child care centers;
- Development of a data collections system cross various programs;
- Implementation of a longitudinal evaluation of school readiness;
- Providing grants to local municipalities for technical assistance in developing comprehensive birth to eight systems.

### **Workforce Development**

- Allocates funding for a workforce registry, scholarships, accreditation and staff bonuses in amount of \$555,000 in '08 and \$1,2 million in '09 (DSS/Charts a Course) (total School Readiness Quality Enhancement \$5,547,376 in '08 and in '09 \$\$6,178,876 )
- Allocates funding for staff at Charter Oak College for Early Childhood Career Specialist - \$55,500 in '08 and \$57,922 in '09.
- Career Ladder Pilot - \$500,000 in '08 and '09 for professional development in early childhood and nursing careers ( DOL )

## **IV. Positive Youth Development**

### **After School**

- Allocates \$ 6 million in '08 and \$6.2 million in '09 ( SDE )
- Coaching for Life - Program for training coaches in Joe Erdman's curriculum, Coaching for Life focused on building self-esteem and positive youth development - \$250,00 in '08 and \$250,000 in '09.(Judicial)

- Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership LEAP - \$850,000 in '08 and in '09 (OPM)
- Neighborhood Centers in New Haven - \$225,200 for three programs
- After School Programs - \$1.3 million in DSS (School Readiness line item)
- Boys and Girls Club - \$1 million ( OPM )

### **Programs for Youth**

- Youth Service Bureaus- allocates \$1.250 million in '08 and \$1,250,000 in '09 for enhancement (SDE)
- Urban Youth Violence Prevention Grant- \$ 1 million in '08 and '09 - implements HB 7084 and targets Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, New London and Waterbury. (OPM)
- Urban Youth Summer Employment - \$6 million (DOL)

### **Juvenile Justice Reform**

- Family Support Centers for Family With Service Needs - \$3,484,094 in '08 and \$3,480,782 in '09.(Judicial)
- Juvenile Jurisdiction Change for 16 and 17 year olds - funding is appropriated to implement inclusion of 16 and 17 years olds in the Juvenile Justice System instead of the adult criminal system
- Increase in juvenile probation officers (20 in '08 and 50 in '09) and new community based services - \$5,436,593 and \$10,870,741 in '09.( Judicial)
- Educational Advocates - funding for personnel to protect the educational rights of children involved with the courts - \$1,788,484 in '08 and \$1,811,494 in '09.(Judicial)

## **V. Family Strength**

### **Relative Caregivers**

- Relative Caregivers - increases Temporary Assistance for children in custody of relative caregivers - \$4.5 million (DSS)

### **Housing Assistance**

- Supportive Housing - provides funding to support 500 supportive housing units by end of '09 - \$4,900,000 in '08 and \$8,645,750 (DSS)
- Homeless - 650 additional RAP certificates; (\$5.5 million ); Beyond Shelter (\$100,000 ); AIDS Housing (\$1.5 million); child care services in shelters (\$500,000); Homeless Family Transition Coalition (\$238,000).(DSS)

## **VI. Innovation in Education - State Department of Education**

### **Enhanced K-12 School Funding**

- Increases K-12 Educational Cost Sharing Formula by \$204.3 million

- Maintains funding for Priority School Districts - \$131,544,256 and \$146,494,256 - includes Early Reading Success Grant, Extended Day Programs and academic enhancement programs.
- Secure Schools- \$10 million for grants to school districts for security needs.
- Creation of a Distance Learning System between SDE and Charter Oak College Distance Learning Consortium - \$850,000 in '08 and \$850,000 in '09.
- Gifted and Talented Program - \$500,000 in '08 and '09

### **Innovative Public Schools**

- Charter Schools - increases funding to raise the per student grant from \$8,000 to \$8,650- total of \$3,350,700 in '08 and \$6,388,150 in '09.
- CommPACT Schools Initiative - \$1,500,000 in '08 and '09 to establish local new charter public schools within the school district operating independently. (implements SB 1405 )
- Magnet Schools- increases per pupil subsidy to expand number of students in Magnet Schools- \$12.3 million in '08 and \$24.4 million in '09.

### **School Accountability and Performance**

- Special Education Demonstration Projects – implements SB 1405 that sets up a competitive grant program within SDE for implementation of best practices to improve school performance - \$1,200,000 in '08 and '09.
- School Performance - \$500,000 in '08 and '09 for educational assessments in approximately 25 schools per year, for schools not meeting adequate yearly progress under No Child Left Behind.
- Allocates funding for 12 new positions to implement a new accountability system.
- Expands the State Board of Education's authority to raise student performance when school districts fail to make adequate progress. It would be able to:
  - direct the transfer and assignment of teachers and principals;
  - require districts to implement curriculum approved by the State Department of Education;
  - assign a technical assistance team to districts;
  - reconstitute schools as state or local charter school; and
  - provide funding for a students in failing schools to attend public schools in a neighboring district.