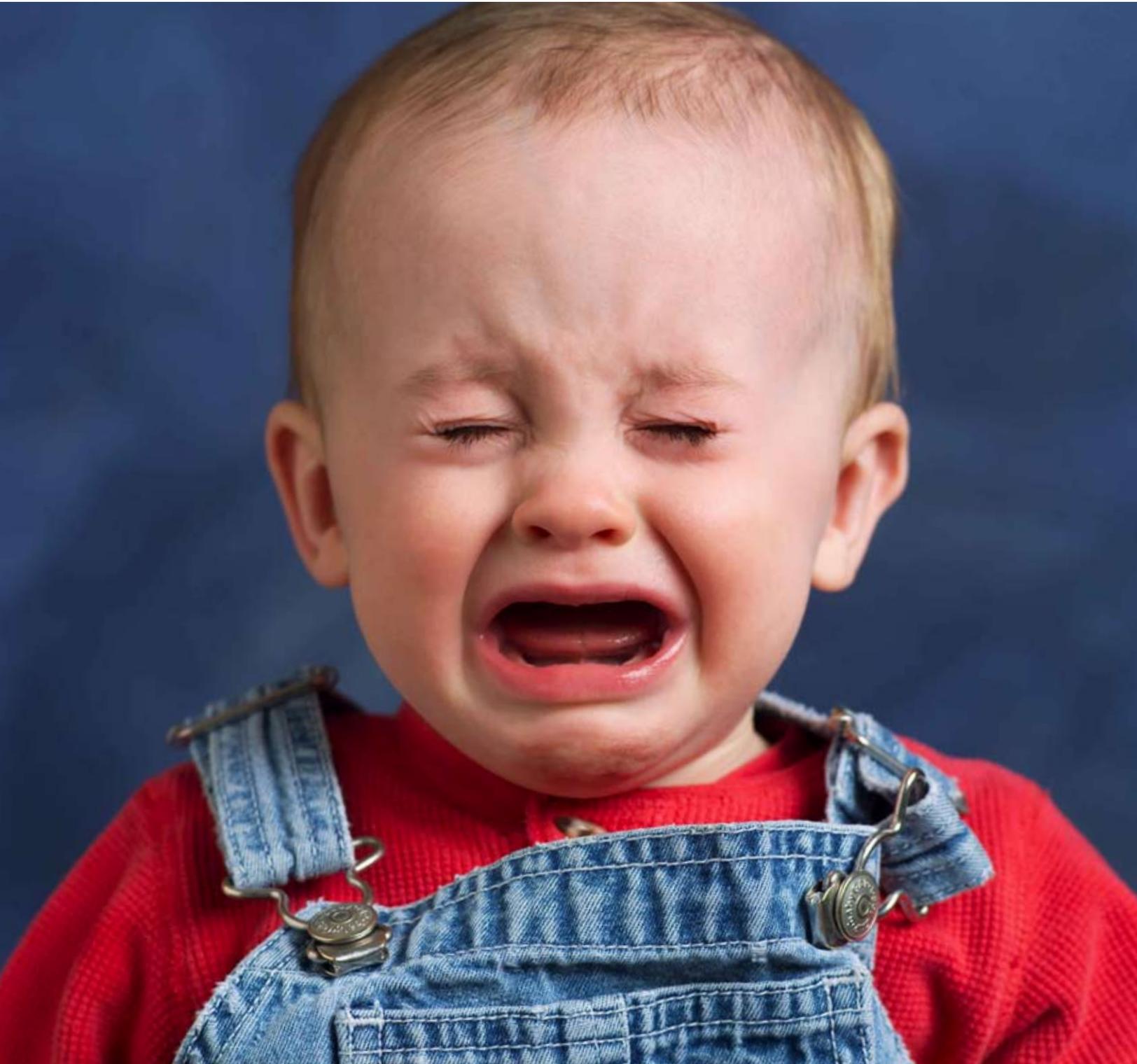


# State Budget Cuts:

AMERICA'S KIDS PAY THE PRICE





# Introduction

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**In 2008, America's children saw the nation's financial system melt down and the worst recession in decades commence. In 2009, the nation's children paid the price. At least 42 states have cut public health, programs for children with disabilities, K-12 and early education, and higher education.**

Next year doesn't look any better with states needing to close as much as \$260 billion dollars in budget deficits.<sup>1</sup> Congress will need to make investments in children's programs a priority in both the jobs bill and the 2011 federal budget if children's programs are not to be cut further.

Substantial state fiscal relief by the federal government is urgent.

Despite the actions taken to stabilize the economy over the last year, the American public holds an exceedingly negative view of the direction of the country, the economy and their personal finances:

- ▶ 67 percent of adults are dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country with only 25 percent satisfied. It has been almost seven years since a majority of the country expressed satisfaction with the direction of the country. (*Pew Research Center, 11/8/2009*)
- ▶ 58 percent believe that the economy has not hit bottom and there is still a ways to go before things improve. (*NBC News/Wall St. Journal, 10/25/2009*)
- ▶ 65 percent say the recession has hurt them financially and 55 percent say that the current economic situation has caused stress in their lives. (*ABC/Washington Post, 9/12/2009*)
- ▶ Moreover, last year, 62 percent said they believe that when today's children grow up, they will be worse off than people are now. (*Pew Research Center, 7/2008*)

The federal stimulus passed earlier this year, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), did a lot to protect and invest in children. It included more than \$50 billion in state relief for education and Medicaid and tens of billions of dollars in nutrition, health, income stabilization, and tax relief for working families. Yet substantial cuts still were necessary in 2009, and the Medicaid assistance that states received is scheduled to end on December 31, 2010.

The assistance states received for education and other services also will be largely exhausted by then. Without further relief, states will have to take steps to eliminate deficits for state fiscal year 2011 that will likely take nearly a full percentage point off the Gross Domestic Product. That, in turn, could cost the economy 900,000 jobs next year.<sup>2</sup>

## Children During the Recession

- ▶ About one in four children under 18 is living in poverty; 21.3 percent of children under 6 live in poverty
- ▶ Over half (53.3 percent) of children growing up alone with their mother are living in poverty
- ▶ More than one in five children (22.5 percent) live in families who are food insecure - meaning they struggle against hunger and report not having enough to eat
- ▶ Nearly 10 percent of children lack health insurance - over 7 million children
- ▶ Only one out of every seven eligible children receives child care assistance and the care that children have access to is of dubious quality
- ▶ Half of all poor children in 4th grade read below grade level; for minorities the percentage is higher
- ▶ Last year about 800,000 children were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect; 1,760 children died - with three-quarters of deaths occurring to children younger than age 4



### Impact on Children

This is grim news for America's children. They make up more than 35 percent of those in poverty, yet they comprise only 24.6 percent of the population. Children did not cause the recession, but they certainly are feeling the effects of it. States cut the most basic of services for children this year with deeper cuts on the horizon for next year. This report includes an illustrative list of state-by-state budget cuts affecting children.

State cuts have been devastating and the end is not in sight. Policymakers may think that reductions in state staffing, furloughs and across-the-board cuts have little impact, but families with children see it differently. In some instances, direct services were cut by states. In other instances, state staffing reductions resulted in longer waits for those eligible for assistance. For a hungry or homeless child or for a child who needs health care or child care, the timing of services matter.

A steady creation of new jobs through current ARRA funding, extension of some ARRA provisions, enactment of new emergency measures, and inclusion of funding in the FY2011 budget are necessary. Otherwise,

American children will be required to pay a substantial price in lost opportunities to address a problem they did nothing to create.

### Recommendations:

In addition to stabilizing state budgets, there are many programs in the federal budget that can be expanded to create new jobs and provide long-term benefits for children and the country's economic future. Below are several examples. This is not an exhaustive list and dozens of programs throughout the federal budget meet community and family needs and prepare children to participate in future economic growth<sup>3</sup>:

#### ► Child Care Assistance

**Short-Term Benefit:** Child care is a \$500 billion industry supporting about 15 million jobs. Still too many parents have no affordable options for care and have to work fewer hours or part time instead of full time. Expanding the number of centers and workers in the field will provide jobs for those who care for children and allow parents to work more hours to provide for their families. Moreover, parents who lose their jobs during a recession still need quality care as they look for new jobs or enroll in education and training programs to upgrade their skills.

**Long-Term Benefit:** Children who receive high-quality child care have stronger and higher levels of verbal and cognitive skills. These children are also less likely to engage in criminal acts and are more likely to pursue a higher education.

#### ► Nurse Family Partnerships

**Short-Term Benefit:** Hiring nurses, nurses aides and others who can provide parent-training and in-home care for pregnant mothers and parents with young children.

**Long-Term Benefit:** Participants reported fewer arrests, convictions, violations of probation, lifetime sex partners, cigarettes smoked per day, and fewer days of alcohol consumption in the last six months. Effects were greatest among low-income mothers.

▶ **Mentoring Programs such as Big Brothers-Big Sisters**

**Short-Term Benefit:** Providing jobs for people to oversee volunteers as well as volunteer opportunities for people between jobs.

**Long-Term Benefit:** Children paired with mentors were 46 percent less likely to initiate drug use, 27 percent less likely to initiate alcohol use, one-third less likely to hit someone, skipped half as many days of school, and showed modest gains in school achievement.

▶ **Jobs Corps**

**Short-Term Benefit:** Hiring teachers and other educators for this program will help young people learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job.

**Long-Term Benefit:** Increased hours of additional education, obtaining a GED degree, improved literacy test scores, higher earnings, less dependence on cash welfare assistance, and reduction in arrests.

▶ **Head Start and Early Head Start**

**Short-Term Benefit:** Greater employment opportunities for Head Start workers and administrators.

**Long-Term Benefit:** Children showed greater results in cognitive, language and social and emotional development than a group of children examined who were not in these programs.

▶ **Teach for America (TFA)**

**Short-Term Benefit:** Hiring of more recent college graduates to teach in inner city schools.

**Long-Term Benefit:** Students of TFA teachers were shown to have significantly higher math achievement test scores.

▶ **Quantum Opportunity Program**

**Short-Term Benefit:** More opportunities for mentoring in this afterschool program as well as full and part-time employment for those managing the program.

**Long-Term Benefit:** Students in this program have shown a significant increase in the likelihood of graduation and enrolling in post-secondary education or training.

▶ **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)**

**Short-Term Benefit:** Will provide more jobs for people to administer this program in agencies throughout the country and greater support for pregnant women and those with newborn children.

**Long-Term Benefit:** WIC participants were 6-7 percent more likely to use prenatal care in the first trimester and were 2 percent less likely to have a child below the 25th percentile for gestational age if the child was premature or of low birth weight.

Elected officials in Washington, DC and in state capitols face few good options in addressing the nation's economic conditions. Programs like those above did not crash the financial system or create trillion dollar deficits. Investing in children's programs provides one of the few ways out of the recession and will build a sustainable economic future. Slashing these programs will not put a dent in the deficit but will deprive children of a chance for a better life.



# Appendix: State Budget Cuts—Impact on Kids

## Alabama

- ▶ Eliminated the state supplement for Head Start of \$864,500
- ▶ Cut the education budget 7.5 percent across the board on October 1, 2009 - on top of a record 11 percent cut last year
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$425 million (7.5 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>4</sup>

## Alaska

- ▶ Closed nine Boys & Girls Clubs across the state in October 2009 serving 20,000 children; about 20 percent of the Boys & Girls Club statewide workforce was laid off<sup>7</sup>

## Arizona

- ▶ Cut state foster care payments to families by 20 percent and cut funding for clothing, diapers, books and education expenses to care for foster children by half<sup>8</sup>
- ▶ Reduced Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance grants for 38,500 low-income families and eliminated substance abuse services for 1,400 parents and guardians<sup>9</sup>
- ▶ Cut child care assistance operated by the Department of Economic Security and reduced payment rates to child care providers<sup>10</sup>
- ▶ Increased child care licensing fees pending. Compared to the maximum \$150 current fee, under the proposals, set to take effect starting January 1, child care providers will pay thousands of dollars more for a license<sup>11</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$1.6 billion (18 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>12</sup>

## Arkansas

- ▶ Cut spending across the board by 2.2 percent (\$100 million). Public education funding for K-12 was exempt, but programs helping children and families were not<sup>13</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$100 million (2.2 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>14</sup>

A single mother working two jobs in **Florida** said she has to pay \$150 a week for child care. She has applied for child care assistance for over a year but she was sent a letter saying that the state does not have the funds to help her. She wants to know if there are no funds for children, where her tax dollars are going.

## California

- ▶ Cut state foster care payments for family agencies, group homes and seriously emotionally disturbed children by 10 percent for savings of \$26.6 million<sup>15</sup>
- ▶ Suspended the July cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for CalWORKs (California's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program) grants (cash assistance) for savings of \$79.1 million – the fifth consecutive year that the statutory COLA was not provided<sup>16</sup>
- ▶ Cut child care to families receiving CalWORKs by \$112 million, resulting in thousands of families losing access to child care assistance and the ability to work<sup>17</sup>
- ▶ Cut family grants by 4 percent effective July 1, 2009; nearly four out of five CalWORKs recipients are children<sup>18</sup>
- ▶ Cut public school funding by 12.7 percent (\$7.4 billion). Eliminated 2009-10 K-12 education COLAs for a reduction of \$2.6 billion<sup>19</sup>
- ▶ Cut child welfare services by \$80 million. These programs serve older foster youth, provide health services for children in foster care, help reunite and preserve families, and assist counties in recruiting and retaining social workers<sup>20</sup>
- ▶ Suspended state funding for the Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program<sup>21</sup>
- ▶ Cut child protective services by \$39.6 million, resulting in the loss of an estimated 373 social workers statewide who protect abused and neglected children<sup>22</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$6.3 billion (7.1 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>23</sup>

## Colorado

- ▶ Cut funding for K-12 education<sup>24</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$591 million (8 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>25</sup>



## Connecticut

- ▶ Cut the School Readiness Program (SRP) by \$4.6 million to \$74.8 million<sup>26</sup>
- ▶ Cut funding for early literacy, state-funded Head Start, Family Resource Centers, and regional education services<sup>27</sup>
- ▶ Cut programs to help prevent child abuse and provide legal services for foster children<sup>28</sup>
- ▶ Cut after-school program grants, resulting in an estimated 400 children and youth without programs<sup>29</sup>
- ▶ Cut funding for the Department of Children and Families by \$8.5 million<sup>30</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$385.9 million (2.2 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>31</sup>

## District of Columbia

- ▶ Cut services for the homeless by 20 percent or more than \$12 million<sup>32</sup>
- ▶ Cut cash assistance payments to low-income families and cut funding for services that help low-income residents stay in their own homes and communities<sup>33</sup>
- ▶ Cut child care subsidies and eliminated funding for the Early Childhood and Out of School Time programs operating in 13 Department of Parks and Recreation sites. Most of the families served are low income<sup>34</sup>

- ▶ Cut funding for the DC Public Schools and DC Charter Schools. Nearly 400 staff positions were eliminated including 270 teacher positions<sup>35</sup>
- ▶ Cut the School Mental Health program by \$600,000<sup>36</sup>

## Georgia

- ▶ Cut funding for Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program<sup>37</sup>
- ▶ Cut public school K-12 funding during consideration of the state's initial 2010 budget and cut an additional \$332 million to help close the gap on the state's mid-year deficit<sup>38</sup>
- ▶ Furloughed child welfare workers<sup>39</sup>
- ▶ Cut spending across the board to save \$900 million. Public school funding was restricted to a 3 percent cut while most other agencies were cut by 5 percent<sup>40</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$851.4 million (5.1 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>41</sup>

## Hawaii

- ▶ Cut education funding by \$1.8 billion. Closed school three weeks early. Closed schools on Fridays for the rest of the school year—leaving the families of 170,000 children scrambling for child care<sup>42</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$683 million (13 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>43</sup>

## Idaho

- ▶ Discontinued treatment through the Children's Supportive Services Department to about 100 children with severe emotional problems<sup>44</sup>
- ▶ Cut spending across the board. Public education funding for K-12 was exempt, but other agencies assisting children and families were subject to the cut<sup>45</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$161.3 million (6.4 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>46</sup>

## Illinois

- ▶ Reduced funding for early childhood education by 10 percent; 10,000 children could lose eligibility for the program<sup>47</sup>
- ▶ Cut the Pre-K portion of Preschool for All by \$33.8 million. The program is estimated to serve about 9,500 fewer 3- and 4-year-olds<sup>48</sup>
- ▶ Cut the Early Childhood Block Grant by 10 percent, jeopardizing preschool services for more than 9,000 children<sup>49</sup>

A mother from **Hawaii** said the state has closed the public schools on Fridays until the end of the school year. She expressed frustration that the schools already had early release on Wednesdays. She is concerned that her children will not learn enough in 3-1/2 days of school every week.

She said Hawaii enacted "furlough Fridays" to achieve budget savings regardless of the impact on children (let alone the impact on families who now need to find child care for the extra time off from school).

A mother of two children in **Illinois** said she is a speech therapist for early intervention. The state does not pay her regularly for services she provides to children. She says her family is about three months behind in payments. She says her mortgage company is in the process of foreclosing on her home. She is frustrated that she is working hard, but that state budget cuts have affected her ability to meet her commitments. Without getting another job, she doesn't know if she can save her house.

A single mother from **Indiana** is concerned about her daughter in middle school. The community in which she lives cut school bus service to save money.

Now her 14 year old daughter walks two miles to school in the dark through a dangerous neighborhood. The mother worries about her daughter's safety and fears that the bus cut could lead to kids dropping out of school.

She wonders why the future of poor kids doesn't seem to matter to policymakers.

A grandmother from **Kansas** is frustrated with the state's cuts to county disability services.

Her 12-year-old granddaughter has spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy. She is in a wheelchair and needs assistance to meet every basic need.

Because of budget cuts, the grandmother reports not being able to get help from a home health aid and not getting help to build a ramp for the child's home. The grandmother wonders why children with disabilities aren't a greater priority to policymakers.

- ▶ Cut home visiting programs for families with young children by 10 percent<sup>50</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$4.2 billion (16.5 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>51</sup>

### **Indiana**

- ▶ Cut the Family and Children Fund, which underwrites residential and foster care placements of at-risk children, by 3.9 percent<sup>52</sup>
- ▶ Cut spending across the board by 10 percent<sup>53</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$309 million (2.3 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>54</sup>

### **Iowa**

- ▶ Cut funding for hearing aids for children<sup>55</sup>
- ▶ Cut community empowerment and other programs serving low-income families, including some families who were victims of recent flooding<sup>56</sup>
- ▶ Cut spending across the board by 10 percent from all accounts funded from the state's general fund<sup>57</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$317.8 million (5.5 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>58</sup>

### **Kansas**

- ▶ Cut public school funding for K-12 by \$135 million<sup>59</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$459 million (7.9 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>60</sup>

### **Kentucky**

- ▶ Cut spending across the board to most state agencies by 4 percent. Public education funding for K-12 was exempt, but programs assisting families and children were not<sup>61</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$161 million (1.9 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>62</sup>

### **Louisiana**

- ▶ Cut funding for the LA 4 Preschool program<sup>63</sup>

### **Maine**

- ▶ Cut \$2.6 million (12.5 percent) in subsidies for foster and adoptive families<sup>64</sup>
- ▶ Cut children's mental health by \$2.1 million, affecting family mediation, outpatient counseling and flex funding used for "one-time need" services<sup>65</sup>



- ▶ Cut \$900,000 by reducing the time for psychological evaluations of children in state care<sup>66</sup>
- ▶ Cut \$1.1 million in funding for refugee services, Child Abuse and Neglect Councils, and supervised visitation in child welfare<sup>67</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$231.7 million (7.9 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>68</sup>

### **Maryland**

- ▶ Cut funding for a school breakfast pilot program, professional development for principals and educators, health clinics, gifted and talented summer centers, and math and science initiatives<sup>69</sup>
- ▶ Cut \$4 million for child care subsidy resulting in 1,000 fewer children being served<sup>70</sup>
- ▶ Cut the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund Budget by 30 percent (this is a total over two years; 15 percent for FY2010). As a result, 5,603 at-risk children and youth are no longer being served. Nineteen programs were eliminated statewide, including the Gang Activity Program, After School Teen Pregnancy, Mentoring, Respite, After-School Programs, and

Boys Reading Club. Funding for 95 programs was reduced statewide, and over 60 direct service staff statewide lost their jobs<sup>71</sup>

- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$682.8 million (5.1 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>72</sup>

### **Massachusetts**

- ▶ Cut \$16.4 million from early education and care, including an \$11.6 million reduction in income-eligible child care subsidies. This means the state will not be able to serve the more than 20,000 children on the waiting list for child care assistance and may also require a reduction in services for families currently receiving subsidies
- ▶ Cut \$15.8 million for the Transitional Assistance to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) program. This means thousands of families will likely have their benefits cut or will lose them entirely
- ▶ Cut \$5.8 million in Services for Families and Children, which provides assistance for adoption, guardianship and foster care
- ▶ Cut \$1.5 million in school health funding, reducing services by 11 percent<sup>73</sup>

A mother in **Michigan** is working nights because she cannot afford daytime child care for her 4-year-old daughter.

She drives her daughter 75 miles each day to her grandmother's house so the grandmother can provide child care. The mother says gas costs her \$150 a week just so she can work.

While she wants to send her daughter to preschool at least parttime, she can't afford it without child care help.

- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$600 million (2.2 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>74</sup>

### **Michigan**

- ▶ Child care subsidy payments are moved to a flat rate across the state. This change does not take in to consideration the cost differences across the state
- ▶ Cut \$200,000 from the Child Care Development Fund quality funding
- ▶ Cut \$3 million for community child protection/permanency programs
- ▶ Cut \$2.25 million for the Strong Families/Safe Children program and \$2 million for before- and after-school program grants
- ▶ Cut \$7.6 million (half) for the competitive Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) serving preschool-age children
- ▶ Reduced the school aid contribution to the 0 to 3 Secondary Prevention program (also known as Early Childhood Grants) by 25 percent from \$2.13 million to \$1.6 million
- ▶ Eliminated \$8 million for the 21st Century Schools after-school programs
- ▶ Closed community juvenile justice centers effective January 1, 2010<sup>75</sup>
- ▶ Cut school aid budget by \$382 million (2.9 percent), resulting in a \$165 per pupil spending reduction<sup>76</sup>

### **Minnesota**

- ▶ Cut funding by 25 percent for the Children and Community Services Block grant, which provides resources for social service programs for children, adolescents and other individuals<sup>77</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$208 million (1.4 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>78</sup>

### **Mississippi**

- ▶ Cut K-12 education by nearly 5 percent with the majority of the cuts affecting the Mississippi Adequate Education Program, the state's school funding formula used to determine adequate funding levels needed in every district in the state<sup>79</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$347.1 million (7.6 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>80</sup>

### **Missouri**

- ▶ Cut funding by 32 percent to a Jewish Family and Children's Services child abuse prevention demonstration project, which means that 3,200 children will not be served



- ▶ Cut 10 percent in support services for adoptive families
- ▶ Cut 16 percent in training and technical assistance for unlicensed family child care homes serving low-income children
- ▶ Cut 20 percent from referral services through Child Care Resource and Referral agencies
- ▶ Cut 44 percent in Strengthening Families training and technical assistance for unlicensed family child care homes serving low-income children<sup>81</sup>

### **Nebraska**

- ▶ Cut spending across the board to save \$80 million<sup>82</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$166.9 million (4.9 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>83</sup>

### **Nevada**

- ▶ Cut funding for K-12 education, including delaying an all day kindergarten expansion and per pupil expenditures by \$400 in a pilot program. Eliminated funds for gifted and talented programs and a magnet program for students who are deaf or hard of hearing

- ▶ Cut more than 15,000 hours of needed services for young children with developmental delays
- ▶ Tightened eligibility criteria for low-income families to receive cash assistance and health insurance, with the expected result that fewer families will receive those benefits

### **New Hampshire**

- ▶ Cut \$8.78 million from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS), including laying off or reassigning more than 150 DHS workers<sup>85</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$37.7 million (1.7 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>86</sup>

### **New Jersey**

- ▶ Cut funding for elementary school education, "equalization aid," and preschool programs<sup>87</sup>
- ▶ Cut funding for after-school programs, such as those run by the YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, New Jersey After 3, and Big Brothers-Big Sisters<sup>88</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$500 million (1.7 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>89</sup>



### **New Mexico**

- ▶ Cut truancy and drop-out prevention programs by \$700,000, reducing the children served in half<sup>90</sup>
- ▶ Eliminated the state anti-obesity program for children, cutting services for 50,000 children. Cut elementary school physical education<sup>91</sup>
- ▶ Cut in half the number of teenagers served in the teen parenting Graduation, Reality, and Dual-Role Skills (GRADS program)<sup>92</sup>
- ▶ Cut after-school enrichment programs by a third (reduced in half compared to two years ago), affecting 30,000 children. Eliminated funding for school-based drug and violence prevention<sup>93</sup>
- ▶ Cut child care funding in the Santa Fe Public School District by \$1 million, affecting about 600 children<sup>94</sup>
- ▶ Cut spending across the board by 3 percent. Public education spending for K-12 was exempt, but other programs assisting families and children were not<sup>95</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$650 million (11.8 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>96</sup>

A parent from **New York City** reported that her middle school child used to take the bus to school.

When bus service was cut, her son took the train. One day, he was hit by a car while crossing a street with no crossing guard present.

She thinks this would never have happened if her son had been on the school bus.

### **New York**

- ▶ Faces a \$3.2 billion mid-year budget gap. Negotiations are currently under way to address the gap - impact on children not known yet<sup>97</sup>
- ▶ Cut spending non-personnel funding across the board by \$500 million or 11 percent<sup>98</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$3.15 billion (5.8 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>99</sup>

## North Carolina

- ▶ Cut children's vaccine coverage by \$4 million including the cost of combination shots, Hepatitis A and the second dose of Varicella, and the chicken pox vaccine<sup>100</sup>
- ▶ Cut \$16 million to Smart Start, a statewide early education program for young children. Increased licensing fees for child care providers by 50 percent<sup>101</sup>
- ▶ Cut funds for textbooks, literacy coaches, family resource centers and juvenile justice<sup>102</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$285 million (1.5 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>103</sup>

A parent from **North Carolina** reported that since moving from Colorado, she has tried for 10 months to get health insurance for her son.

Finally she was told to stop calling, that North Carolina was bankrupt and there is no one who can help her.

## Ohio

- ▶ Cut adoption services funding by \$43 million or 40 percent<sup>104</sup>
- ▶ Eliminated funding for the Early Learning Initiative, a preschool program for poor children, and reduced funding for publicly funded preschools by one-third<sup>105</sup>
- ▶ Cut funding for libraries by 30 percent<sup>106</sup>
- ▶ Cut funding for public school K-12 education<sup>107</sup>
- ▶ Cut funding for children's mental health services<sup>108</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$285.2 million (1.2 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>109</sup>

A family child care provider from **Ohio** says that when she adds up her monthly bills, they are less than the \$1,700 the state owes her for providing child care.

She can't pay her own bills if the state does not pay her on time for caring for children. She has a relationship with the families and does not want to tell them to stop bringing their children.

She wonders if she needs to get a second job to make sure she can take care of children and pay her bills. She wonders why the state cannot just pay her on a timely basis.

## Oklahoma

- ▶ Cut public school K-12 funding by 5 percent across the board<sup>110</sup>
- ▶ Cut child abuse protection and prevention funding<sup>111</sup>
- ▶ Cut juvenile justice funds and children's mental health services<sup>112</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$999 million (18.5 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>113</sup>

## Oregon

- ▶ Cut public school K-12 funding<sup>114</sup>
- ▶ Cut child care subsidies and tied child care subsidy receipt to welfare benefits<sup>115</sup>
- ▶ Cut mental health services and emergency assistance<sup>116</sup>

## **Pennsylvania**

- ▶ Cut \$25 million from library funding<sup>117</sup>
- ▶ Cut \$20 million for safe and alternative schools<sup>118</sup>
- ▶ Cut funding for Big Brothers-Big Sisters program<sup>119</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$160 million (.6 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>120</sup>

## **Rhode Island**

- ▶ Cut funding for early intervention services for young children<sup>121</sup>
- ▶ Cut funding for Home Based Therapeutic Services for children with special health care needs, including the Personal Assistance Services and Support<sup>122</sup> (PASS) program
- ▶ Cut funding for special education grants to serve children with disabilities<sup>123</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$219 million (7.8 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>124</sup>

## **South Carolina**

- ▶ Cut funding for juvenile justice programs by 20 percent, laid off 285 staff from within juvenile justice programs, and closed several youth facilities<sup>125</sup>
- ▶ Cancelled state financing for 40 after-school centers for teenagers that offered homework help, mentoring and structured activities during the hours teens are most likely to stray into trouble<sup>126</sup>
- ▶ Cut spending across the board by 4 percent<sup>127</sup>
- ▶ Cut public school funding for K-12 by \$621 million. Additional cuts are under consideration<sup>128</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$452.4 million (7.8 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>129</sup>

## **Tennessee**

- ▶ Suspended enrollment in CoverKids, the state- and federally-funded program for uninsured children, after November 30, 2009<sup>130</sup>

## **Texas**

- ▶ Cut the child care subsidy program by 4,000 families and increased waiting lists<sup>131</sup>

A mother from **Texas** described how her child care subsidy was reduced. Because she just didn't have the \$300 to make up the difference, she lost her child care subsidy for her 3-year-old.

In order to work, she arranged to have an older woman in the neighborhood care for her child, but she is worried that now her child does not have appropriate mental stimulation or a healthy diet.

She wishes the government could give her the help she used to have.

## Utah

- ▶ Cut funding for state education grants, school districts and education programs<sup>132</sup>
- ▶ Cut the reimbursement rate to foster care parents by 3.5 percent in the current year<sup>133</sup>

## Virginia

- ▶ Cut funding for juvenile justice programs. This reduced funding for local diversion/prevention programs<sup>134</sup>
- ▶ Cut public school funding for K-12<sup>135</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$1.3 billion (8 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>136</sup>

## Washington

- ▶ Cut public school K-12 funding<sup>137</sup>
- ▶ Cut funding for First Steps by 20 percent, a state funded early intervention program that works with pregnant and new mothers on parenting skills to reduce the likelihood of child abuse among at-risk families<sup>138</sup>
- ▶ Cut the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) by 3 percent. This reduced enrollment by about 170 children<sup>139</sup>
- ▶ Eliminated the state's universal Childhood Vaccine Purchase Program making it more difficult and costly for parents to immunize their children<sup>140</sup>
- ▶ State budget gap for FY2010: \$1.09 billion (7.4 percent of the state's general fund budget)<sup>141</sup>

## Wisconsin

- ▶ Cut funding for children's health care<sup>142</sup>

## Wyoming

- ▶ Cut public school K-12 funding by \$165 per student<sup>143</sup>
- ▶ Cut children's health care<sup>144</sup>

A mother from **Virginia Beach** said that when she moved from Texas, she discovered that her wages are lower and child care costs are higher.

Child care for her children costs more than half of what she earns. After paying rent, gasoline and insurance, she has little left to take care of her family.

# Endnotes

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