



## **Michigan Child Care Task Force Action Agenda for 2007-2008**

### ***Michigan Works When Child Care Works!***

- **Address current tax structure to ensure sufficient revenue for essential programs for children and families.**
- **Ensure that the new Single Business Tax is revenue neutral.**

#### **Improve Child Care Affordability**

- Increase reimbursement rates for low-income subsidized child care from the 11 year old rate structure to reflect the most current Market Rate Survey.
- Raise the Income Eligibility Scale for child care subsidies recognizing that the cost of high-quality child care affects families at many income levels.
- Expand the Child and Adult Care Food Program to relative care providers by focused outreach from the Departments of Education and Human Services and look for other strategies to increase enrollment.

#### **Improve Child Care Availability**

- Provide financial incentives for the expansion of child care in high-need, low-income areas.
- Increase the per child rate for MSRP to meet the demand.
- Require that Michigan School Readiness Program funds be used only for classroom and home-based models.
- Eliminate Parent Involvement and Education components from the school districts' and public school academies' MSRP grants.
- Retain and expand financial incentives to address the needs for odd-hour care, care of children with special needs, infant and toddler care and school-age care.

#### **Improve Child Care Quality**

- Increase the number of consultants for child care licensing, MSRP oversight and child care expulsion prevention to improve quality.
- Expand state-supported training, professional development and accreditation opportunities and incentives for child care programs including relative-care providers, in-home aides and caregivers in migrant camps.
- Implement the "Quality Rating Improvement System" for centers, family child care homes and group family child care homes to increase quality and professionalism.

#### **OUR MISSION**

Advocating on behalf of children and their families to assure that all children have access to high quality, affordable, and nurturing early education and care.

