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## I. Governor and Legislature reach agreement on balancing budget for this year

On Wednesday, March 23rd Governor Granholm and the Michigan Legislature reached an agreement to balance the budget for the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2005. The agreement includes expenditure reductions totaling \$295,055,700 general fund- general purpose and \$8,232,300 special purpose funds.

The expenditure reductions include \$63 million from Community Health, \$35 million from Higher Education, \$33 million from Human Services and \$99 million in School Aid.

The 18-page Executive Order 2005-7 is available at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-21975---,00.html>

## II. MCCF releases Children's Agenda urging leaders to invest in prevention: Put State's Priorities Back in Balance

The Michigan Coalition for Children & Families (MCCF) released its "Children's Agenda 2005,"<sup>2</sup> outlining its public investment plan calling on Michigan's decision makers to invest tax dollars in evidence-based services that promote healthy, safe, emotionally- and educationally-competent children.<sup>2</sup>

In an open letter to Governor Granholm and legislators on both sides of the aisle, the MCCF reminded lawmakers that they have been entrusted by Michigan citizens to determine how to spend state tax dollars and that the Michigan Constitution states that government has a primary role and responsibility in protecting and promoting the health, welfare and safety of the people.

The MCCF believes that the state's current structural deficit provides an opportunity to reshape government by establishing priorities and demanding positive outcomes.

Outcomes that the coalition asks lawmakers to support:

- ... Safe communities to raise children.
- ... Healthy children physically, socially and emotionally ready to learn.
- ... Responsible sexuality.
- ... Educated workforce.
- ... Civic responsibility.
- ... School success and high school completion.
- ... Strong families that can support a child's health, development and education.

Early public investments in children have an ongoing economic impact for society as well as for individuals.

**A copy of the Children's Agenda 2005, a power point, and fact sheets are located at**  
[www.michiganschildren.org/page.cfm/45](http://www.michiganschildren.org/page.cfm/45)

## III. House Appropriations Committee Releases Result Based Budget Framework

Rep. Scott Hummel released the **Results Based Budgeting Framework** that will guide budget debate in the House of Representatives. The outcomes focus on the following results (**Results in bold indicate a focus on children and families**):

Michigan's has a thriving economy and people are working  
**Kids Are Succeeding in School**  
People are Prepared for Jobs  
Michigan's Natural Resources are Conserved and Protected  
**People Are Safe Where They Live, Work and Play**  
**People Are Healthy**  
**Vulnerable People are Free from Harm and Are Self-sufficient**  
People and Goods Move Around the State Quickly and Efficiently  
Government will be Effective, Efficient, and Accountable

Each result has a list of indicators and factors to frame the discussion around what line items should be funded in the budget process. The purpose of the indicators are to give citizens a way to gauge how government is doing on the respective result.

**What can advocates do with this information?**

- 1) Identify which result and indicator corresponds with a program.
- 2) Share your data and stories with legislators about the impact a program has on the results and indicators.
- 3) Schedule meetings in the district with legislators to discuss. For a list of your representatives please go to [http://www.house.mi.gov/find\\_a\\_rep.asp](http://www.house.mi.gov/find_a_rep.asp)
- 4) Testify at Budget Committee meetings. For a list of upcoming meetings please go to <http://www.house.mi.gov/publiccommitteeschedule/>

***A copy of the materials from the Results Teams are available at <http://www.mcmch.org/htdocs/alerts/index.html>. A comparison with the Children's Agenda Outcomes will be available soon.***

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**Vote with Children in Mind**