

**Palm Beach County's Children's Services Council,
Early Learning Coalition and Healthy Beginnings Coalition**

******Background and Talking Points******

**Revenue Solutions- Protect current levels of funding
for early childhood programs**

Reductions have already been proposed by agencies in response to the Governor's request. This year stimulus funds prevented cuts to essential programs for our young children however stimulus funds phase out by the 2010/2011 year. Eliminate inappropriate sales tax exemptions and identify possible revenue to support children and other vulnerable populations in the state. Identify all federal dollars for children and families that Florida "leaves on the table." Fund and maintain essential services for children and assure federal dollars are not lost due to general revenue cuts. Require an update on revenue maximization efforts by state agencies.

Reductions have already been proposed by agencies in response to the Governor's Budget request

Background: In response to a request from the Governor's office to reduce funding by 10%, the following reductions have been proposed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), Department of Health (DOH), Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF):

AWI	\$55.6 million in child care \$35.1 million for the Voluntary Pre-K program
DOH	\$6.4 million for Healthy Start
ACHA	\$2.5 million for Children's Medical Services \$56.7 million for Medicaid for pregnant women from 150-185% of FPL \$147million for Medically Needy for Pregnant women and children \$7.9 million for the Family Planning Waiver for women for clinic prescription and family planning
DCF	\$67.2 million child protection

This year stimulus funds prevented cuts to essential programs

Background: Florida received federal stimulus funding some of which went to health, human services and education. The funding is for a two year period 2009/2010-2010/2011. The funding has been used for Medicaid, child care, Early Steps and other programs and budgets which will be facing significant drop in funding in 2011/12.

Identify all federal dollars for children & families that Florida leaves on the table

Background: Over the years Florida has not used federal matching funds for various programs (i.e. KidCare). These dollars have then reverted to other states that have the opportunity to draw down the federal money. In fact, it is not always clear what funding is being passed up because the state is not providing the matching dollars necessary to tap the federal funds. Florida cannot afford to lose the opportunity of Federal matching funds for children and families. All current and anticipated

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federal dollars that are available to match should be identified to assure matching opportunities are taken.

Require an update on revenue maximization efforts by state agencies.

Background: Legislation passed during 2003 (§409.017 F.S. Revenue Maximization Act) required many state agencies to prepare a report on revenue maximization efforts they had conducted and report annually to the legislature. To date, the reports have not occurred on an annual basis and have not been done by all agencies.

Identify other sources of revenue to support children and other vulnerable populations

Background: Florida ranks 47th in taxes among the states. Taxes on internet transactions, loopholes on document stamps on real estate transactions, intangible taxes, increasing the sales tax and other new revenue sources should be completely explored to assure the State is tapping all resources to fund essential services for children, families and other vulnerable populations.

Eliminate inappropriate sales tax exemptions

Background: Over the years a number of products and services have been exempted from sales tax. While some of these exemptions could be considered justified, others could be lost revenues that could help fund programs and services. Various proposals to reexamine the exemptions or sunset them have failed. Renewed efforts are needed to examine all sales tax exemptions.
