



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Press conference to announce findings of the updated “How are the Children?” report

Precedes Public Policy Forum addressing issues affecting Wayne County families with young children

Who: Great Start Collaborative-Wayne will host a press conference to address the findings of the “How are the Children?” updated 2010 report. Speakers include: Carole Jasper – Quarterman, Chairperson GSC-W; Toni Hartke, Director of GSC-W; Kurt Metzger, Director of Data Driven Detroit

When: Friday, July 30, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: University of Michigan – Dearborn
Fairlane Center - Dining Room D
19000 Hubbard Drive
Dearborn, MI

What: The data reveals the adverse impact of poverty on Wayne County’s young children and their families, and its effect on our economic well-being. Since the 2007 report, the economic decline in this country has taken a serious toll on Michigan, and Wayne County in particular. The disparities brought about by the recession have caused more young children to experience homelessness, poverty, neglect and other conditions that impact their cognitive, social-emotional and physical development. Estimates of the poverty rate for all children in the county rose to 31% in 2008 and 29.6 % for children ages 0-5. Detroit had the highest poverty rate in the country for children among large cities, 46.5%.

- 1 in 4 households in Wayne County received food stamps in 2009.
- Three out of every 10 children, ages 0-5, live in poverty.
- Medicaid paid for nearly half of the births in the county in 2007.
- Approximately 11 out of every 1000 Wayne County infants die before their first birthday.
- Black children continue to die at a rate three times that of Whites.
- Almost half of the children in Wayne County received publically funded health insurance in 2008.
- The availability of quality, safe and affordable child care is a major problem statewide and in the county.
- Child care is a critical, underfunded service in the county, yet its annual economic value is nearly \$500M.
- 6 of every 10 children under age 5 spend part of their day outside the care of their parents.
- From 2007-2009, the number of licensed child care centers in the county had decreased by nearly 50%.
- Only two of every 100 licensed child care centers and homes are nationally accredited.
- 84% of the child care in the county is provided by a relative or aide (caregiver in the home).

Immediately following the press conference, a public policy forum will be held to allow policy makers to hear how the data directly impacts families in their districts.

About Great Start

Great Start Collaborative-Wayne began in 2006 as a collaboration of parents, service providers and professionals to assure a coordinated system of services and resources to assist all Wayne County families with children from birth through age five. GSC-W is a partner of Michigan’s Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) to assure every child is ready to succeed in school and life. Visit www.greatstartcollaborativewayne.org to learn more.