



# Children First for Oregon

## 2009 State Legislative Session

**For every dollar invested in Children First for Oregon over the past year, we were able to return \$381 in state services that protect children and their families.**

### Keeping Children Healthy

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We successfully advocated for the investment of **\$177.8m in state and federal matching funds to expanded health care coverage to 80,000 additional kids** and 35,000 more adults, including dollars for outreach to uninsured populations and investments in School Based Health Centers and safety net clinics.

All Oregon children living in families at or below 200% FPL will receive free health coverage whether provided through the Oregon Health Plan or assistance with their parent's employer-sponsored health plans. Children living in families earning up to 300% FPL will receive a 75-85% subsidy for their health coverage in the employer and private market. Those living in families over 300% FPL can buy into the state offered high quality plans with no subsidy.

### Keeping Children Safe

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We successfully advocated to protect **\$5.47m in funding for programs that help kids stay out of foster care or return home faster**. Family Support Teams, Family Support and Connections, System of Care and IV-E waiver address the issues that bring children to the child welfare system by reducing foster care placements and reducing the length of stay in foster care, so children can return home safely and quickly.

### Helping Struggling Families

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We successfully advocated to secure **\$12.5m in funding to protect Temporary Assistance for Needy Families for two-parent families**. This proposed budget cut would have driven 2/3 of these families back to TANF as single parent households, encouraging families to split up in order to qualify for cash assistance.

We successfully advocated for **\$12.7m to maintain eligibility for Employment Related Day Care for low-income families up to 185% FPL**. The proposed budget cut would have limiting the program to families transitioning off TANF would have left 10,000 children without child care causing many parent to either quit their jobs or leave children home alone. In addition, we worked to secure **\$3.8m to minimized proposed increases to parent co-pays and reductions in provider reimbursements rates**, which also would have limited children's access to child care.

We successfully advocated to secure **\$2.3m in new funding to provide free school breakfasts for low-income kids** living in families earning up to 185% of FPL. Families living on very tight budgets can't afford to provide good breakfasts at home or the money to buy them at school. For these children, school may be the only place they receive a meal.

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