

Children First report underscores needs

The December report by Children First for Oregon is disturbing. One in three Oregon children lives in near poverty.

A few statistics:

- 65 percent of Oregon families with incomes below the state median income cannot find affordable child care. In the last 10 years, the cost has increased 37 percent.

- More than 80,000 children have no health insurance despite a public health insurance program designed for low-income families.

- One in five children in Oregon receives food stamps or is covered by the Oregon Health Plan.

Children First for Oregon recommendations:

- Make quality child care more affordable.
- Expand access to quality health care by extending health insurance for children and strengthening the system of safety-net clinics.
- Strengthen earned income tax credits through educational outreach and connecting families to services.

For the full report, Argus readers may go online to www.childrenfirstoregon.org.