





A BUSINESS PLAN FOR MISSOURI'S CHILDREN

OUR VISION FOR MISSOURI

- A healthy, well-educated workforce
- A strong economy
- A growing middle class
- A tax base that supports quality education for all
- Strong, vibrant communities

HOW DO WE HELP OUR CHILDREN SUCCEED?

BENCHMARKS OF SUCCESS 		NEEDED INVESTMENT 
Infancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal Birthweight • Non-teen mothers with high school diploma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teen pregnancy prevention programs • Access to maternal and infant health care • Home Visiting programs • Economic Stability for families
Early Childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten readiness • Healthy social and emotional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to quality care and education • Access to health care for family • Home Visiting Programs • Economic stability for families
School Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular school attendance • Reading at grade level • School appropriate behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate resources for schools • Quality teachers and small class sizes • Trauma training and suspension alternatives • Quality afterschool and summer programs
Adolescence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School Graduation • College and Career ready • Drug-free • Resilient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality education and wraparound services to support health and well-being • Employment opportunities • Support and financial aid for college or trade school



CHILDREN WHO ARE SUCCESSFUL AT EACH LIFE STAGE ARE MORE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE THE AMERICAN DREAM



8 out of 10 children who are successful at 4 life stages reach the middle class



Almost 7 of 10 children who are successful at 3 life stages reach the middle class



1 of every 2 children who are successful at 2 life stages reach the middle class



4 of every 10 children who are successful at 1 life stage reach the middle class

"Creating pathways to the middle class requires personal responsibility and government support. Putting the full responsibility on government to close the gaps in children's lives is unreasonable, but so is a heroic assumption that everyone can be a Horatio Alger with no help from society."

"Pathways to the Middle Class", The Social Genome Project, Center for Children and Families at Brookings.

References: "The Business Case for Racial Equity" ,Ani Turner, Altarum Institute Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning, Missouri Population Projections - by County, Age, and Sex: 2000 to 2030 The Social Genome Project, Center for Children and Families at Brookings , "Pathways to the Middle Class", Isabel V. Sawhill, Scott Winship, and Kerry Searle Grannis 2012

SUCCESSES TO BUILD ON

Child Care Safety

- Update background check laws to require FBI fingerprint and sex offender registry search
- Pass "Nathan's Law" to improve child care safety standards in unlicensed day care settings

Childhood Trauma Support

- Obtain funding to raise the standard of care of mental health services provided to children, families, and communities by training clinicians in evidence based, trauma informed treatment models.
- Continue funding to improve access to evidence based, trauma informed mental health services for every child.

Early Care and Education

- Include Pre-K funding in K-12 foundation formula
- Begin implementing the voluntary Quality Assurance Report pilot program
- Establish annual appropriation for ECE quality improvements

Healthy Moms and Babies

- Enact and Implement Show-Me Healthy Babies to provide health coverage for prenatal and postpartum care
- Obtain approval from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to extend postpartum health coverage for vulnerable mothers

Juvenile Justice

- Pass "Raise the Age" legislation to increase adult prosecution age from 17 to 18.
- Secure appropriation to fund added caseload to juvenile justice system