

# Childcare Matters

## FIVE FACTS EVERY CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR SHOULD KNOW:



- 1. Access to childcare is good for Mississippi.**
  - Helps parents attend classes, work and be productive on the job.
  - Helps reduce welfare dependence and improve our state's economy over time.
  - Nearly 70% of Mississippi families need childcare.
- 2. Childcare is a major expense—often as costly as college tuition.**
- 3. Mississippi has no state-funded program to ease this burden for poor, working families.**
- 4. The assistance we do offer, a childcare certificate program, has many problems.**
  - It reaches only about 1/3 of the children who qualify.
  - Access to funds is complicated and easily disrupted.
  - Frequent service interruptions undermine child development and education, parent productivity at work and the financial stability of childcare centers.
- 5. Improving Mississippi's childcare support starts with the governor.**
  - Our childcare certificate program is funded with federal dollars.
  - The governor decides how and where these funds are distributed.



Mississippi Low-Income  
**Childcare** Initiative

# Help make Mississippi a better place to live and work.

Low-income parents, children and the childcare centers who serve them need more reliable childcare assistance.

## Ask your candidates for governor to support:

- Using all available Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds for childcare.
- Making childcare a priority use of TANF funds.
- Using Community Development Block Grant funds for childcare certificates, since childcare is linked to economic development.
- Extending re-certification from every six months to a full year to reduce service disruptions.
- Assisting single parents without making them apply for child support (as with Head Start and kindergarten).
- Assisting full-time students for an entire school year without also requiring them to work, since higher education among parents will reduce reliance on childcare subsidies over time.



*Reliable childcare is critical for **parents** to work or attend classes.*



*For every \$1 invested in early childhood education, **communities** gain \$8 in the form of improved outcomes for children and also gain in economic and community development.*



*Disruptions caused by unstable childcare and education arrangements cost **businesses** \$3 billion a year nationwide.*

## A resource from the Mississippi Low-Income Childcare Initiative (MLICCI)

MLICCI is a statewide organization of childcare providers, parents and community people who are working together to build a strong grassroots constituency for poor children and families in Mississippi. We advocate improved childcare policies and greater public investment in childcare subsidy programs for poor families. We also strive to enhance the quality of childcare development experiences for all poor children living in Mississippi.



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