

Vision 2020 e-Newsletter

November 30, 2011

The Vision 2020 Campaign is a collaborative effort of –

*Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP),
Wisconsin Head Start Association, and
Wisconsin Council on Children & Families (WCCF)*

Welcome to our newest members of the Vision 2020 Campaign and welcome back to you long-time supporters! Help grow this campaign by taking just a minute to forward this e-newsletter to your friends, colleagues, and neighbors. Encourage them to join you in becoming part of this perfect vision for Wisconsin.

Together we will end child poverty in Wisconsin by 2020!

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1. [Tracking Rights for Working Families](#)

The National Partnership for Women and Families has launched an exciting online tool to track the progress of policies important to the rights of working families. The [Work and Family Policy Database](#) allows you to search *proposed and enacted policies* by issue, by state, by year or by policy status. Search topics include:

Flexible work schedules	And under the "More" tab –
Job protected leave	Domestic violence and the workplace
Nursing mothers' rights at work	Flexible use of sick leave
Paid family leave	Military families
Paid sick days	Pregnancy disability leave
State disability insurance	Same sex partners and leave
Telecommuting	Small necessities leave

2. [Why the Income Gap Matters](#)

The Occupy Movement has focused national attention on income inequality, but has been criticized by some for failing to explain exactly why this matters. Over your next cup of coffee, take fifteen minutes to watch the illuminating video, [How Economic Inequality Harms Societies](#). The speaker shows how both nationally and globally, the *distribution of income* in society predicts a wide range of community indicators, such as rates of mental health and illness, math and literacy achievement, trust, infant mortality, incarceration and more.

3. [Child poverty - Wisconsin in the News](#)

[School lunch eligibility](#) increases in Wisconsin - The New York Times today posted an [article](#) and interactive [map](#) that illustrates the recent surge in children qualifying for subsidized school lunches. By clicking the box to the left of the map, you can see how Wisconsin compares to other states in children's eligibility rates and also the degree of change since the recession began in 2007.

[Suburban poverty increases in Wisconsin](#) – The Journal Sentinel today posted an article about the increase in suburban poverty around Wisconsin and the impacts for those communities.

4. [Advocacy Tools – Wisconsin Fact Sheet](#)

An updated fact sheet entitled [The State of Poverty and Opportunity in Wisconsin](#) is now available from the group Half in Ten, whose goal of cutting national poverty in half nicely dovetails our own vision of ending poverty in Wisconsin by 2020. This sheet presents a concise and persuasive argument for anti-poverty initiatives in Wisconsin under three headings, Creating good jobs, Strengthening families and communities and Promoting economic security, all supported with current local statistics. This could be a useful tool for groups working to promote awareness of poverty solutions in their communities.

5. [Today's Children, Tomorrow's America](#)

The Urban Institute released [six articles](#) (just one page each!) that put budget questions regarding children into a nutshell. These articles include:

- **Budgeting for Tomorrow's Workforce and Economy**
- **Childhood Poverty's Double Whammy**
- **Translating Good Ideas into Budget Realities for Children**
- **The Children's Budget — The Federal/State Bargain**
- **What Spending on Child Health Looks Like**
- **Children Caught in the Budget Crossfire**

6. [How Housing Matters to Families and Communities](#)

Watch the [conversation](#) unfold in this two-month series on the relationships between housing and three topics – health, education and economic opportunity. The first three pieces have already been posted and will be added to weekly. Take a look -

- **The Role of Neighborhoods in Health**
- **Why Housing Matters to Young Children**
- **Unintended Consequence of the Section Eight Voucher**

7. The Income Gap between Young and Old

The [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that “households headed by a person age 65 or older have a net worth 47 times greater than a household headed by someone under 35,” while National Public Radio asked, “[Do Grandma’s Benefits Imperil Junior’s Future?](#)” Advocates worry that framing poverty issues like this furthers the myth that for one group to have enough, another group will have too little. While decreasing the income gap may offer solutions for poverty, it should not devolve into the “[generational war](#)” that some media are beginning to report.

8. Recent WCCF Releases

[Access to Health Care - Immigrant Children and Families in Wisconsin](#)

[BadgerCare](#) – comparison of changes in BadgerCare to children and families whether or not the requested waiver is approved next month.

9. Vision 2020 Groups around the state – Spotlight on Waushara!

Waushara County’s Vision 202 group reports a successful *Second Annual Fill the Dump Truck* food drive facilitated by the Waushara County Highway Department. They challenged the community to donate enough non-perishable products to fill the county’s three dump trucks. The trucks were parked in donation sites throughout the county. The collaborative effort included V2020 members, Economic Support Workers, County Highway staff and the local newspaper editor. The newspaper printed posters and provided free promotion of the event. The County Highway Department posted large “road” signs at pick up locations. Donated goods were later delivered to area food pantries.

Share your Vision 2020 events and success with us all. We have much to learn from one another! Email tegan@wccf.org

10. “Like” Vision 2020 on Facebook and follow the project on twitter.

Join in conversation with other like-minded advocates to share ideas and information. To start a discussion, go to the [Vision 2020 Facebook page](#). Then click on “Discussions” in the left bar menu, and then click on “Start a discussion.” We hope this will be a useful communication tool for sharing what you’re doing in your community.

Help Keep WCCF's Voice for Wisconsin Youth Strong

You can be part of a strong voice for justice for Wisconsin's Youth by supporting WCCF. Significant public policy changes do not happen by accident and, joining with others, you can help ensure that all Wisconsin youth are treated justly. We offer our e-materials and publications free of charge. We can't do it without your help. [Donate online here.](#) And, don't forget to bookmark the WCCF blog at <http://www.wiskids.blogspot.com/>. Bookmark it and check it regularly for updates on issues critical to Wisconsin's Children and Families.

Finally -

**Thank you all for your hard work
throughout Wisconsin.**

With your continued efforts,

we can - and we will –

end child poverty

by 2020!