

Vision 2020 E-Newsletter

July 2011



The Vision 2020 Campaign is a collaborative effort of the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP), the Wisconsin Council on Children & Families (WCCF), and the Wisconsin Head Start Association.

Welcome to those of you who have recently become part of the Vision 2020 Campaign! And welcome back to each of you that has been a long-time supporter. Help grow this campaign by taking just a minute to forward this e-newsletter to your friends, colleagues, and neighbors and encourage them to join you in becoming part of this perfect vision for Wisconsin.

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1. VISION 2020 FACEBOOK AND TWITTER PAGE

Vision 2020 now has both a [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter page](#). If you haven't already done so, please "like" our Facebook page and "follow" us on Twitter. We'll be sending out interesting reports and articles related to poverty in Wisconsin, as well as occasional action alerts when warranted.

For those of you on Facebook, the Vision 2020 page can be used to communicate and share ideas. After going to the Vision 2020 Facebook page, click on "Discussions" under the Vision 2020 picture and click on "Start a discussion" to add questions or comments. We hope that this can serve as a communication tool for various groups statewide to share ideas about what you're doing in your community.

Please also send links to the Facebook and Twitter page to friends or colleagues who may be interested.

2. STATE BUDGET PASSAGE

The 2011-13 state budget was signed into law by Governor Walker on Sunday, June 26th. This two year plan for Wisconsin's government changes a number of programs and contains significant cuts to K-12 education, local government, unemployment insurance, and other important services.

To learn more about the various provisions in this year's budget, click [here](#) to check out WCCF's ongoing report, 31 Ways in 31 Days. These blog entries highlight various changes to the state budget, including education, human services, and health care. A new entry will be added on how the budget impacts children and families every day through the month of July.

You can also learn more about the impact of the two-year budget by reading [The Budget's Real Life Impact on Wisconsin Families](#) to see how these budget cuts can compound and affect working families in the state.

3. SAVE THE DATE: POVERTY MATTERS! CONFERENCE

The annual Poverty Matters! Conference will be held November 15 and 16, 2011, at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. More information and registration details are forthcoming.

4. TAKE OUR SIX-QUESTION SURVEY

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to take our quick, six-question survey. We are constantly working to make Vision 2020 an ever stronger effort statewide. Your responses will give us important information to help us do so.

5. SEEK OUT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Now that the spring legislative session has ended, many Wisconsin legislators will be spending time back in the districts meeting with constituents. This is a good time for you to make first contact with your representative and senator if you have not already done so. Building relationships now will pay off later when you ask your legislators to support or oppose legislation.

[Click here](#) to find out who your legislators are. Contact them or visit their webpage to see when they have scheduled listening sessions or other events in the district. Most legislators will be willing to meet one on one if you have an issue you'd like to discuss with them. See a listing of legislative contact information [here](#).

6. NEWS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Britain has cut its child poverty in half since 1994, while America's child poverty rate has decreased only 13% over the same period, and has been increasing in recent years.

Nancy Folbre, contributor to the Economix blog at the New York Times, has a very [readable blog entry](#) outlining exactly what Britain did to cut their child poverty rate. Included among the reform measures are increased income support for low-income families with children, increased paid maternity and paternity leave, universal preschool for 3 and 4 year olds, and a new job training and placement program for single parents.

A [new study](#) has found that the effects of parenting strategies can lessen the effects of child poverty on being prepared for kindergarten. Increased parent engagement with children through talking and reading were shown to have long lasting effects on child language skills.

7. 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.

Contact us at any time if we can be of assistance. See my contact information below.

Finally, thank you all for your hard work throughout Wisconsin. With your continued efforts, we can – and we will! – end child poverty in Wisconsin by 2020.

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Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count