

## Network Member Benefits

- Policy statements and positions on children's issues, based upon evidence of the most effective practices to improve children's success
- Updates on critical child legislative and congressional activities
- Advocacy alerts recommending network responses
- Various advocacy and research (data), resources
- Training sessions on children's issues and child advocacy
- Advocacy tools
- Every Child Counts website



## Network Member's Role

- Keep up-to-date on children's issues and keep others up-to-date as well
- Respond and take action on advocacy alerts
- Help Every Child Counts convene a community forum/meeting/advocacy training
- Provide Every Child Counts materials to others in the community
- Enlist others to join the Network
- Shape or lead a local agenda for children
- Visit ECC website
- Keep membership info up-to-date

To join the Every Child Counts Advocacy Network  
please visit our website  
[www.everychildcountsiowa.org](http://www.everychildcountsiowa.org)  
or call 515-280-9027

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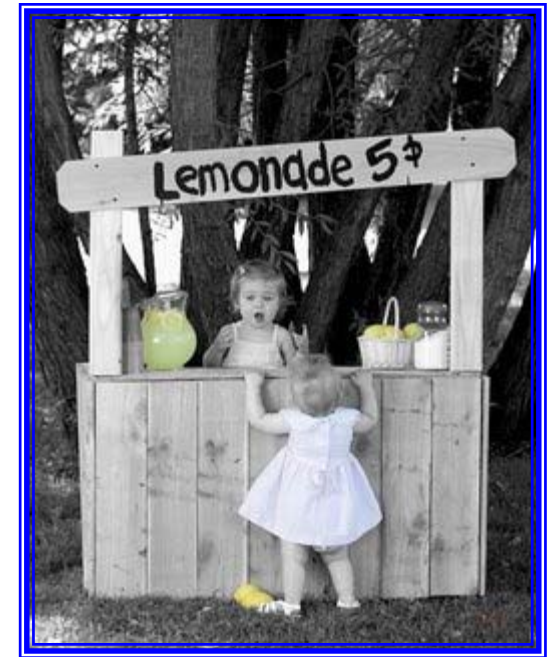
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## Thirsty for a Cause?



## Stand for Iowa's Children



## Every Child Counts' Mission



Children cannot vote, and their issues and needs do not always receive the attention they deserve—in state and national policy. They do not have powerful interest groups that represent them at the state capitol, but they do have people who can and want to be powerful voices on their behalf.

The Every Child Counts' mission is to activate these powerful friends of children to stand up and speak out on important child concerns—to public officials, agency heads and employees, community and civic groups with a focus on three priority areas:

Quality Early Care and Education

Child Well-Being and Development

Child and Family Economic Success

Children's programs and families' pocketbooks are being *squeezed* every day. Every Child Counts wants to offer a *fresh* perspective with effective policy options to ensure families' needs are met. Join us in taking a *stand* for Iowa's children.

## 82nd General Assembly Successes

- Expansion of state earned income tax credit and DHS outreach for free tax preparation sites
- 2% child care subsidy provider rate increase and timely payments for child care providers
- Expansion of SCHIP
- Maximum finance charge set for consumer loans secured by a car title & an alternative loan program was created
- Commitment over four years (2007-2010) towards universal preschool
- Investment in microenterprise development & IDA's

## Every Child Counts Preliminary 2009 Legislative Priorities

### Quality Early Care and Education

#### *Early Learning and School Readiness*

- Update child care reimbursement rates to providers based on the current market survey and phase in a tiered reimbursement system.
- Provide additional nurse consultants to support full implementation of the Quality Rating System.
- Provide professional development and training that promotes a culturally diverse workforce.
- Require all home child care providers to complete pre-registration visits annually.
- Conduct annual monitoring and complete all needed follow-up of child care homes.

#### *High Quality Preschool*

- Monitor implementation of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children and make modifications as needed to ensure the needs of low-income and minority children and their families are met.

#### *Family Support*

- Expand the use of research-based home visitation programs.



## Child Well-Being and Development

### *Child Health Care Coverage*

- Ensure quality health care coverage for all children.



### *Healthy Child Development*

- Continue to expand 1st Five to additional communities.

## Child and Family Economic Success

### *Child Care Assistance*

- Phase in an increase of the child care assistance eligibility level to get to 200% of poverty by 2012.

### *Income Tax Treatment of Families with Children*

- Increase the earned income tax credit and improve tax treatment of families with children by closing tax loopholes.
- Ensure revenue adequacy and tax fairness.

### *Protections Against Predatory Lending*

- Lower interest rate ceilings and provide protections against loan "roll-overs" in the pay day lending market.
- Address predatory sub-prime mortgage lending practices involving "bait and switch" and other deceptive practices.
- Provide consumers with access to consumer fraud protections, including the right to sue.

### *Mitigate Impact of Rising Energy Costs*

- Increase energy efficiency programs serving low-income families.