

Children and Families Pillar Priorities

The children and families agenda is cross-cutting. Priority issues range from education to health to environment to welfare reform to crime prevention, which are reflected in the overall grid. To ensure the President's rightful legacy as the children's President, we have three important challenges:

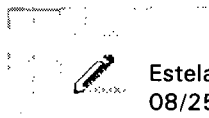
- 1) consolidate and strengthen the President's strong record of achievements -- expansion of health care for children, Head Start, immunizations, education, WIC, and EITC, protecting the environment, promoting early childhood development, making the streets and world safer for children;
- 2) ensure that we are as diligent in implementing these programs as we were creating them, particularly with respect to investments in children's health and education, welfare reform and crime prevention; and
- 3) pursue bold, new programs, of which child care should be a priority.

The Children and Families Pillar outlines priority issues not otherwise discussed in other pillars. The building blocks of the children and family pillars include three clear priorities:

- **Strengthen Child Care.** Address the significant quality and affordability crisis in child care for working families by launching at the October White House Conference an administrative and legislative initiative that targets: health and safety of children in care; quality of care; affordability of care; availability of both infant and toddler care and school age care; and public education. Broad parameters of initiative could be discussed at White House Conference and full initiative unveiled in the State of the Union.
- **Emphasis on 0-5 Early Learning.** Through strengthened child care, Parents as First Teachers, and expanded Head Start, we could ensure that any focus on child care has a strong education component. This is critical and appropriate given the attention that the First Lady's early learning conference brought to this issue.
- **Improve Adoption and Child Welfare System.** Advance the President's Adoption 2002 initiative, which sets goals of doubling, by the year 2002, the number of children adopted or permanently placed each year, and of moving children out of foster care more quickly by: pushing Congress to act on pending legislation and appropriation requests.

FAMILIES PILLAR				
BUILDING BLOCKS OF PILLAR	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	BENEFITS	COSTS/FEASI
Strengthen Child Care for America's Children and the Working Families that Rely on It	Launch a comprehensive child care initiative that addresses: --Health and safety of children in care --Quality of care --Affordability of care --Availability of infant and toddler care --Availability of school-age, before- and after-school enrichment programs	10/23/97: WH Child Care Conf.: set national goals and discuss outline of initiative SOTU: unveil full initiative	12 million children under 6 and 17 million between 6-13 need care, with both parents or a single parent in the workforce. Child care is essential for future productivity and a strong workforce, for successful welfare reform, and for early childhood development and school-readiness. Experts report a quality crisis in child care, with low state licensing standards and low wages/ high turnover in the profession. Studies tells us that crime increases after 3pm, that latchkey children are more likely to engage in risky behavior, and that quality after-school programs can have a positive effect on children's development and learning.	A comprehensive initiative will require significant investment of federal dollars to leverage state and private funds. DCTC reform, in child care quality incentives and school-age development Costing Ongoing TBA.

Promote Adoption and Improve Child Welfare	Double the number of children adopted each year by 2002 and move children more quickly from foster care to permanent homes -- President's <i>Adoption 2002</i> initiative. Promote <i>Adoption 2002</i> by pushing Congress to act on pending legislation and appropriations requests.	9/97: Senate expected to consider adoption bills Need leadership to ensure Congressional action	Approx. 500,000 children are in foster care, with approx. 100,000 legally free and waiting for adoption. Seven out of 10 are minority children, older, or have special needs.	The President <i>Adoption 2002</i> is nearly cost with targeted from foster ca House bill, HR cost neutral; has not been costed, but is at several billi
Help Parents Balance Work and Family	Expand FMLA to ensure that employees can take up to 24 hours of un-paid leave for school and early childhood education activities, routine family medical or dental appointments or elderly health and care needs. Propose other family-friendly initiatives, to encourage telecommuting, self-employment, etc. Issue report on new tensions that work places on the family.	Push Congress to introduce legislation	Helps working parents balance work and family by enabling them to take needed time off.	Cost Neutral. Has limited su from advocac who would m to see FMLA businesses wi than 25 empl
Protect Children from Negative Influences of Media and Promote Quality Children's Television	Continue leadership in development of TV ratings, V-chip, and quality TV programming for children.	Ongoing	Tools such as TV Ratings and the v-chip enable parents to make informed decisions about their children's TV watching.	Cost Neutral.



Estela Mendoza
08/25/97 10:10:15 AM

Do talking points
from press
release

Record Type: Record

To: Jennifer L. Klein/OPD/EOP, Nicole R. Rabner/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Child Care Conference

I'm told you are the contacts for the Child Care Conference. Can you forward some basic information to me about it? When it is, where it will take place and what goals is the conference expect to accomplish. I've received a call from a magazine and would like to know how much I can tell them. Should I refer them to your press office or is there something basic I could relate?

Thanks! (...I'm the newest addition to the Press Office.)