



# **BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES**

## **A Plan to Strengthen Wisconsin Families** Synopsis

Wisconsin Cares and the Right From The Start Coalition of Wisconsin propose **A PLAN TO STRENGTHEN WISCONSIN FAMILIES** to reduce the numbers of children, youth, and adults in costly welfare, special education, and correctional systems.

### **A PLAN TO STRENGTHEN WISCONSIN FAMILIES:**

- ❖ Is the most cost-effective strategy for ensuring that all children have the opportunity to become productive citizens.
- ❖ Aims to prepare children and youth for productive citizenship through state and community programs and services that partner with families.
- ❖ Has the following goals:
  - Building strong families,
  - Offering all families supportive resources,
  - Preparing all children for learning in school, and
  - Ensuring good health and nutrition for all children.
- ❖ Aids state and local governments plan, coordinate, and pool private and public resources for children, youth, and families through realigning existing personnel and funding streams by creating:
  - A State Family Policy Board,
  - Community Family Policy Boards, and
  - Community Family Policy Executive Committees.
- ❖ Expands the Brighter Futures Initiative to form **FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORKS** throughout Wisconsin with the following components:
  - Home Support – The **WELCOME HOME BABY** initiative would strengthen and expand community-based programs in order to offer home support to all parents of newborns.
  - Family Resource Centers that offer non-stigmatizing opportunities for families to connect with other families and with family resources and that can serve as focal points for Family Resource Networks.

### **FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK**

faith communities; businesses; public health nursing; teen pregnancy prevention; home newborn support; early child care & education; family resource centers; schools; health, mental health & dental care; learning centers; human services; respite services; workforce development services; smoking, alcohol, & drug abuse prevention and treatment; domestic abuse services; housing services; recreation sites; intergenerational programs; environmental health; juvenile & family courts; child protection services; law enforcement.