

The Children's Defense Fund Cradle to Prison Pipeline® Campaign

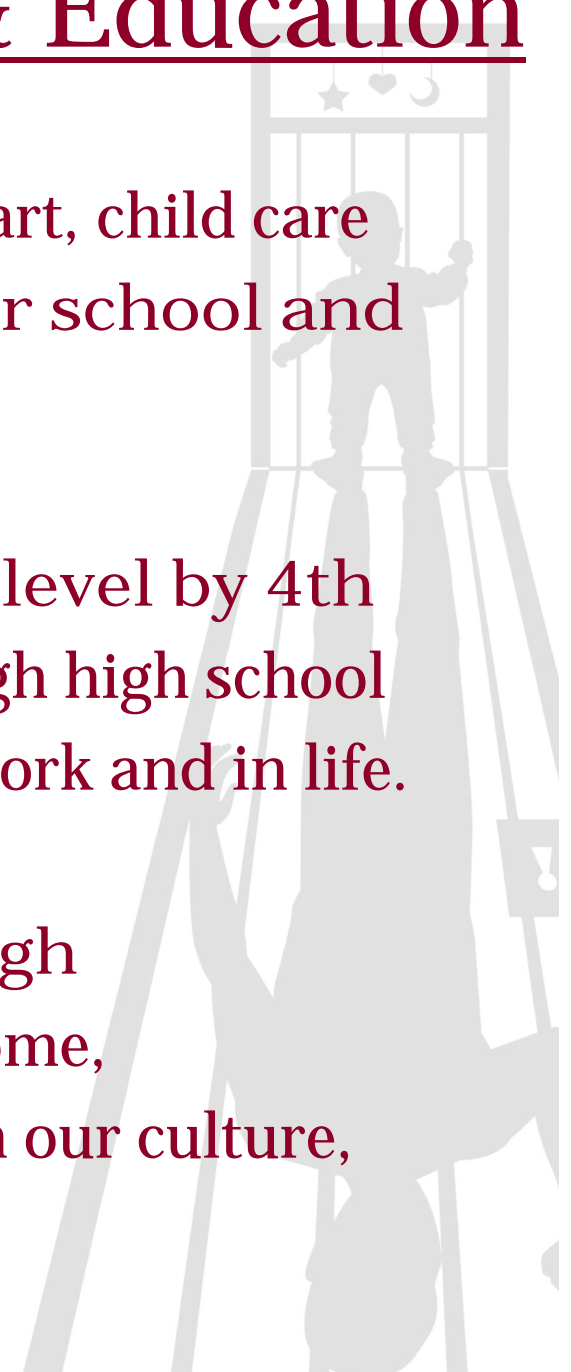


Action Steps to Protect and Rescue Children from the Pipeline



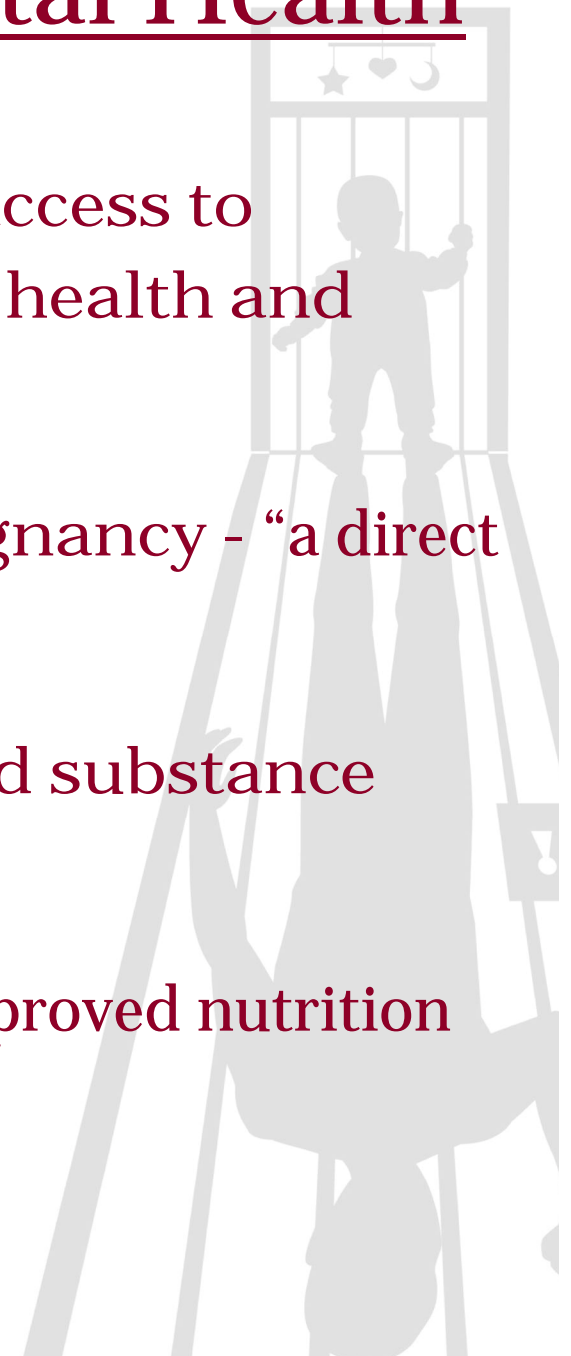
Childhood Development & Education

- Ensure quality Early Head Start, Head Start, child care and preschool to get every child ready for school and beyond.
- Ensure every child can read at grade level by 4th grade. Guarantee quality education through high school with all graduating and able to succeed at work and in life.
- Create an ethic of achievement and high expectations for every child in every home, congregation, community and school and in our culture, public policies and practices.



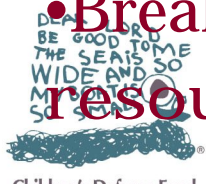
Children's Health & Mental Health

- Ensure every child and pregnant woman access to affordable, seamless, comprehensive health and mental health coverage.
- Develop campaigns to prevent teen pregnancy - “a direct path to poverty.”
- Increased funding for mental health and substance abuse services
- Prevent childhood obesity through improved nutrition and exercise



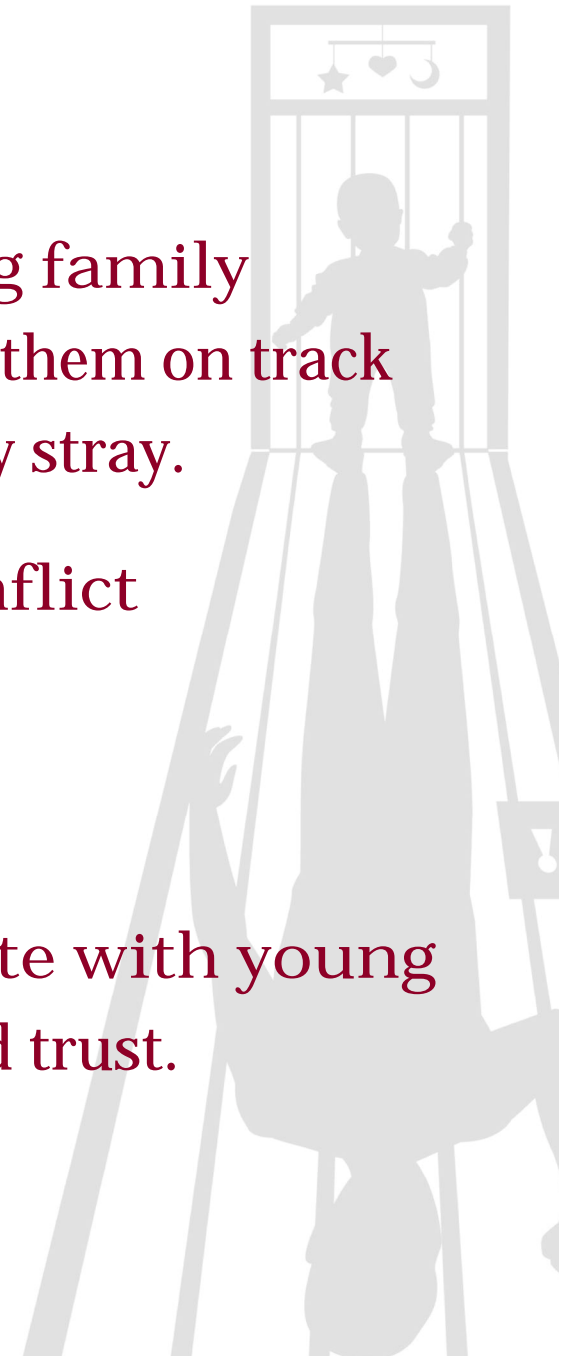
Juvenile Justice

- Work for a fundamental paradigm shift in juvenile justice, from punishment and incarceration to early intervention and prevention
- Dramatically decrease the number of children who enter the child welfare and juvenile/criminal justice systems.
- Stop detaining children in adult jails
- Explore the Missouri model - smaller, home-like environments close to home
- Break the school to prison pipeline and provide resources to youth returning from TYC.



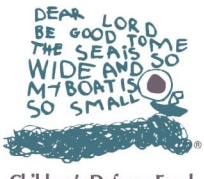
Violence Prevention

- Link every child to a permanent, caring family member or adult mentor who can keep them on track and get them back on track if and when they stray.
- Emphasize nonviolent values and conflict resolution in all aspects of American life.
- Turn off the t.v.
- Find ways to listen to and communicate with young people. Create shame-free zones and build trust. Encourage creativity and spirituality.



Supporting our Youth

- One caring, loving adult mentor can make a difference - “it’s not the color of your skin that makes you a mother.”
- Invest in counseling programs, after-school programs and services for youth returning from TYC: “Find the money - where’s it at?”



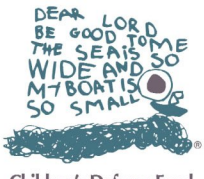
Supporting our Youth

- “We need people that care and are willing to stop and listen.”
- “Don’t break the trust that you worked so hard so to build.”
- “If you are in it just for the title, then I advise you to leave and do something else.”
- “If people used zero tolerance on you where would you be today?”



Partners Needed

- Policy makers
- Parents, youth and voters
- The business community
- Educators
- Front line workers and program administrators
- Law enforcement and judges
- Advocates
- Bill Gates and Oprah
- All of you!



Cradle to Prison Pipeline Coalitions

Develop policy recommendations, community solutions, an implementation plan, and a timeline for their specific issue area.

CDF will contact you with exact meeting times and details.



Coalitions

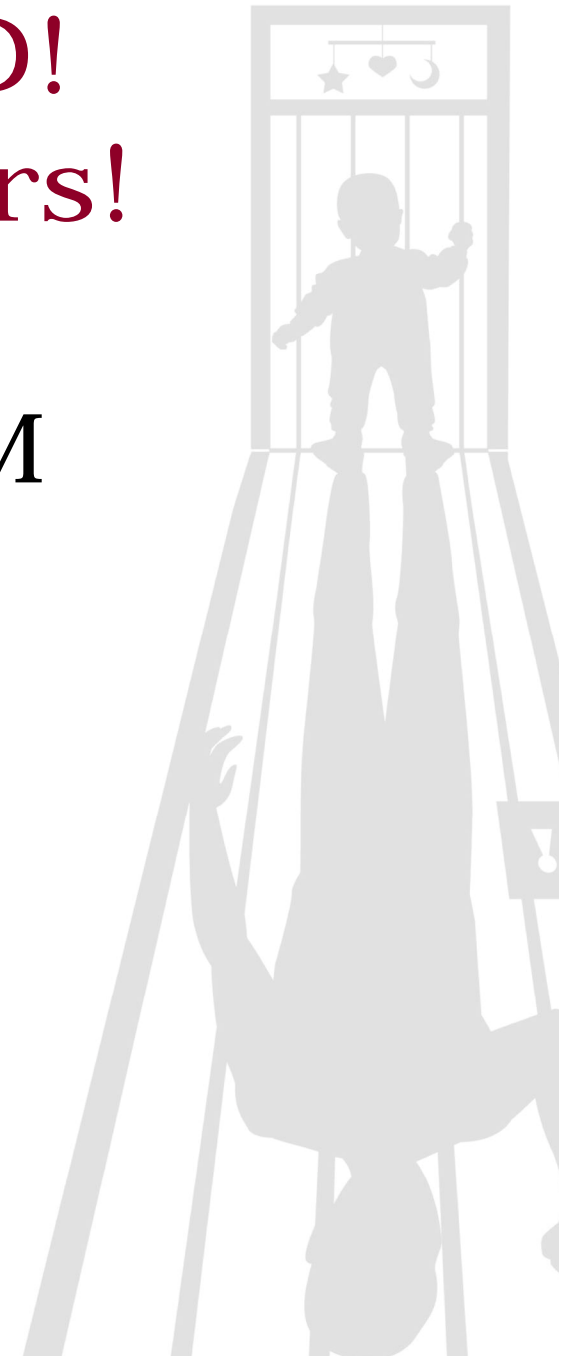
- Effective Early Childhood Education
- Effective Educational, Social, and Emotional Youth Development
- Children's Health and Mental Health Care
- Child Abuse Prevention and Protection
- Positive Growth through the Juvenile Justice System
- Reducing Childhood Poverty



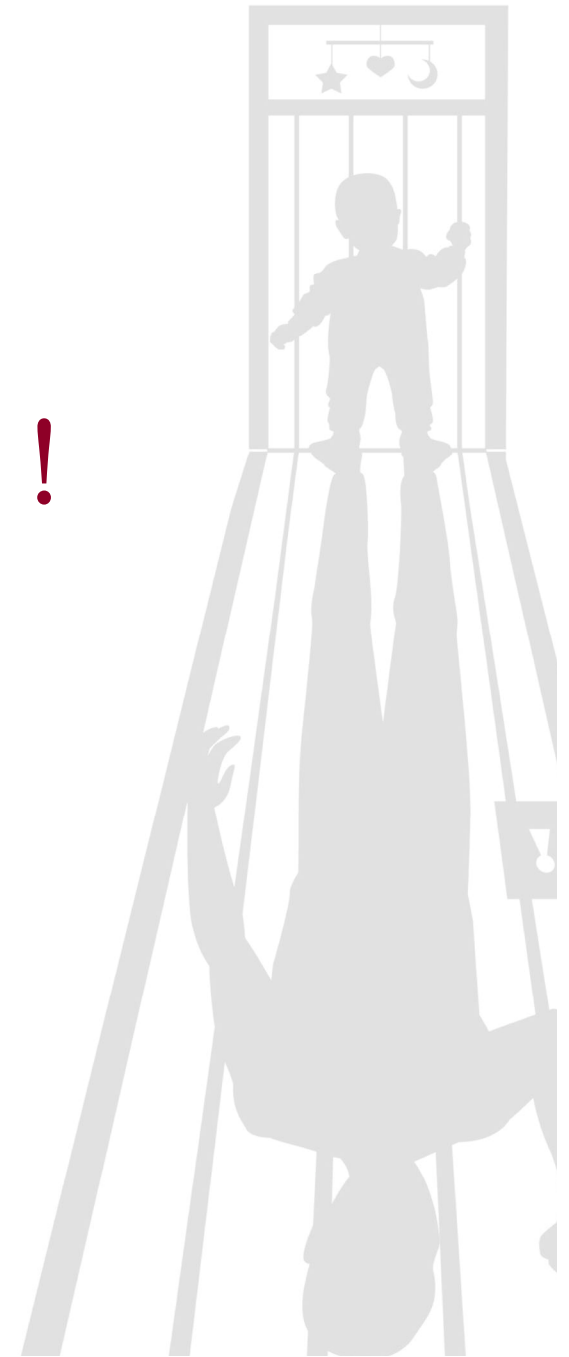
YOU ARE INVITED!
Mark your calendars!

FOLLOW-UP FORUM
OCTOBER 3, 2008,
from 9-12

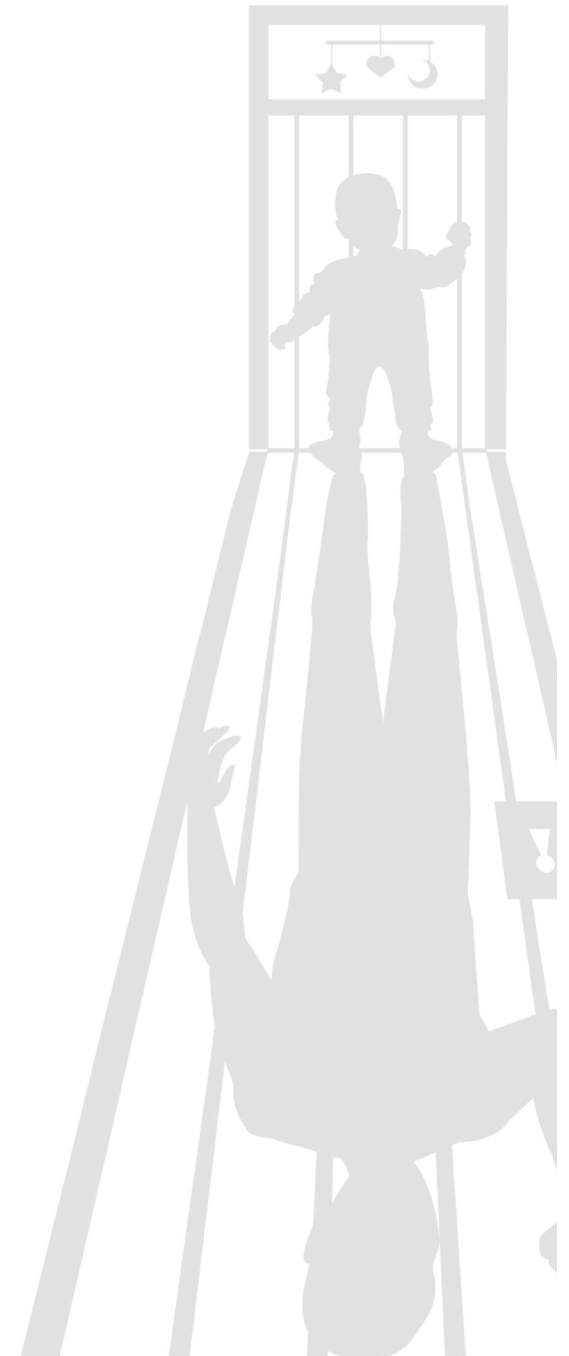
The Power Center



Spread the Message !



Be a spokesperson



Make a Personal Commitment



We can do this !

