

First 1000 Days Florida 2020 Priorities



Maternal and Child Health

Maternal health, both physical and emotional, is the foundation for the first 1000 days of a child's life. Medicaid expansion increases access to needed services, improves financial wellbeing, reduces racial disparities in adverse birth outcomes, keeps children safe, and has positive impacts on parent health. In 2020, two bills (HJR 247 and SJR 224) were proposed to put a constitutional amendment expanding Medicaid to a statewide vote, but these measures failed. Increasing the state's investment in depression screening, enhancing breastfeeding, and safe sleep education are also key strategies for improving maternal and child health. **First 1000 Days Florida supports Medicaid expansion as a policy that positively impacts maternal health and child health.**

Prevention of Abuse and Neglect



While the first 1,000 days of life offer the most opportunity for development, it is also the most vulnerable time for maltreatment. More than half the children coming into child welfare are under age 5; a third are under age 3, and babies around their 1st birthday are the largest single age group. More than 4000 babies were exposed to opioids in utero. **First 1000 Days Florida continues support of the Florida Early Childhood Courts and Florida home visiting programs as strategies to strengthen prevention and resiliency for families.**



School Readiness

Quality early learning programs improve language skills and help reduce the achievement gap to increase kindergarten readiness and early grade success. This is accomplished by adopting minimum quality standards for child care providers and Gold Seal accrediting for early learning centers with demonstrable impact on child outcomes. Florida Office of Early Learning proposes 2020 proposed rules enhance these strategies. In addition, child care subsidies increase enrollment in formal child care settings and support maternal employment and education. **This is a First 1000 Days Florida Priority.**

Early Intervention



Early Intervention services boost parental self-confidence and satisfaction, and improve children's cognitive, motor, behavioral, and language development, especially for infants born preterm or low birthweight. We need to promote developmental screening, early intervention and mental health services. Also, work to expand eligibility of early intervention to maximize the impact during the pivotal time of rapid infant & toddler development when least expensive and most effective to intervene. **Early Intervention is a First 1000 Days Florida priority.**

