

Ways & Means Committee Budget Note for Healthy Start

The first budget note recognizes that a \$4.6 million (21.5%) General Fund reduction in the Healthy Start program mandates changes in the program to improve service delivery and to control costs.

Budget Note

Healthy Start Restructuring – the State Commission is to work with local commissions and agency partners to review how Healthy Start services can be delivered more effectively and at a lower cost across the state. **Options should include**, but are not limited to, consolidating delivery at the local level through relief nurseries or other community partners, multi-county operations, State Commission program administration, increased focus on at-risk families, and service cost caps for Healthy Start families. The Commission is to **report to the Emergency Board before January 1, 2010**, on this review, any changes proposed or implemented as a result of the review, any expected administrative savings, and the number of Healthy Start families expected to be served within the 2009-11 program funding allocations.

Options should include, but are not limited to,

- 1. Consolidating delivery at the local level through relief nurseries or other community partners,**
- 2. Multi-county operations,**
- 3. State Commission program administration,**
- 4. Increased focus on at-risk families, and**
- 5. Service cost caps for Healthy Start families.**