



Keiki Focus

News

January 22, 2009



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Aloha Kit,

As Congress and the new Administration continue the work of economic recovery for our nation, Hawai`i's needs are pressing. With our State budget in crisis we must do everything we can to ensure that the federal funding streams supporting young children and families in Hawai`i remain as strong as they possibly can be.

Right now, the House and Senate are working through an Economic Recovery Package for the country that has the potential to provide much-needed funds for Hawai`i to continue critical early childhood programs and system building.

What does this really mean for Hawai`i?

According to data from the Center for Law and Social Policy ([CLASP](#)), the Senate's possible request of \$3 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds could mean an increase of \$9,621,875 for Hawai`i. These funds would allow approximately 2,000 additional children to be served, adding to the current \$18,058,545 of CCDBG funding that Hawai`i currently receives and the 10,000 children served as a result.

The same recovery package may contain a potential \$3 billion for Head Start which, according to the National Women's Law Center ([NWLC](#)) would mean an increase of \$7,300,000 to Hawai`i and could create up to 280 new spaces for children.

The corresponding economic package under consideration by the House contains approximately \$2 billion for CCDBG and \$2.1 billion for Head Start, as compared to the \$3 billion each in the Senate's proposal. Obviously, the greater the allocation, the better it can support this area of great need for our children.

CCDBG funding has been almost unchanged since 2002, and by 2005, nationally nearly 140,000 fewer children were receiving child care help. Currently nationwide only one out of seven children eligible for child care assistance under federal law receives it.

The proposed House package also contains \$600 million for IDEA infants and families formula grants to help children with disabilities younger than age 2, which could potentially affect Healthy Start, and also \$2.5 billion of

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

We will continue to keep you updated as this important legislation in Washington D.C. progresses.

Aloha,

Liz Chun
Executive Director
[Good Beginnings Alliance](#)

Good Beginnings Alliance is a nonprofit organization working in partnership with families, communities, policy makers, early childhood providers and advocates to shape community will and public policy, mobilize action and maximize resources for Hawai'i's children. Good Beginnings Alliance is a member of [Voices for America's Children](#)

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