



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON

www.mn.gov/governor | January 2013

Investing in Minnesota's Children

Laying the Foundation for Our State's Future

The most important investment our state can make is in our children. That is why Governor Dayton's budget invests \$139 million in proven programs that will help Minnesota's children thrive today and in the future.

» **Better Early Education.** The Governor's budget makes crucial investments in preparing children for success in school and narrowing Minnesota's achievement gap.

- **\$40 million for Early Childhood Education Scholarships.** The Governor's budget invests in scholarships that will help up to 11,000 more low-income Minnesota children in high quality childcare and preschool.
- **\$44 Million for All Day Kindergarten.** The Governor's budget invests in optional All Day K, providing access for 85% of Minnesota students – or 54,000 kids.

» **Strong Families.** The Governor's budget supports strong and healthy Minnesota families.

- **\$2 Million in Rental Assistance for Low-Income Families.** The Governor's budget invests in rental assistance and services to allow children to attend the same school without interruption through the school year.
- **\$20 Million for Quality Child Care for Kids with High Needs.** The Governor's budget invests in better rates and an add-on for providers with high quality ratings. The budget also guarantees child care for eligible teen parents.
- **\$2.4 Million to Support Adoption.** The Governor's budget supports permanency for children by streamlining three existing adoption and foster care programs to best serve the interests of children.
- **\$13.7 Million to Improve Employment for Parents.** The Governor's budget invests in cash assistance, home visits for teen parents to increase high school graduation rates, and local services to eliminate racial disparities.

» **Child Health and Safety.** The Governor's budget invests in health and safety of our kids.

- **\$7.4 Million for Mental Health in Schools.** The Governor's budget expands access to mental health services for children with complex, high-cost conditions through increased funding to schools. This proposal doubles the percentage of Minnesota schools providing these services.
- **\$4.5 Million to Reduce Child Maltreatment.** The Governor's budget invests in prevention and early identification of child abuse by expanding proven outreach strategies for high-risk families.