



The Coalition's Budget Agenda for 2009-2010 is aimed at Reinvesting in The Children's Plan.



### **CREATE THE CHILDREN'S REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009**

- Create a Children's Reinvestment Act by expanding the Governor's \$1.7 million recommendation to reinvest savings toward implementation of The Children's Plan by capturing facility downsizing savings and other service reductions into a cross-systems account and permanently sharing saved resources between the state and children's community services. Recommendation: Invest the resources saved by the 75 vacant FBT beds into implementation of The Children's Plan and take the savings from any current or future OCFS, OMR, OASAS and OMH residential beds or services and put them into a fund to address future cross-system bed needs and community services.

### **PROTECT AND ENHANCE FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCES**

- Preserve and expand the General Fund support prior to 2013 so Family Support Services will not be lost to children and families in the communities and include Family Support Services as the main component of the new Children's Reinvestment Act of 2009 proposal.

### **RESTORE 2009 RTF TREND FACTOR - REDUCE UNNECESSARY REGULATIONS AND RATE ADD-ONS INSTEAD**

- Reject the Governor's proposal to defer the 2009-2010 "trend factor" and instead achieve the necessary savings by eliminating regulatory mandates that resulted in Medicaid rate increases in excess of \$2.3 million for RTFs.

### **RESTORE BASE CALCULATION OF HUMAN SERVICES COLA**

- Restore the one percent (1%) COLA - The Coalition urges the Legislature to acknowledge the temporary nature of the budget crisis and commit to restore funding in the future when possible. The Governor's plan to prorate the three-month, one-percent reduction and extend that reduction throughout the state fiscal year that begins April 1, 2009. In so doing, the state will permanently reduce the base amount upon which any future COLA will be calculated. This, despite the fact that the Governor's proposal for OMH state-operated budget includes \$5.1 million for year two of a multi-year effort to offer enhancements to recruit and retain direct care staff and \$20.6 million to accommodate increased energy, pharmacy and medical expenses. If enacted as proposed, the Governor's COLA recommendation will exacerbate the gap between the state workforce wages and benefits and the nonprofit workforce.

