



SPOKANE ALLIANCE

Organizing for the Common Good.

CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND: A CHANCE TO SAVE OUR KIDS

The Problem

Spokane Public School District Info (2007-2008):

- **Total**-60% on-time graduation
- American Indian-22% on-time graduation
- Asian/Pacific Islander-67% on-time graduation
- Black-47% on-time graduation
- Hispanic-46% on-time graduation
- White-64% on-time graduation

(Source: WA Office of the Superintendent of public Instruction)

“Do we not want to salvage young people, making them viable and vital in our community? I say yes, and I say yes, let’s fix the dropout problem before it’s too late.”

**Sharon Condrey, Lewis and Clark HS, Secretary
Spokane Education Association**



Children, at a local early learning center, similar to those that the Children’s Investment Fund would assist.

The Costs to the Community

- The estimated social costs of a dropout over a lifetime tops \$392,000, according to the California Dropout Research Project (UC Santa Barbara, 2007).
- The cost to incarcerate a juvenile offender for one year is \$69,000 (Spokane County Juvenile Court, 2009).
- 60% of inmates in Spokane County Jail system are dropouts (Spokane County Courts).

The Solution

The Children’s Investment Fund will include:

- Expanded capacity to local youth-serving organizations and programs.
- An annual audit which will demonstrate the progress made by each grantee as well as how the funds were spent.
- A 6 year sunset clause.
- Only programs with evidence based, best practice, and proven programs with measurable results.
- A funding decision process made publicly by the Citizens Oversight Committee with community input.
- Accountability measures which require grantees to track client and program data to demonstrate results.

“What is really sad is that I can look at my sixth graders and tell you who will probably be a dropout.”

**Karen Meade, Longfellow Elementary, Special Ed. Teacher
Spokane Education Association**

The Bottom Line

The initiative proposes a six year levy on property taxes of only 35 cents per \$1000 of assessed value, creating around \$5 million in revenue each year. The annual cost to homeowners with a house valued at \$197,000—the median house value in Spokane—would be only \$69. This money will be used to fund youth programs focused in four areas:

- Early Childhood Education and Intervention
- Child Abuse Prevention
- After-School Programs
- Mentoring

How to Help

To put this initiative will be on the **August 2010 primary election ballot, 12,000 signatures will have to be collected before April 16th.**

Alliance institutions and community allies will be collectively working to get the signatures required and the campaign is slated to start at the end of February. Spokane kids need your help, contact your Alliance representative or the Alliance office to find out how you can participate.