

# The Status of Young Children in Ingham County

## THE ISSUES in Ingham County:

- 18 % of children age 0-4 live in poverty
- 32% of children are in single-parent homes
- 47% of births were to Medicaid-eligible families
- 53% of newborns qualified for food assistance
- 17% of births were to mothers with less than 12 years of education
- 13% of births were to foreign born Mothers
- Deaths for Black babies are more than three times the rate of deaths for White babies



In partnership with the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, the Ingham County Great Start Collaborative (GSC) and Great Start Parent Coalition were formed in 2005 to build a comprehensive early childhood system in Ingham County. Through a series of Community Forums, and discussions with stakeholders (including agency staff and parents of young children), we have built a consensus around a comprehensive strategic plan for action.

**Ingham County's Community Plan:** *The Ingham GSC has set goals for each of six areas in the [Ingham Early Childhood Action Agenda 2010](#). They include specific objectives in: Physical Health, Social-Emotional Health, Early Care & Education, Basic Needs, Family Support & Parent Education, and Infrastructure. Several workgroups are meeting on a regular basis to implement the objectives in the Action Agenda. These workgroups include: Early Childhood Literacy Coalition, Public Awareness, Operations Committee, Infant Mortality Initiative, Safe Sleep Coalition, Quality Initiatives, Kindergarten Transition Committee, Social - Emotional KEEP Task Force, Parent Education, and Parent Coalition.*

## **The State's role is critical in helping Ingham County address the needs of young children.**

Ingham County Great Start Collaborative and Great Start Parent Coalition are the focal point for local early childhood efforts. For more information about early childhood in Ingham County, please contact: Michelle Nicholson (517)244-1267, or visit the website: <http://www.cacvoices.org/birthtofive>

The Great Start Collaborative and Great Start Parent Coalition are supported by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation. For more information about the Statewide efforts of the Great Start Initiative and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, visit [www.greatstartforkids.org](http://www.greatstartforkids.org).

### **What Ingham County Citizens Want from State Leaders:**

- *State funding streamlined making it easier for working parents to get the supports they need*
- *The State to restructure its overall funding efforts to address comprehensive needs of young children that now are impacting school readiness*
- *Pre-K expanded to ensure all area children who are at risk for school failure are served*
- *Additional funding for high quality services such as home visiting, parenting education, and training and consultation for providers*

**Make early childhood investment a priority.**