



**Committed to launching every child as a healthy, lifelong learner**

The Down East Partnership for Children has been making a difference for children and families in our community for 18 years. Budget cuts threaten to reduce its impact. We need your help to ensure DEPC continues to help build a strong community.

Proposed budget cuts this year could reach **\$1.5 million** in addition to recent funding reductions of \$873,000 to the DEPC. A cut at this level will impact thousands of children and families and every program the DEPC offers. This means quality care is at risk, child care scholarships will be cut, income for teachers faces reductions – all of which can destabilize the child care industry that employs hundreds directly and allows over 5,600 parents to be productive employees.

We need to hold the line on early childhood investments. Investing in early childhood education is a fiscally responsible way to reduce deficits and create surpluses in the short- and long-term.

### Seven Reasons to Support the Down East Partnership for Children

**The DEPC:**

- **invests more than \$7 million annually** into the local economy to support more than 20 programs in the community.
- **focuses on children 0-8** to maximize the impact on children’s development when they will benefit most from high quality educational opportunities.
- **implements a model of services focused on prevention vs. intervention.**
- **supports families** to meet the needs of their children and **ensures access to high quality care** and education.
- **builds “ready schools”** that meet the needs of all children and families.
- **collaborates to support “ready communities”** that can advocate for and build systems that support the healthy growth and development of children.
- **prepares future generations of the workforce while supporting the workforce of today.**



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### Economic Impact

DEPC supports child care subsidies for more than 1,000 children a year, allowing their parents to work or pursue higher education and enabling businesses to have a stable workforce. Stable child care results in reduced absenteeism, cuts down on turnover, and increases productivity of employees.

Child care problems can cause US businesses to lose as much as \$3 billion a year.

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You can:

- **Volunteer your time.** Share your time and expertise. Volunteer on the playground, provide office and event support or participate in community events/programs.
- **Join a committee.** Some of DEPC committee options include the Ready Schools, Healthy Kids Collaborative or Week of the Young Child.
- **Stay connected.** Sign-up for DEPC e-alerts & publications at [www.depc.org](http://www.depc.org). To sign up for Smart Start e-alerts go to [www.ncsmartstart.org](http://www.ncsmartstart.org).
- **Speak up about children's issues.** Invite DEPC to speak at your event. Write your legislators to let them know the impact of DEPC.
- **Make a donation.** Every contribution matters!
- **Contribute materials or supplies.** In-kind discounts or donations of materials/supplies for a variety of activities.
- **Sponsor Week of the Young Child.** Help promote and celebrate children the week of April 9-16, 2011.

### Contact the DEPC

For up-to-date information about the partnership or partner with the DEPC visit [www.depc.org](http://www.depc.org). For questions or to reach someone about how to get involved, call Brenda Battle at (252) 985-4300. Find us on Facebook!

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