

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER ONE HUNDRED-ONE

RE: ESTABLISHING THE CHILD POVERTY TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the United States of America has the highest child poverty rate of the seventeen wealthiest countries in the world; and

WHEREAS, although the State of Delaware made progress towards reducing child poverty in the 1990's, the poverty rate in Delaware has risen since 2002; and

WHEREAS, children who live in poverty are subjected to a number of disturbing realities that include, but are not limited to, a substantially greater likelihood to die from infectious diseases and to drop out of school prior to obtaining a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, the United Kingdom reduced the child poverty rate in Great Britain from 19% in 2000 to 11% in 2006 through its commitment to reduce child poverty by 50% within ten years; and

WHEREAS, the States of Connecticut, California, and Minnesota, as well as the cities of New York and Milwaukee, have made similar commitments to reduce the child poverty rate by 50% within ten years; and

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware recognizes the moral and economic interest in reducing child poverty, and appreciates the productivity that would result from a substantial decrease of child poverty in Delaware.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RUTH ANN MINNER, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order as follows:

1. The Child Poverty Task Force (the “Task Force”) is hereby established.
2. The Task Force shall consist of twenty-five (25) members as follows:
 - a. The Secretary of the Department of Education or his/her designee;
 - b. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services or his/her designee;
 - c. The Secretary of Labor or his/her designee;
 - d. The Secretary of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families or his/her designee;
 - e. The Executive Director of the Delaware State Housing Authority or his/her designee;
 - f. The Chief Judge of the Delaware Family Court or his/her designee;
 - g. The four Co-Chairs of the “Kid’s Caucus” in the State Legislature;
 - h. The Child Advocate or his/her designee;
 - i. The Governor’s Policy Advisor for Health;
 - j. The Governor’s Policy Advisor for Education;
 - k. Three members of the Delaware non-profit community whose organizations serve children and families, to be appointed by the Governor;
 - l. A representative of the University of Delaware’s Center for Community Research and Service;
 - m. A KIDS COUNT Delaware Board member or Data Committee Member or his/her designee;

- n. A member of the business community appointed by the State Chamber of Commerce;
- o. The President of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League or his/her designee;
- p. A representative from the City of Wilmington, designated by the Mayor of the City of Wilmington;
- q. One at-large member appointed by the President *Pro Tempore* of the Delaware Senate; and
- r. One at-large member appointed by the Speaker of the Delaware House of Representatives.

3. The Task Force shall develop a ten-year plan to reduce the number of Delaware children living in poverty by 50% and to establish recommendations for prevention and intervention services in order to promote the health, safety and well-being of Delaware's children and their families. The plan shall include:

- a. Identifying and analyzing the occurrence of child poverty in Delaware; and
- b. Identifying the risk factors for and underlying etiologies of child poverty; and
- c. Reviewing scholarly research that identifies the best practices for prevention and intervention of child poverty; and
- d. Analyzing the long-term effects of child poverty on children, their families and their communities; and
- e. Assessing the costs of child poverty to municipalities and to the State; and
- f. Creating an inventory of existing state-wide public and private programs that address child poverty; and
- g. Calculating the percentage of the target population served by such programs and the current funding levels, if any, for such programs; and

- h. Identifying and analyzing any deficiencies or inefficiencies of such programs; and
- i. Establishing the procedures and priorities for implementing strategies to achieve a 50% reduction in child poverty in the State of Delaware by June 30, 2017.

4. The chairperson of the Task Force, who shall be appointed by the

Governor from among its members, shall lead the administration of the Task Force by:

- a. setting a time, date and place for the initial organizational meeting;
- b. ensuring the proper preparation and distribution of meeting notices, agendas, minutes, correspondence, and reports of the Task Force;
- c. ensuring the Task Force identify any staffing requirements necessary to properly execute the functions of this order, and allow the representatives from among the various state agencies to distribute those responsibilities within those agencies; and
- d. ensuring the final report of the Task Force is submitted to the Governor with copies submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate, the Director of the Division of Research of Legislative Council and the Delaware Public Archives.

5. The Task Force shall submit its report on “Recommendations to Reduce

Child Poverty” to the Governor, Speaker of the House and President *Pro Tempore* within one year of the effective date of this order.

Approved this 29th day of August, 2007.


Ruth Ann Minner
Governor

Attest:


Secretary of State

