

What's in it for kids?

Using the analysis for advocacy: Effecting positive change for children and youth

advocating for change

This is an exciting time to be doing advocacy in the District: The new mayor and council present some interesting challenges. First among the challenges is Mr. Fenty's passion for accountability, efficiency, best practices and benchmarks. He will most certainly expect from advocates and the general public specific recommendations on ways for the government to achieve good government goals and better outcomes for young people. On the council side, we have new members and a new chair, Vince Gray. While many of the players have been in leadership roles in the past, the dynamics have changed -- but our commitment and advocacy must stay focused on what we know children and youth need.

In *What's in it for kids?*, DC ACT reports that the FY 2007 budget and related policies are generally good for children and youth. On a number of fronts, there were significant wins, most notably the expansion of Medicaid to 300% of poverty for young people and the first ever children's budget. Unfortunately, the funding increases and new policies were not part of an overall plan to support children. As has been the case for years, these improvements come as a result of issue-based advocacy rather than a collective approach for improving outcomes for children and youth.

Now is the time to voice your concerns, ideas and recommendations with the city's leadership and *What's in it for kids?* details a number of concrete examples of budget, policy and operational issues that must be addressed if, in fact, all children are to be successful. Targets for your advocacy are:

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