

# NORTH CAROLINA MUST INVEST IN CHILDREN

Today's investments in children and youth determine the future prosperity of our state. Children in North Carolina face a number of challenges that threaten to stall their development and undermine the economic progress of our state.



## ECONOMIC SECURITY

1 IN 4



CHILDREN LIVES  
IN POVERTY

Growing up in poverty is one of the greatest threats to healthy child development. One in four children in North Carolina lives in poverty.

## EDUCATION

RANKS  
48<sup>th</sup>

IN PER PUPIL  
SENDING

Education is essential for future economic success. Only two states are expected to invest less than North Carolina in educating their students this school year.

## HEALTH

1 IN 11

LACKS HEALTH  
INSURANCE

Good health forms the foundation for future success in life. One in 11 children in North Carolina lacks access to insurance.

## OPPORTUNITY

21%



AGES 16 TO 24 NOT  
IN SCHOOL AND  
NOT WORKING

Young workers need early opportunities to transition into the workforce. One in five young people ages 16 to 24 is disconnected—not enrolled in school and not employed.

## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

As our elected leaders craft the state budget and make important policy decisions, it is important that they consider what's worked in the past and build on those investments.

