

**UNITED WAY'S INITIATIVE FOR YOUTH: (Where we are as of 11/28/07)**

United Way's Initiative for Youth is a community-wide effort and incorporates the work of multiple organizations, individuals and agencies in an effort to reduce juvenile violent crime, substance abuse among youth, and teen age pregnancy.

United Way's role in this effort is to identify programs and players and to provide information, coordination, support, and/or a "cheering section" as appropriate. United Way does convene a meeting for each of the focus areas quarterly to discuss programs, progress, problems, and next steps with the agencies/organizations involved.

The Initiative is divided into three specific focus areas:

Born Learning (0-3 years of age), the goal is to ensure every child is provided a "stimulating" environment in the first four years of his/her life.

Early Childhood Learning (six weeks – 6 years of age), the goal is school readiness.

Youth Task Force (6 – 18 years of age), the goal is to help our youth be successful in school and make a successful transition to adulthood.

As of this date, we have identified four specific "critical intervention points" and are supporting programs that can provide the appropriate intervention at those critical points.

Critical Point:

Intervention:

Birth of a child

Meet with expectant mothers in birthing classes and in the hospital within 48 hours of the birth of her child. Explain the importance of early infant stimulation and motivate the family to provide it. (Born Learning)

Lead Agencies: Gift of Life and Alabama Partnership for Children

Pre-school

Work with child care providers and parents to ensure they understand the skills and knowledge every child needs to be ready to learn when they arrive at school. (Early Childhood Learning)

Lead Agency: Family Guidance Center

4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Provide tutors and mentors to ensure every child in 4<sup>th</sup> grade is able to read at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level. (Youth Task Force)

Lead Agencies: Montgomery Public Schools and We Mentor

Bad Behavior  
In School

Provide a case manager and multi-disciplinary team that will develop an individualized Intervention Plan for the child AND HIS/HER FAMILY. (Youth Task Force)

Lead Agency: District Attorney's Office