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National KIDS COUNT® Releases Policy Report on the Obstacles to Success for Children Focusing on Racial and Ethnic Barriers to Opportunity

The Annie E. Casey Foundation released a new report today stressing a need for change on behalf of the children in Florida and the nation. In this report, Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children, an index was developed which compares how children are progressing on key milestones across racial and ethnic groups at the national and state level. The data can better inform decision makers who create policies and programs, while targeting strategies and investments where attention is needed most.

The report highlights serious concerns that African-American, Latino, Native American and some subgroups of Asian-American children face profound barriers to success. The indicators in the index illustrate, in Florida these obstacles are greatest in the areas of education and poverty. Current 2012 population estimates show that White, Non-Hispanics represent 46.6% of the children in our state, making addressing the concerns in this report critical to successful outcomes for Florida’s children.

Florida KIDS COUNT Director, Susan Weitzel stated, “The mission should be for the collective of Florida’s children to be fully prepared to compete globally and across states.”

The Race for Results index is based on 12 indicators that measure a child’s success for each stage of life, from birth to adulthood. The indicators were chosen based on the goal that all children should grow up in economically successful families, live in supportive communities and meet developmental, health and educational milestones. Using a scale of one (lowest) to 1,000 (highest) the index allows for ease of comparison across geography and different measures of well-being.

In Florida the index reveals, Asian and Pacific Islander (802), American-Indian (554), and Latino (511) children are above the national index; White children (674) are below the national average and African-American children (345) are on par with the national average.

“This first-time index shows that many in our next generation, especially kids of color, are off track in many issue areas and in nearly every region of the country,” said Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation.

To view the report and learn more about Florida’s Children, visit http://www.floridakidscount.org/.

Florida KIDS COUNT (FKC) is part of a Nationwide KIDS COUNT Network and project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
FKC disseminates national, statewide and county-level data on key indicators for Florida’s children.

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