

*PLAN 2010*  
*Our Vision for Alabama*

**Taking Care of Our Most Vulnerable**

In Alabama, 21% of our children live in poverty and 35% of our children live in single-parent households. Although we are seeing progress, we must increase our efforts to address the needs of our families and, especially, our children.

Many families, while hardworking, still rely on state services to make ends meet. However, the system that delivers these services is cumbersome and confusing, leaving many of our families in need feeling helpless. An eligible family might have to deal with as many as ten or more different agencies, with ten different applications, and ten different sets of requirements. This does little to help those families who are in need of our help.

In addition, the cost of running the system is enormous. In the coming year, **Alabama will spend \$398 million from state funds on Medicaid alone.** We must work to lower costs by increasing efficiency and decreasing duplicated services.

In 2004, we set out on a mission to reform the way health and human services are provided in this state. Our goal is to provide services in a way that is accessible, cost-efficient, and helps families in need to reach self-sufficiency. Our **Task Force to Strengthen Alabama Families**, which includes all related agencies, has worked hard to develop a system that does just that.

**I will propose establishing a Family Services Center in each of Alabama's 67 counties to increase coordination of state services and assist our families in need.**

These centers will be developed by local communities to help families with an assessment of their needs, information on services, case management, and service referral. They will provide a personal, "one stop" service on a local level to Alabama's families.

**Our Role in 2010**

excerpt from: <http://www.bobrileyforgovernor.com/pdfForms/SecureourQualityofLife.pdf>