



March 24, 2020

To: Michigan Congressional Staff

From: Matt Gillard, President and CEO, Michigan's Children

RE: Network Learnings Informing COVID-19 Investment Response

Community Mental Health Contracted Providers

Recent state action to relax face-to-face requirements in favor of Telehealth were applauded by providers, but concern remains about ramping up the capacity to meet the near-term telehealth needs of Michigan's communities. While the long term response to this pandemic will be complex and multi-pronged, telehealth will remove barriers for people impacted by shelter-in-place orders, school closures, and other disruptions related to COVID-19.

CONTINUE TO PROVIDE REVENUE AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR HIGH QUALITY TELEMEDICINE SERVICES, INCLUDING FOR STUDENTS IMPACTED BY SCHOOL CLOSURES WHO RECEIVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Providers are struggling to plan out capacity needs due to the COVID-19 shutdown without a commitment of consistent and equitable reimbursement for service revenue impacted by program closure and service suspension.

ENSURE THAT FEDERAL RESPONSES INCLUDE FUNDING TO ENSURE REVENUE STABILITY FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND TO SUPPORT STATE BUDGETS THAT WILL EXPERIENCE REVENUE LOSS THAT COULD THREATEN PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENTS.

Recommendations from Federal Partners

Michigan's Children is working hard not only with people on the ground to uplift important voices and perspectives with lawmakers, but also with partners in Washington whose recommendations for action align with one or more critical needs voiced by children, youth, families, and those who serve them. An unprecedented event in our lifetimes calls for an unprecedented investment into supporting children, youth, and families through federal action:

Afterschool Alliance

https://afterschoolalliance.rallycongress.net/ctas/contact-congress-covid-19-impact-on-afterschool?utm_source=sendinblue&utm_campaign=Prioritize_young_people_in_COVID19_AM_32320_20&utm_medium=email

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

<https://www.alliance1.org/web/news/2020/march/charitable-sector-requests-covid-19-relief-economic-stimulus-package.aspx>

Center for Law and Social Policy

<https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2020/03/2020.3.23%20FF%20nutrition%20fact%20sheet%20final.pdf>

Center for the Study of Social Policy

<https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Policy-COVID-19-Our-Response.pdf>

Child Welfare League of America

(Link not available, letter sent to Congress)

Coalition on Adult Basic Education

<http://cqrcengage.com/coabe/app/make-a-call?0&engagementId=506998>

Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth

<https://langevin.house.gov/sites/langevin.house.gov/files/documents/Foster%20Youth%20COVID-19%20final%20letter%20%28002%29.pdf>

National Women's Law Center

<https://nwlc.org/blog/what-women-and-working-families-need-to-face-coronavirus/>

Prevent Child Abuse America

http://preventchildabuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/PCAA-Policy-Response-to-COVID-19_v3.pdf