

# Michigan's Children

MACAE Conference  
Community Education

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[www.michiganschildren.org](http://www.michiganschildren.org)



## Who We Are

- Michigan's Children is a statewide, independent voice for children and their families. We work with lawmakers, business leaders, and communities to make Michigan a place where all children have the opportunity to thrive.
- At Michigan's Children, we advocate for programs and services that support children and their families from cradle to career, with a focus on Michigan's low-income children and children of color.

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## Overview

- Current landscape
- FY13 Budget Recap
- Opportunities via elections
- Opportunities for FY14
- Federal overview

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## How Michigan Children are Faring

- Too many babies are born into poverty with half of all births paid for by Medicaid.
- We have seen a larger increase in child poverty than the rest of the nation, with more than one in every 10 children living in extreme poverty (\$8,784 annual income for a family of 3)
- Too many infants and toddlers are the victims of child abuse and neglect. Since 2000, the rate of confirmed abuse/neglect cases rose 16%
- More than 1 million children, or 42 percent of all children in the state, were enrolled in Medicaid or MICHild at one point during 2010
- 30,000 four-year olds eligible for GSRP are not accessing it.
- In Michigan, the achievement gap between African American and White fourth graders was second largest in the nation in 2011
- Nearly 35,000 Michigan young people did not receive a high school diploma in the spring of 2011 – more than one-quarter of the students who began high school four-years earlier.
- 43 percent of African American students, 37 percent of Latino students, 38 percent of Native American students, and 37 percent of low-income students failing to graduate in four years.

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## Current Landscape

- Election Season – opportunity to change course
- Impact on elections in state and federal policies and budget priorities can turn the tide for kids
- Our Governor has said that he not only supports a P (prenatal)-20 (age 20) educational continuum but also the educational concept of “Any Time, Any Place, Any Way, Any Pace” – need to capitalize on this in a way that promotes school success and educational equity

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## Recap of Fiscal Year 2013 Budget

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The state budget, as the single most powerful expression of the state's priorities, is a powerful tool for either improving equity or widening gaps.

Same goes for federal budget.

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## MDE – Office of Great Start

- \$208.3 million for the Office of Great Start (OGS), including \$159.2 million for the Child Care and Development program (\$3 million cut from FY12). The OGS has responsibility for the following programs:
  - Great Start Readiness program.
  - Early Childhood Block Grant which includes funding for Great Start Collaboratives and Great Parents/Great Start.
  - Preschool special education.
  - Early On.
  - Head Start Collaboration.
  - Child Development and Care (CDC) program.

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## Great Start Programs

- *Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP):* \$5 million increase for a total of \$100.4 million (School Aid) with \$8.88 million for the GSRP competitive program. The per slot allotment remains at \$3,400.
- *Early Childhood Block Grant:* \$10.9 million which is a combination of GP/GS (\$5 million) and GSC funding (\$5.9 million) to go to ISDs or a consortium of ISDs

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## K-12 Per-Pupil Allocation

- Maintained previous years' cuts to the foundation allowance, with the minimum per pupil allowance at \$8,019 per pupil – down \$470 since FY10. Includes an increase of \$120 per pupil (\$100.3 million) for districts receiving the lowest foundation allowance, increasing the minimum foundation allowance from \$6,846 to \$6,966. Districts receiving \$6,966 or more per pupil in 2011-12 will not receive any reinstatement of per pupil funding.
- Additional Incentive Payments:
  - \$30 million for districts showing improvement based on 2010-11 MEAP and MME exam performance.
  - \$80 million (maximum payment of \$52 per pupil) to all districts that have met 7 out of 8 best practices criteria.

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## Intermediate School Districts

- *Operations*: Maintained at \$62.1 million and an additional \$2 million is earmarked to ISDs to be eligible for a 3.2 percent increase if they meet 4 out of 5 performance criteria. :
  - consolidated and competitively bid services;
  - supported technology integration;
  - published a dashboard of outcomes; and
  - developed information management systems in coordination with other ISDs.
- Included \$10 million for competitive assistance grants to local and intermediate school districts to support efforts to consolidate services.

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## Health

- *Medicaid rates*: In compliance with ACA, raises Medicaid primary care physician reimbursements rates to Medicare levels and adds an increase of \$11.9 million (\$4.0 million general funds) to provide an increase in the reimbursement rates for OB/GYN doctors.
- *Healthy Kids Dental Program*: \$16.6 million increase (\$5.6 million GF) to expand the coverage area of the Healthy Kids Dental program into 10 counties (91,000 children under 21) in fiscal year 2013: Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Grand Traverse, Jackson, Mecosta, Montcalm, Osceola and Wexford..
- *Autism treatment*: \$20.9 million (\$6.7 million in GF) to expand Medicaid and MICHild coverage to include treatment of autism spectrum disorders.
- *Health and Wellness Initiative*: one-time funding for: health disparities (\$240,000 in addition to \$250,000 on-going), pregnancy prevention (\$860,000), diabetes and kidney program (\$650,000) and school health – the Michigan Model - (\$330,000), cancer prevention and control (\$860,000), and the Nurse Family Partnership (new allocation of \$50,000). New funding includes \$2.25 million (\$1.0 million on-going and \$1.25 million one-time allocation) for the Governor's Wellness 4x4 Initiative; \$750,000 one-time funding for infant mortality; and \$1.0 million on-going for the new House-proposed children's physical health pilot program. On-going HMF programs – MCIR, cardiovascular disease, and smoking prevention – are retained.

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## Child Welfare

- *Foster Care Payments*: Increases the rate paid to foster and adoptive parents by \$3 per day.
- *Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative*: \$1.9 million for MYOI, which helps youths transition from the child welfare system to adult employment and independence.
- *Strong Families Safe Children*: reduced by \$2.7 million for a total of \$12.4 million to reflect an anticipated federal grant reduction;
- *Families First*: maintained funding \$18 million.
- *Supported Visitation*: \$2 million in federal funds for a home-based parent education program that supports family reunification.
- *Parent Partners*: \$500,000 is included for a new parent mentoring program

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## Other Policy Changes

- Home visitation quality bill
- FIP truancy policy
- Revising the Michigan School Aid Act

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## Opportunities via Elections

- Candidates now need to know what their local constituents' priorities are. We need to share our priorities with them, and after the elections, remind them of those priorities
- Candidates need to understand the connection between the state budget and how that impacts local programming and thus child outcomes
- Candidates need to understand why reducing disparities is beneficial to the well-being of the state (future workforce)

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## Priorities for FY14

- Economic security: Reinstate changes to FIP, FAP, and EITC
- Health: increase access to a consistent source of medical care
- Early Learning:
  - Early childhood expansion (GSRP) – connect to 0-3 and don't rob Peter to pay Paul
  - Increase funding for child care to increase access to high quality programs.
- School success:
  - Link high quality early learning to high quality K-12
  - Increase access to extended learning programs
  - Increase opportunities for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year of high school and connections to community college and workforce development that keep young people in school or connected to education

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## Federal Overview

- Election Season
- Congressional Deadlock
- Looming budget crisis and pending sequestration
- Who is elected into office will determine HOW sequestration is handled. This could be great for children and young people or really bad

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## Why Any of This Should Matter To You

- You do have the expertise: you know the impact on your family, your community, your clients.
- There are good sources of information to help you become involved in making real change.
- Candidates and elected officials are regular people.
- If not you, who?

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