Michigan’s Children

MACAE Conference
Community Education

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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

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.
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

Recap of Fiscal Year 2013 Budget
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.

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.
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.

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.
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.

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.
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

Other Policy Changes

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

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 5th and 6th year of high school and connections to community college and workforce development that keep young people in school or connected to education
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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