



October 14, 2019

To: Michigan Legislators  
From: Matt Gillard, President/CEO  
RE: NEEDED: A Budget Supplemental for Children, Youth and Families

As you and your colleagues vote on supplemental budgets to bring back funding for programs deemed critical, and the Governor continues negotiating with legislative leaders on strategies to fully fund the state budget for the next fiscal year, funding for programs critical to the most vulnerable children, youth and families supported in legislatively-passed budgets has been left off the negotiating table.

While many necessary investments that were left out of the budget conversation altogether, or are already being discussed, Michigan's Children recommends that supplemental budgets must include the following restoration of Gubernatorial vetoes. These initiatives are not pork or partisan, and all are evidenced practice with proven impact.

**Supports for children, youth and families impacted by the child welfare system.**

- Adoption Supports: \$250,000 for the Adoptive Family Support Network, allowing their operations in support of adoptive, foster, kin and birth parents to continue.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA): \$500,000 to begin state expansion, ensuring access in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

**Supports for the most challenged youth.**

- Alternative Diploma Paths: \$2.3 million for strict discipline academies and dropout prevention programs, both viable pathways to receiving a high school diploma.
- Supports for Homeless and Runaway Youth: \$800,000 increase for Runaway and Homeless Youth service providers.
- CASA Fostering Futures: \$50,000 to pilot a program targeting older youth aging out of foster care.

**Supports for struggling learners.**

- Afterschool and Summer Learning: \$600,000 to support wrap-around services for out-of-school time providers.
- Integrated Student Services: \$525,000 in funding for Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency's School Success Partnership Program.
- Social-Emotional Learning: \$500,000 to pilot a social-emotional learning program in at least five districts.

We are glad to provide more information about any of these initiatives, and look forward to working together to rebuild the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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