

Budget Action Powered by Constituent Voices

August 28, 2020 – On Monday, fiscal analysts and economists got together to conduct another Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC) in order to give state legislators and Governor Whitmer updated state revenue projections to use to craft Michigan's fiscal year 2020/2021(FY21) state budget. While the projections have certainly improved since the last CREC in May, the negative economic impacts of the COVID pandemic are still going to create a reduction in overall state revenues heading in to FY21. The pressure will now be on Governor Whitmer and the Legislature to come to agreement on a state spending plan before the September 30 deadline.

At the same time, in Washington, D.C., negotiations have stalled on another COVID relief package in Congress. Earlier this summer it appeared very likely that Congress and President Trump would agree to another relief bill that would include, among other things, significant relief to state and local governments that have seen the need for services dramatically increase at the same time their revenues were plummeting. There is still an opportunity for Congress to act and pass a bill that would provide much needed resources to state and local governments, as well as families and children, but the clock is ticking.

It's our top priority at Michigan's Children to ensure that all of our state and federal elected officials understand the need behind urgent action to better serve and protect our most vulnerable children, families and communities. We will continue to [communicate with the Governor, state legislators and our federal elected officials](#) to underscore the need for a budget that funds programs and resources that support children and families, but we need your help. These next few weeks will play a huge role in how Michigan children, youth and families are not only able to navigate the continuing impacts of the COVID pandemic, but also how we are able to recover and move forward.

We encourage our elected officials to hear what their constituents are saying, and not shrink from the responsibility of this moment. Their actions now will shape outcomes for families for years to come, for good or for bad. We encourage you to stay connected with Michigan's Children via our website, social media and other communications channels and join us in advocating for both [state and federal investments](#) that will truly serve and protect the best interests of our state's children and families.

Matt Gillard is President & CEO of Michigan's Children.