



Michigan's
Children

1. In 2018, there were 65,104 individuals who experienced literal homelessness in Michigan, including families with young children and unaccompanied youth. Multiple national surveys and experts predict that the COVID-19 pandemic is going to significantly contribute to an increase in housing instability and homelessness with a wave of pending eviction expected to come after Michigan's Eviction Diversion Program - funded from CARES Act dollars - expires at the end of the year. **If elected, what federal resources are you willing to commit to preventing evictions and homelessness?**
2. Data tells us that within 18 months of emancipation or “aging out” 40-50% of foster youth become homeless. Despite funding and programming offered through HUD (including the new Foster Youth to Independence Initiative), youth with experience in foster care struggle to access these resources. Many times, the vouchers are only available in certain counties and it’s very difficult for youth to navigate the process to apply for the funds - which are often not available. There are programs designed to prevent homelessness for foster youth, but program guidelines should be clarified and expanded to eliminate barriers to access. Young people aging out of foster care and on their own should be prioritized for housing support. **What will you do to improve accessibility to housing for youth with experience in foster care?**
3. Homelessness within public schools is often invisible. During the 2017-2018 school year, Michigan public schools identified over 37,000 students who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Students experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity graduate at a far lower rate than their peers - in 2018 the graduation rate for all students was 81%, but for students experiencing homelessness it was only 57%. **If elected, how will you support students experiencing homelessness and their families in efforts to secure and maintain safe, accessible housing and achieve academic success?**
4. Fostering Success Michigan is a statewide initiative that focuses on postsecondary access and success for youth with experience in foster care. Education leading to successful career attainment increases resiliency and decreases the likelihood of homelessness, food insecurity, underemployment and more. Failure to invest in these young people equates to higher social costs related to things like incarceration and public assistance. **How are you willing to invest in and support postsecondary access and success for youth with experience in foster care in Michigan?**
5. We are in the middle of an affordable housing crisis. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines affordable housing as a unit that a

household can obtain for 30% or less of its gross income. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) annually reports the number of households that are 'cost burdened,' or paying more than 30% of their income on housing (2020 Out Of Reach). In 2020, NLIHC found there were only 9 counties in Michigan where a full-time worker earning minimum wage can afford to rent a 2 bedroom unit at Fair Market Rent without being cost burdened. Nationally, the median black earner earns nearly 27% less than the median white worker, which keeps Black families with children in a cycle of poverty without access to safe, appropriate housing. **What is your plan to ensure that all families have affordable housing?**