

Action Alert!

Time-sensitive facts regarding
legislation affecting Michigan's
children and families.



for Child and Family Advocates

December 2020

One More Swing at COVID Relief in 2020

With funding for the federal government expiring at the end of the year, a bipartisan Senate proposal would use the need for a government funding bill as a vehicle to pass COVID-related support. Current negotiations include:

- \$160 billion relief for state, local, and tribal governments
- \$180 billion for increased unemployment payments by \$300/week, down from \$600/wk
- \$288 billion for Paycheck Protection Program support for small businesses
- \$82 billion for K-12 education
- \$26 billion for nutrition and agriculture aid
- \$10 billion in child care grants
- \$10 billion for broadband internet expansion
- \$5 billion to expand opioid-related treatment
- Extensions of rental assistance (\$25 million) and student loan programs (\$4 billion)

This proposal is significant, but would fail to ensure address some key burdens facing Michigan's children, youth, and families without additional provisions:

Adult Education: National estimates of need for adult education have stated \$1 billion in need.

Family Stability: Households facing crisis levels of stress deserve targeted help to keep their families strong. National estimates of need, and previous proposals, have included \$325 million for child abuse and neglect prevention; \$100 million for home visiting; \$75 billion for Child Welfare services under Social Security Title IV-B; \$10 million for the Court Improvement Program; and improved flexibility for state match funds and program models for kinship care. Cash assistance in the form of direct stimulus checks would also bolster family stability.

Sufficient Child Care Relief: National estimates have found a need of \$50 billion to keep child care providers open and sure care for families who need it, far beyond current proposals.

Targeted Learning Investment: National estimates have found a need of \$12 billion for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) incl. \$11 billion for K-12 (Part B), \$500 million for infants/toddlers (Part C), and \$400 million for preschool (Sec 619); and \$6.2 billion in 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) to meet out-of-school learning needs.

Youth Transition Supports: Youth exiting foster care face tremendous burdens with so much still up in the air. Previous proposals have included \$350 million for the John H. Chafee program for youth aging out of foster care, and \$50 million for Educational and Training Vouchers for youth aging out of care; increased in maximum Chafee award for youth per year from \$5,000 to \$12,000; and raised the maximum eligible age to 26 for youth who experienced foster care.

Act: Urge your US Senator and Representative to pass a COVID relief bill before the end of the year and fight for additional aid for adult education, child care, family stability, youth transitions, cash assistance, and learning resources for students who have fallen behind.