



Michigan's Children

Public Policy in
the Best Interest of
Children & Families.




Getting to Know the 2021 Michigan Legislature: Building Great Relationships with Incoming (and Returning) Lawmakers

Lunch and Learn: December 2020

Welcome and
housekeeping

We hope you find this an
informative and interactive
session!



Please post any
questions you have in the
chat. We can have you
unmute and discuss!

Let's start with a Poll

Please respond to the poll. Can't see the poll? Don't worry, you can think about the responses or type them directly into the Chat.

- ❖ How important is it to you or your organization to develop a comfortable working relationship with elected policymakers?
- ❖ What are some barriers to creating a plan to engage policymakers with your organization?
- ❖ Do you know who your policymakers are (newly elected and/or returning)?

Michigan's Children's Take: Election 2020 Rundown

- An update from Matt Gillard, President and CEO of Michigan's Children
- Important Statewide and National Results
- Priorities and Take-Aways for 2021
- Some questions from you about the Election and where things stand

Key take-aways on statewide legislative leadership changes

- House leadership represents most corners of Michigan - big gaps include the Upper Peninsula and Wayne County
- Multiple reps in leadership who have engaged at a meaningful level on issues facing youth living with disabilities and youth mental health
- Support for criminal justice reform will continue in the House - opportunity to build champions for other solutions affecting justice-involved youth
- Questions remain about whether there are champions for K-12 equity, child care, other services and supports that keep families strong

Are there any
additional questions
you have?

Let's look at some of your
questions from the registration
survey.

What's on Your Mind?

- ❑ Advocacy is turning our concerns into action by using our influence for change
- ❑ What does the election matter to policy advocacy work?
 - Extraordinary voter turn out in this election, highest in historical record: 5,568,097
 - People elected to state and federal office are hired to make BIG decisions on our behalf
- ❑ Biggest Questions for Advocates Post-Election
 - How do we keep voters, like us and others, engaged with policymakers?
 - How do we make sure that our elected officials are doing what we think they should be doing?

New Leadership
and Focus on
Engagement

Michele Corey,
Vice President,
Michigan's
Children

How do we keep voters, like us and others, engaged with the people they just hired?

- ❑ What do elected officials need to know?
 - what we know about children, youth and families in communities
 - what we know about how programs intended to help work or don't work
 - what we expect them to do

- ❑ How do they get that information?
 - Poll: How do you get new information? What kind of information influences your decision-making?

New Leadership
and Focus on
Engagement

- ❑ How do we build and keep those relationships?
 - Learn what we can about them. Do we know them? Do we know people who know them?
 - They are public officials, there is a lot of information available about them.

- ❑ Once we start the relationship, don't stop.
 - Add them to your distribution lists.
 - Attend their virtual or in person coffee hours and town halls

What have you done to build relationships with policymakers? Please add your ideas to the chat

New Leadership
and Focus on
Engagement

Helpful Resources

[Article from Michigan's Children: Post-Election, Advocates for Children and Families Regroup and Pledge to Fight On](#)

[Article from Michigan's Children: Turning Strategy Into Policy Action: Legislative Relationship Building](#)

[2021-22 House Leadership Facts for Child, Youth and Family Advocates](#)

[Michigan Legislature Page: Track Bills Sponsored and Policymaker Contact Information](#)

www.Vote411.org

www.Ballotpedia.org

What questions do you have?

Are there priority topics that would be helpful for future Lunch and Learn opportunities?

What's on Your Mind?

Looking Ahead:

- How to best position yourself to advocate for the concerns you have, and the concerns of the people you serve;
- Strategies for engaging policymakers and building mutually beneficial relationships with those who represent you;
- Ways to watchdog the movement of legislation through the committee process, and how to quickly and easily locate session hearings, relevant analysis, and committee members with influence;
- Mapping the sphere of influence around policymakers and enlisting community voices to engage them



Thank you for joining us!

Look for our next Lunch and Learn in mid January!

Questions or Follow Up: Please contact Stephen Wallace, Community Engagement and Mobilization:

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