

January 2021

Michigan's Playbook for Immediate Federal Action for Families in a New Session

The changing of a presidential administration and Congressional leadership offer an opportunity to build champions for the supports that children, youth, and families, especially those who shoulder significant burdens, will need, immediately during COVID and in the years following this crisis. The 117th Congress and President-elect Joe Biden will face pressure to meet critical needs left unaddressed or under-addressed by the December 2020 [federal stimulus and appropriations deal](#).

The president traditionally receives “transition memos” from advocates that offer issues to consider in the early days of an administration, but Michigan’s Congressional delegation also are responsible for prioritizing actions early on in the new session, especially in the event of additional stimulus effort, that will stabilize Michigan’s families and ensure that children and youth may continue to grow and thrive:

Strengthening Families Through Immediate Stimulus Action

- Support safe, stable, affordable housing through \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, \$26 billion for 500,000 new Housing Choice Vouchers, and \$11.5 billion in homeless assistance.
- Provide \$1.5 billion in emergency spending for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.
- One-time funding for programs that will help strengthen families against increased stress, including \$1 billion for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grants, \$500 million in funds for state grants for enhanced child protective services, \$10 million for the Court Improvement Program; and improved flexibility for state match funds and program models for kinship care.
- Enact a \$1 billion increase to enhance family child welfare services through Title IV-B, Part 2, the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF).
- Provide \$1 billion in emergency funding for adult education programs for parents who lack a high school diploma but are experiencing employment transition.
- Support direct action to improve the financial circumstances of America’s youth and families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC), as well as through additional Economic Impact Payments and extensions to the Payroll Protection Program and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) eligibility.
- Enact a 15% boost to the SNAP maximum benefit & increase minimum monthly benefit to \$30.
- Extend the national eviction moratorium past January 31.
- Extend the availability of emergency paid sick days and paid family leave, including expanding these programs to include recovering from or caring for someone with COVID-19, through 2021.

Ensuring Ready Learners Through Immediate Stimulus Action

- Pass \$57 billion to stabilize and support the child care sector through the crisis, as well as \$11.2 billion through FY 2021 to cover rising need for Early Head Start/Head Start programs, with a set aside for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start.

- Enact \$100 million for evidence-based home visiting and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home-Visiting program (MIECH-V).
- \$500 million increase for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for early developmental intervention for families, and \$400 million for Section 504.
- Dedicate \$50 million to improve access to early childhood mental health supports, including \$25 million in funding for the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Grant Program and \$25 million to establish a federal workforce development program.

Supporting Thriving Students Through Immediate Stimulus Action

- Support an immediate increase of dedicated funding for students and families with disabilities through IDEA, including Part B at \$11 billion.
- Appropriate \$12 billion to address student connectivity needs through the E-rate program, and fund infrastructure enhancements to expand high-speed internet access in rural and tribal communities. Provide funding for internet access and devices for students experiencing homelessness, foster care, or other temporary settings.
- Ensure out-of-school learning supports for families in need with a one-time emergency investment of \$500 million to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) program.
- Enact supplemental, emergency funding of \$1 billion for Title III in COVID relief to support the unique needs of English learners during the pandemic, including for parent programming.

Helping Youth Transition Successfully to Adulthood Through Immediate Stimulus Action

- Dedicate funding to provide the following supports to transition-age youth to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic including safe housing, direct financial assistance, service coordination, health and behavioral health services, child care, and assistance finding and maintaining employment and thriving in higher education and training.
- Increase funding for permanent affordable housing for youth, especially for pregnant and parenting youth, foster youth, and youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Finally, two critical needs must be met to ensure that the State of Michigan and its local bodies have the fiscal strength to fill in gaps that arise from final federal stimulus decisions and increased population needs due to the pandemic:

- State and local government aid to help states fill in the gaps
- Continue and further FMAP increases