



Date: February 24, 2021
To: Michigan State Legislative Appropriations Leaders
RE: Key Child, Youth, and Family Issues in FY21 Supplemental Priorities

Michigan's elected officials are in a position to appropriate significant federal and state revenues to meet the essential needs of children, youth, and families during this pandemic and economic crisis. We write to urge your immediate passage of a FY21 supplemental budget that meets the needs of children, youth, and families in Michigan until October 1. We are happy to meet with your team to discuss the urgency of any of the following issues:

Child Care

Child care is an essential service that is both inaccessible for many working families and currently untenable as a business model for many care providers at their low wages and high stress levels. Families will need quality, affordable care to go back to work. To create more child care slots for the 50 percent of families who qualify but do not receive the state child care subsidy, we can incentivize the system with higher provider reimbursement rates and payment shifts that are based on enrollment rather than attendance.

Covering the cost of parent co-pays will improve affordability. Michigan must immediately pass a supplemental budget that allocates all available federal child care funds and that invests state revenues into this essential public service.

Out of School Time Learning Programs (OST)

OST programs have been in high demand from families and at this critical time, they're essential for addressing student mental health, closing the learning opportunity gap, and ensuring child safety for working families. So families can access OST programs this summer, state funding for OST programs must be passed immediately, which will allow for programs to hire and train staff, conduct sufficient family outreach, and build partnerships for quality programming. \$15 million is needed for immediate program relief and \$60 million is needed to expand summer programs.

Rental Assistance

Michigan's Eviction Diversion Program has been a success at keeping families strong and stable: evictions across the state were down 40% last Fall when compared to the previous year, but funding for this program has run out. The federal government appropriated over \$600 million in rental assistance funds for Michigan, 65% of which must be spent by September 30 or be returned unspent. Full federal rental assistance funding available to Michigan must be released in appropriations immediately through the FY21 supplemental

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