



Governor Whitmer's Budget Proposal Kicks off Budget Season in Lansing

Governor Whitmer's presentation of her FY2023 budget plan to the Legislature this week marks the official beginning of the state's budget process.

The highlights of Governor Whitmer's budget proposal include [many programs that Michigan's voters value](#):

- Significantly increased funding for K-12 education
- A teacher and education professional retention program
- Increased funding for pre-K and Early On
- Annual state funding for afterschool programs
- Significant funding to increase mental health supports and services for children
- A large increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit and bonus pay for many essential frontline workers

One notable omission from the Governor's budget proposal that is of interest to Michigan's likely voters is the allocation of necessary state resources to strengthen the state's child care system, an issue that's emerged as a top economic and social problem plaguing employers, providers and working parents across Michigan.

For years our state government has been plagued by underinvestment which has allowed essential public goods and services including our schools, our mental health system, and our child welfare system to languish, leaving children, youth and families who shoulder significant challenges unable to take advantage of opportunities and contribute to our society and economy. Our child care system ranks highly on this list of underinvested needs. Michigan can afford to strengthen all of these systems, and we need our elected leaders in all branches of government to commit to doing so.

The focus now shifts to the Legislature, as they will begin the process of crafting their FY2023 budget which will ultimately be sent to the Governor. State leaders have a historic opportunity with roughly \$7 billion in surplus funds available due to a combination of federal Covid-19 relief dollars and increased state revenues. This opportunity cannot be wasted as many critical supports and services for children and families have been underfunded for years by our state government. The Governor and the Legislature must rise to the occasion and ultimately enact a state spending plan that truly prioritizes the needs of the children and families in Michigan that have been under-supported for decades.

In coming weeks, we will be detailing these spending priorities, what they mean for the children, youth and families we care about, in Budget Basics reports, a [budget-focused Lunch & Learn program](#) on February 23, and in our next Speaking for Kids podcast. Join us then as we continue to explore next steps for moving these issues forward.