Michigan Department of Human Services

Assists children, families and vulnerable adults to be safe, stable and self-supporting

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Family Independence Program (FIP)

FIP is Michigan's public assistance (welfare) program, providing cash assistance to families meeting income and eligibility requirements. Together, DHS and the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth administer the Jobs, Education & Training (JET) program, helping FIP clients achieve self-sufficiency by assessing work readiness, overcoming barriers to employment, and providing the education, training, and supports necessary to obtain and sustain employment. Funding is both state and federal. Contact: Local DHS offices.

Food Assistance Program (FAP)

The Food Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps) provides benefits to eligible low-income families and individuals to raise food purchasing power and help improve nutritional health. Benefits are 100 percent federally funded and administrative costs are shared equally between the state and the federal governments. Contact: Local DHS offices.

State Disability Assistance (SDA)

The SDA program provides financial assistance to disabled persons who are not eligible for the FIP program (i.e., single adults and childless couples). This program is entirely state-funded. Contact: Local DHS offices.

State Emergency Relief (SER)

This program provides temporary financial help to needy persons faced with emergency situations that (1) threaten health and safety, and (2) can be resolved with the SER payment. Payments are made for the minimum amount necessary to resolve the emergency. The program is funded with both state and federal funds. Contact: Local DHS offices.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

This program provides assistance to disadvantaged households in meeting the costs of energy. Assistance can be through Michigan's Home Heating Tax Credit, crisis assistance payments for those facing energy emergencies, and energy related home repair. The program is funded with both state and federal funds. Contacts: Local DHS offices or Home Heating Energy Assistance 1-800-292-5650 or the Home Heating Credit at 1-800-827-4000.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

This is a federal program which provides a monthly payment to low income individuals who are aged, blind or disabled. Applications are made at Social Security offices throughout the state. Under agreement with the federal government, DHS Disability Determination Services makes the disability determination for SSI on behalf of the federal government. The federal government funds the program; however, the state supplements the payments. Contacts: Local Social Security Administration offices or the Social Security Administration at (800) 772-1213.

Child Development and Care (CDC, formerly Child Day Care)

CDC benefits are provided for eligible families when the parent, legal guardian, or other caretaker is unavailable to provide child care because of employment, educational activities, or a health or social condition for which treatment is being received. Families receiving FIP benefits may receive CDC benefits to support their employment. When the care is provided outside the home, the child care provider must be licensed and payments are made directly to the provider. The program is funded with both state and federal funds. Contact: Local DHS offices.

Child Support Program

The DHS Bureau of Child Support is Michigan's Title IV-D child support agency. Through a partnership with local friends of the court and county prosecutors, the Bureau of Child Support provides paternity establishment, child support order establishment, health insurance obligation establishment, order enforcement, and collection and distribution services to custodial parents and families. The program is federally, state and locally funded. Contacts: Office of Child Support at (517) 373-9202 or the local friend of the court.

Medicaid
Medicaid provides medical assistance to individuals and families who meet the financial and non-financial eligibility factors. The goal of the program is to ensure essential health care services for those who otherwise could not afford them. The Department of Community Health administers the program and the Department of Human Services determines eligibility and implements the program. Contact: Local DHS offices.

Youth in Transition (YIT)
YIT is a funding source available to eligible foster youths or youths exiting the foster care system. These funds can be used to pay for educational needs, job training, independent living skills training, self-esteem counseling, and other supports to equip teens with the skills necessary to function as successful adults. Contact: Local DHS offices.

Educational Training Vouchers (ETVs)
ETVs are scholarships awarded to eligible youths and youths were adopted out of the abuse/neglect/foster care system after their 16th birthday. These awards provide up to $5,000 per year for costs related to attendance at accredited post-secondary educational programs or training. Contacts: Lutheran Social Services of Michigan at (877) 660-METV.

SERVICES PROGRAMS

Adoption Services & Adoption Subsidy
The goal of Michigan's Adoption Services Program is to find permanent adoptive placements for foster children as soon as possible following termination of parental rights. Whenever possible, these adoptive placements are with families that have existing relationships or attachments to the children, and where it is possible to keep siblings together. The DHS Adoption Program is responsible for the Central Adoption Registry, which maintains statements from birth parents consenting to or denying access to identifying information in adoption records. The Adoption Subsidy program provides financial support and/or medical subsidy to adoptive families to support the placement of children in Michigan's foster care program who have special needs. The programs are funded with a combination of federal and state dollars. Contacts: Local DHS offices, DHS Adoption Services at (517) 373-3513 (requests for information on closed adoption records), Adoption Subsidy Program at (517) 373-3513, Michigan Children's Institute Superintendent at (517) 373-3594, and Safe Delivery hotline at (866) 733-7733.

Adult Services
Programs include: Adult Community Placement and Adult Foster Care, assisting persons who cannot live independently in finding appropriate living arrangements; Home Help and Physical Disability Services (co-administered by the Department of Community Health), providing payments for personal care assistance and medically necessary equipment and services for eligible individuals; HIV Advocacy and Insurance Assistance; Migrant Services; and the Refugee Assistance Program. Funding is both state and federal. Contacts: Local DHS offices for Adult Services, (313) 256-1380 or 1-877-FIA-AIDS for HIV information, (517) 373-3567 for Migrant Services, and (517) 241-7824 for Refugee Services.

Adult Protective Services (APS)
The goal of the APS program is to protect vulnerable adults (18 or older) who are at risk of harm due from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Funding is primarily state. Contacts: Local DHS emergency number listed in the phone book or the family violence help line at 1-800-99 NO ABUSE.

Child Abuse Prevention and Family Preservation Services
Prevention services and family preservation services are a collaborative effort between DHS and many partners at the state and local level. At the local level, multi-purpose collaborative bodies work with DHS to provide services. Funding is both state and federal. Contacts: Local DHS offices or the Division of Community Supportive Services at (517) 373-3465.

Children's Foster Care
This program provides placement, supervision, and permanency planning for children who are temporary or permanent court or state wards. The department's first priority is to provide services that will keep children safe in their own homes when that is possible. When children must come into the foster care system to ensure their safety, the department works with families and community partners in a team approach to safety planning, and make every effort to keep the child with relatives or others who have existing relationships with the children, near family and schools, and together with siblings. The department makes every effort to assure that

no child leaves the foster care system without a permanent attachment to a loving adult, through adoption, guardianship, or other permanent connection. Foster care services are provided through a partnership between DHS and private non-profit licensed child placing agencies. Funding is both state and federal. Contact: Local DHS offices.

Children's Protective Services (CPS)
CPS receives and investigates allegations of child abuse or neglect by a parent, legal guardian, or adult who lives in the same home as the child; assesses the safety and risk to the child; and intervenes appropriately. DHS has only investigative authority; enforcement authority is with the police and courts. Anyone may make a complaint if abuse or neglect is suspected. The identity of the reporting person is confidential. Funding is both state and federal. Contacts: Local DHS emergency number listed in the phone book or the Child Abuse toll free line at (800)942-4357.

Family Resource Centers
The Family Resource Centers are DHS service centers placed within schools to coordinate services according to the goals developed and shared by the family, community, school and other agencies involved. These centers serve as a "one stop shop" for family services located within or near a neighborhood school. Currently, there are 54 Family Resource Centers statewide. Contact: Family Resource Center office at (517) 241-5718.

Juvenile Justice
The Juvenile Justice program has responsibility for youths between the ages of 12 and 21 who have violated the law and are committed to DHS by the court. Based on an assessment of each youth and their need for security, they are placed in either community-based settings, a private residential facility or a DHS operated residential facility. Funding is both state and federal. Contacts: Local DHS offices or the DHS Office of Juvenile Justice (517) 335-3489 or for Education Services for youths in DHS juvenile justice programs at (517) 335-1438.

Michigan Children's Institute (MCI)
The Michigan Children's Institute was created to assure the proper care of children needing services from the state. The law established the MCI superintendent as the legal guardian for children committed to MCI when parental rights have been terminated. Contact: Michigan Children's Institute at (517) 335-6421.

Migrant Services
Migrant Services coordinates services to over 90,000 migrant agricultural workers and family members every year through 11 regional Migrant Resource Councils and the Michigan Interagency Migrant Services Committee. Contact: Local DHS offices or Migrant Services at (517) 335-6432.

Native American Affairs and Indian Outreach
Native American Affairs and Indian Outreach coordinates implementation of federal and state laws, including the Indian Child Welfare Act, to support, protect and strengthen Native American children and their families. Develops programs and policy and coordinates resources, advocacy, training, and technical assistance. The office also provides information and referral to health, education, employment, training, and housing opportunities. Contact: Native American Affairs & Indian Outreach at (517) 335-7782.

Refugee Services
Refugee Services coordinates a variety of services to eligible refugees. Services include reception and placement, short-term cash and medical assistance, comprehensive employment services, foster care for unaccompanied minors, and initial health screenings. Contact: Refugee Services at (517) 241-7819.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Services Program
The Runaway and Homeless Youth Services program provides services to runaway and homeless youths, and when appropriate, to their families. Services are provided through contracts with private agencies. Contact: Runaway and Homeless Youth Services Program at 1-800-292-4517.

Teen Parent Program
The Teen Parent program provides comprehensive coordinated services to teen parents in 18 counties to assist in meeting the health and developmental needs of their children. Education, training, and employment services are provided to enhance teen parents' capacity to independently provide for themselves and their children. Contact: Teen Parent Program at (517) 335-6199.

Volunteer Services

Volunteer Services recruits, trains, and places volunteers for direct or indirect services to DHS clients or as administrative support for the department. Community Resource Coordinators mobilize and develop community resources and develop opportunities for community service for DHS employees. Contact: Volunteer Services at (517) 335-0641

REGULATORY

Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing (BCAL)

BCAL conducts onsite evaluations to determine compliance with state law and licensing rules, consults with child welfare organization to improve the quality of service, and investigates complaints alleging administrative rules or statute violations. BCAL regulates child welfare agencies, foster parents, child development and care providers, juvenile court operated facilities, adult foster care facilities, homes for the aged, and camps for children or adults. Contact: Local DHS offices or the Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing at (517) 241-5462.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity

The Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO) was established to reduce the causes, conditions, and effects of poverty. BCAEO administers Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Department of Energy (DOE) weatherization funding, and provides oversight, training, and technical assistance to a network of 30 Community Action Agencies and 2 limited purpose agencies throughout the state. Contact: The bureau at (517) 241-4871.

Children's Trust Fund

A 15-member State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, which raises and distributes funds to local child abuse prevention direct service providers. Contact: Children's Trust Fund at (517) 373-4320.

Committee on Juvenile Justice

A 23-member committee that implements the federal Juvenile Justice Prevention Act. The committee ensures the state's compliance with the federal law's core requirements for juveniles and authorizes grants of about $4 million per year from the federal government to local communities for delinquency prevention. Contact: Office of Juvenile Justice at (517) 335-6128.

Domestic Violence Prevention & Treatment Board

A 7-member multi-disciplinary board which distributes state and federal money to local domestic violence programs and shelters, provides education and training on domestic violence, and coordinates with state and local entities working with families in which domestic violence is present. Contacts: the Board office at (517) 335-6388, the family violence help line 1-800-99 NO ABUSE, Domestic Violence hotline 1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD LINE), or the local domestic violence program.

Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC)

ECIC coordinates implementation of the state's comprehensive early childhood development system. A public non-profit corporation, ECIC works to ensure the most efficient and effective use of federal, state, and local funds for early childhood programs; to increase public awareness of the need to make Michigan's youngest children among our highest investment priorities, and to build local early childhood systems through 21 local Great Start Collaboratives. Contact: ECIC at (517) 371-9000.

Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice

A 29-member multi-disciplinary entity that implements the federal Children's Justice Act. The task force reviews Michigan's investigative, administration and judicial handling of child abuse, particularly child sexual abuses and makes recommendations for law revisions and system improvements. The task force also develops model programs for statewide implementation. All funds are federal. Contact: (517) 373-9171.

Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC)
MCSC provides vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. MCSC provides more than $6.2 million in federal funds to community programs and activities; funds 21 AmeriCorps programs and 33 Learn programs. The MCSC also operates the Governor's Mentor Michigan program. Contact: MCSC at (517)335-4295.

Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition
A seven-member coalition required by federal law to implement the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant. The coalition develops a coordinated enforcement plan for reducing juvenile crime and authorizes approximately $5 million per year in grants to local governments. Contact: Office of Juvenile Justice (517) 241-7497.