



mlpp

Michigan's Next Chapter: Policy Solutions to Improve Outcomes for All

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MICHIGAN LEAGUE FOR PUBLIC POLICY
110 Years of Changing Lives Through Research & Advocacy

About

The Michigan League for Public Policy is a nonpartisan policy institute dedicated to economic opportunity for all. It is the only state-level organization that addresses poverty in a comprehensive way and analyzes the impact of state and federal budgets and policies on residents with low incomes. All of the League's work is done through a racial equity lens.



The League has been working for more than 100 years on the issues people care about:

Empowering
Families with
Young
Children

Creating
Economic
Opportunity
for All

Advocating
for Strong
Revenues
and Smart
Investments

Promoting
Skills for the
New
Economy

Strengthening
Healthy Kids
and Families



Our Mission

The League uses data to educate, advocate and fight for policy solutions that undo historic and systemic racial and economic inequities to lift up Michiganders who have been left out of prosperity.



Our Vision

Michigan residents, families and children from all races, places and income levels will have equal access to economic, health and educational opportunities.



Our Values

Equity • Diversity • Inclusion • Honesty • Integrity • Nonpartisanship • Social, Racial and Economic Justice • Fairness and Opportunity • Democratic Process • Dignity of All • Community Voice

The League's Nonpartisan Approach



DATA

We follow the numbers to see what Michigan can do better for kids, adults and families.



COMMUNITY

We listen to the people at the center of our work with a dedicated community engagement team.



ADVOCACY

We develop and fight for policy solutions that lift up Michiganders who have historically been left out of prosperity.

We seek to shift power, policy, and resources to solve racial inequities and pursue justice.

Kids Count in Michigan



Kids Count

Measure child well-being at the state and local levels and use that information to shape public policies and programs to improve the lives of children, young adult and their families.

Frames

Race, place and income matter:
equity

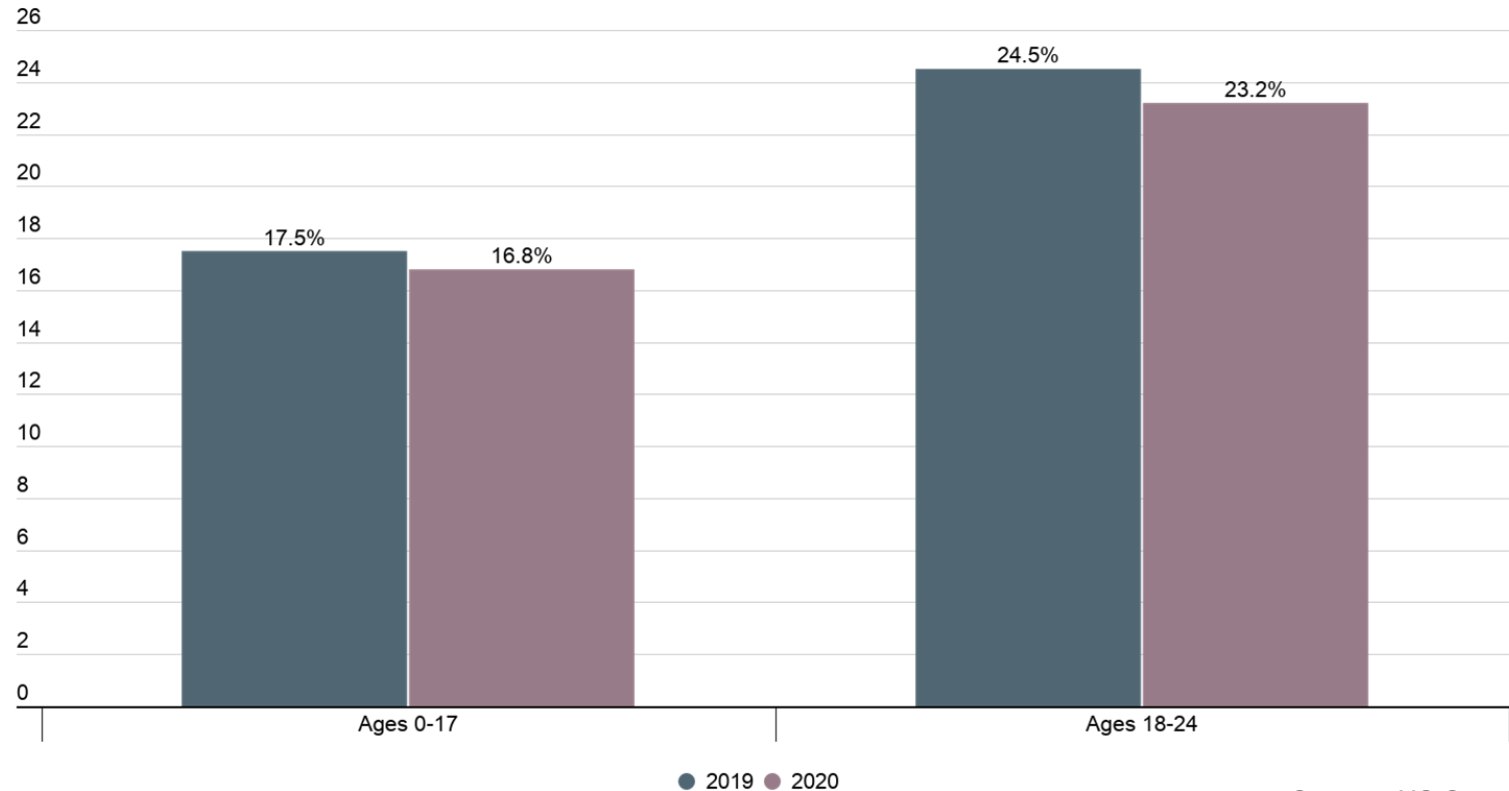
Help the parents, help the child:
multi-generational approach

Connected to communities across the state and also part of a national network of Kids Count organizations

Kids Count in Michigan

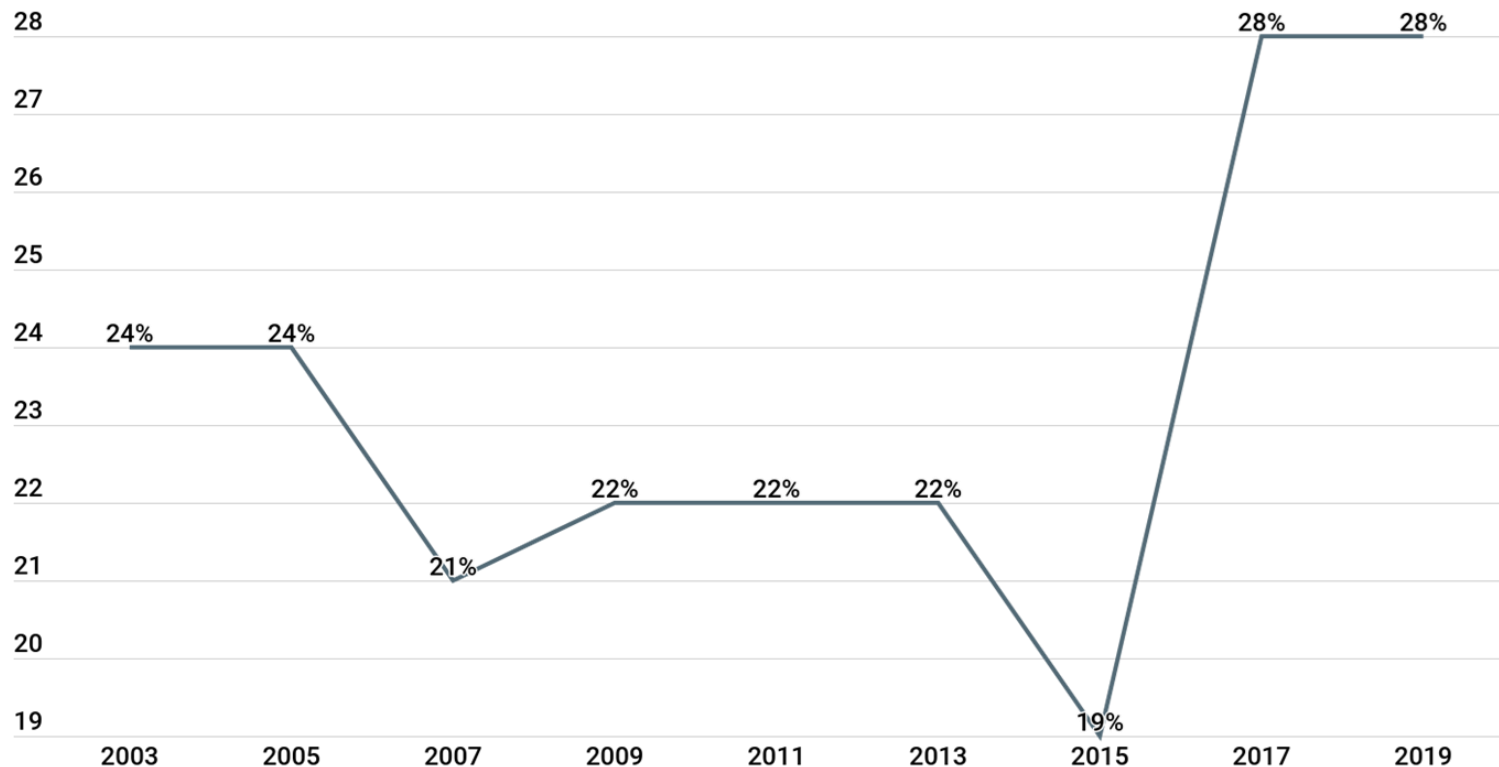
Economic Security	Education	Health and Safety	Family and Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Children in Poverty● Households in Poverty & ALICE● Children Receiving Free and Reduced Price Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3 & 4 Year Olds Enrolled in Preschool● Students in Special Education● Graduation Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Children with Health Insurance● Child Mortality Rates● Mental Health Provider Ratios	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Births to Teens● Abuse/Neglect Indicators● Children with Internet at home

Spotlight on Economic Security: Child & Young Adult Poverty Decreases During Pandemic; Over 550k Still in Poverty



Source: US Census Bureau

Spotlight on Education: Michigan was 4th Highest in Country for 4th Grade Chronic Absenteeism in 2019



Source: US Dept of Education

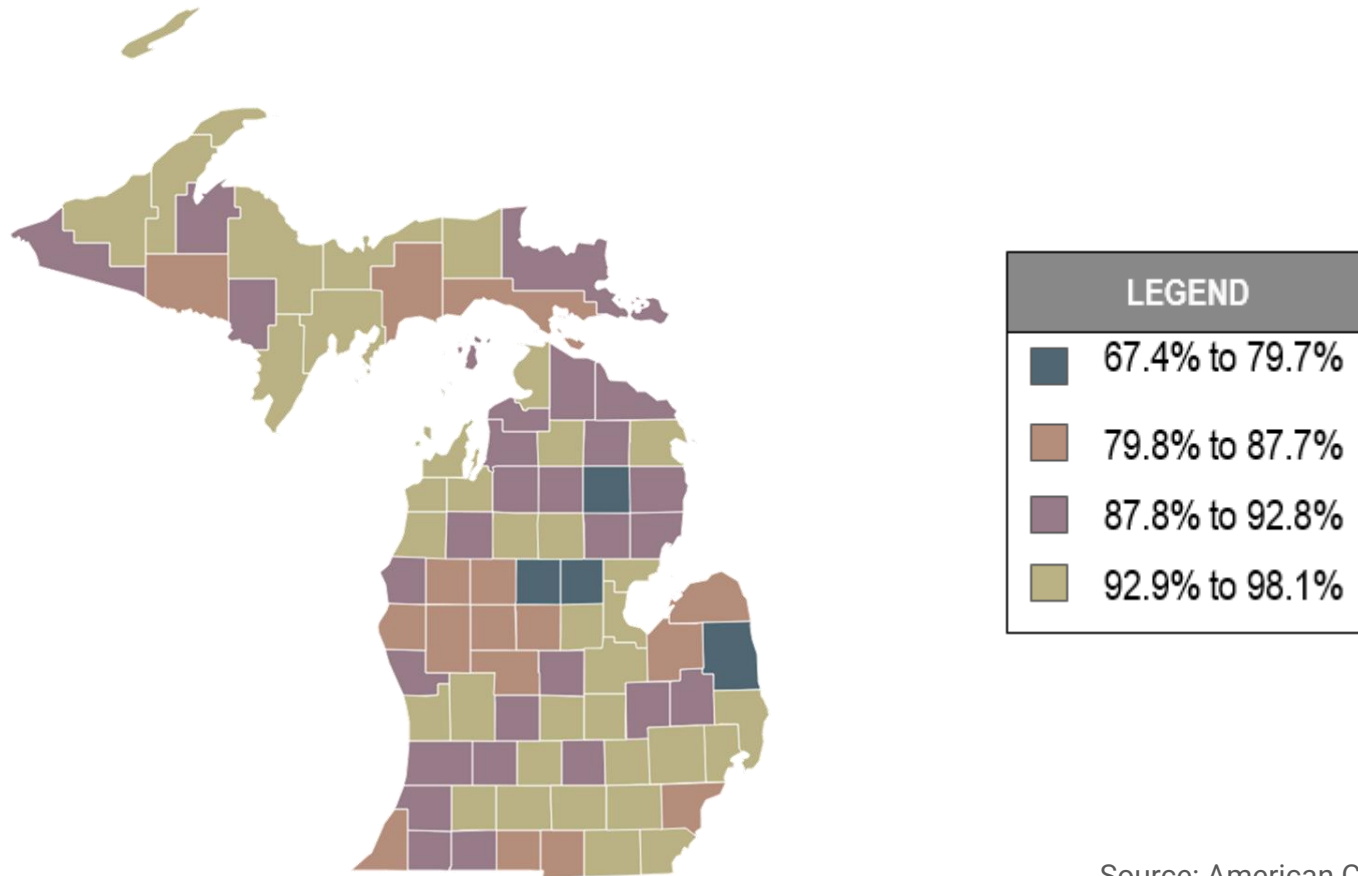
Spotlight on Health and Safety: Michigan a National Leader in Children's Health Insurance Coverage with 97% Coverage in 2019



In 2019, before COVID-19, 38% of kids insured by public health plan.

Employer-sponsored health plan	Federal or state health plan	Uninsured
54% (1,225,000)	38% (855,000)	3% (78,000)

Spotlight on Family and Community: the digital divide in 2020



Source: American Community Survey

Kids Count Data Book

<https://mlpp.org/kids-count/2021databook/>

View the Data Book

View the Data Profiles

Key Data Maps

**Key Findings and
Recommendations**

**Resources for
Advocates**



RESOURCES



Budget Analysis



Policy Reports, Briefs & Infographics



Fact sheets



Data and other technical assistance

Localized Data



Click on a button below to use our interactive maps and find data by county or legislative districts.

Immigrant Information by County

Census Data by County

Kids Count Data on Families and Children

Census Data by Congressional/Legislative Districts

Earned Income Tax Credit Data by County

Census Data by Selected Cities

Opportunity Zones by Census Tract

Our Priorities

Incorporate racial equity within all our goals and activities.

Make affordable, high-quality child care available to working parents.

Ensure that all Michiganders have access to healthcare.

Make Michigan a welcoming state for immigrants.

Make sure all Michiganders can meet basic needs.

Strengthen public education at all levels, from pre-K to adult education.

Reform the criminal justice system to reduce racial and economic disparities.

Strengthen public education at all levels, from Pre-K to Postsecondary.

Ensure that Michigan has adequate revenues to invest in an economy that works for all.

Improve access to healthy foods and support child nutrition

Pandemic emergency SNAP allotments ended at the start of March, resulting in a loss of between \$95 and \$250 in benefits for 1.3 million Michiganders

How to help support food access in the wake of this loss:

- ✓ Allocate state funds to maintain higher SNAP benefit levels
- ✓ Support the Double Up Food Bucks Program
- ✓ Provide free school meals for all school-aged students
- ✓ Maintain funding for the Ten Cents a Meal program, a competitive grant program to support schools and child care centers in purchasing Michigan-grown produce

SNAP serves a wide range of families in Michigan

Michigan Families That Use SNAP

More than



2 in 5 include children

More than



1 in 3 include someone age
60 or older

More than



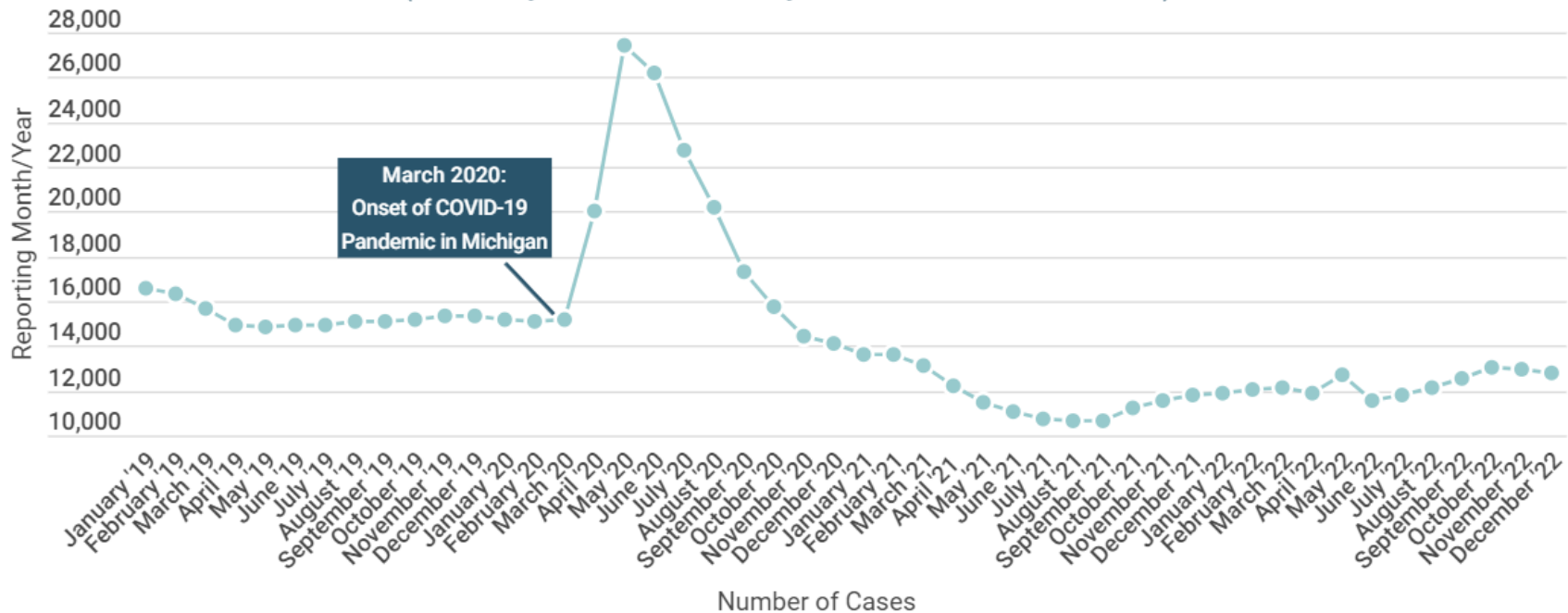
1 in 2 include someone with
a disability

Median household income: \$21,338

Source: [American Community Survey, 2016-2020 5-Year Estimates](#)

Despite COVID Hardship, FIP Caseloads Are Now Lower Than Pre-Pandemic

(Monthly Cases, January 2019-December 2022)



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Ruark, Peter, *RAISE THE STANDARD: Revitalize the Family Independence Program to Help More Michigan Families Reach Financial Stability*, Michigan League for Public Policy, February 2023.

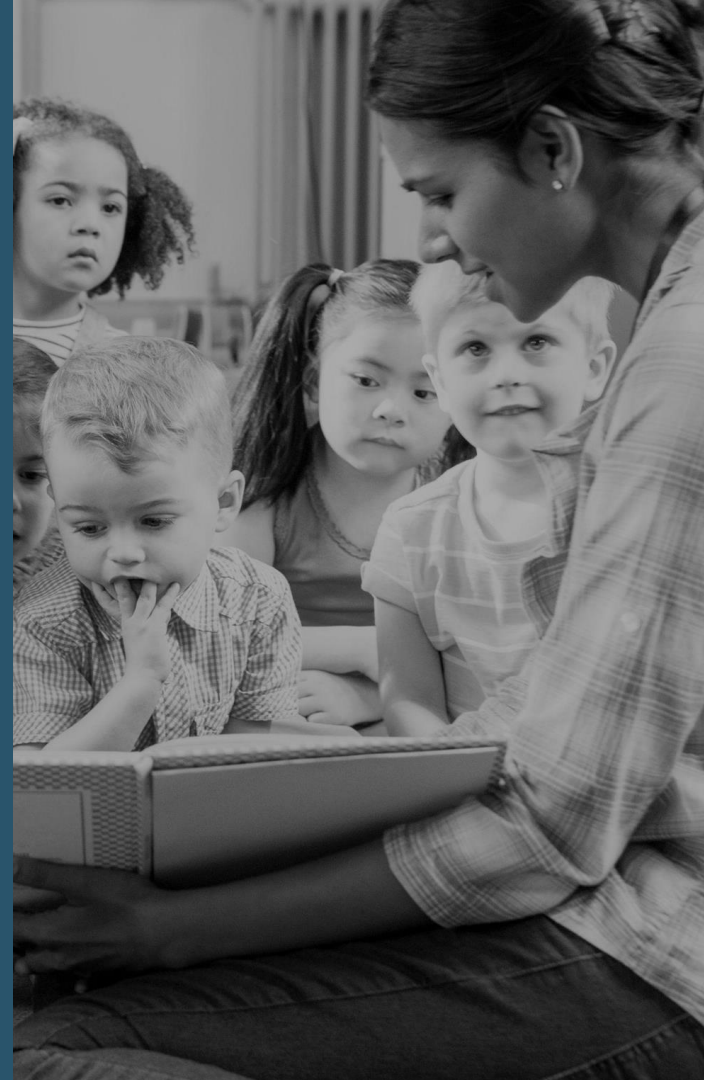
Help meet the basic needs of Michigan's families, children and workers

Make long-term improvements to Michigan's cash assistance safety net to make it more responsive to Michiganders' needs during economic cycles by:

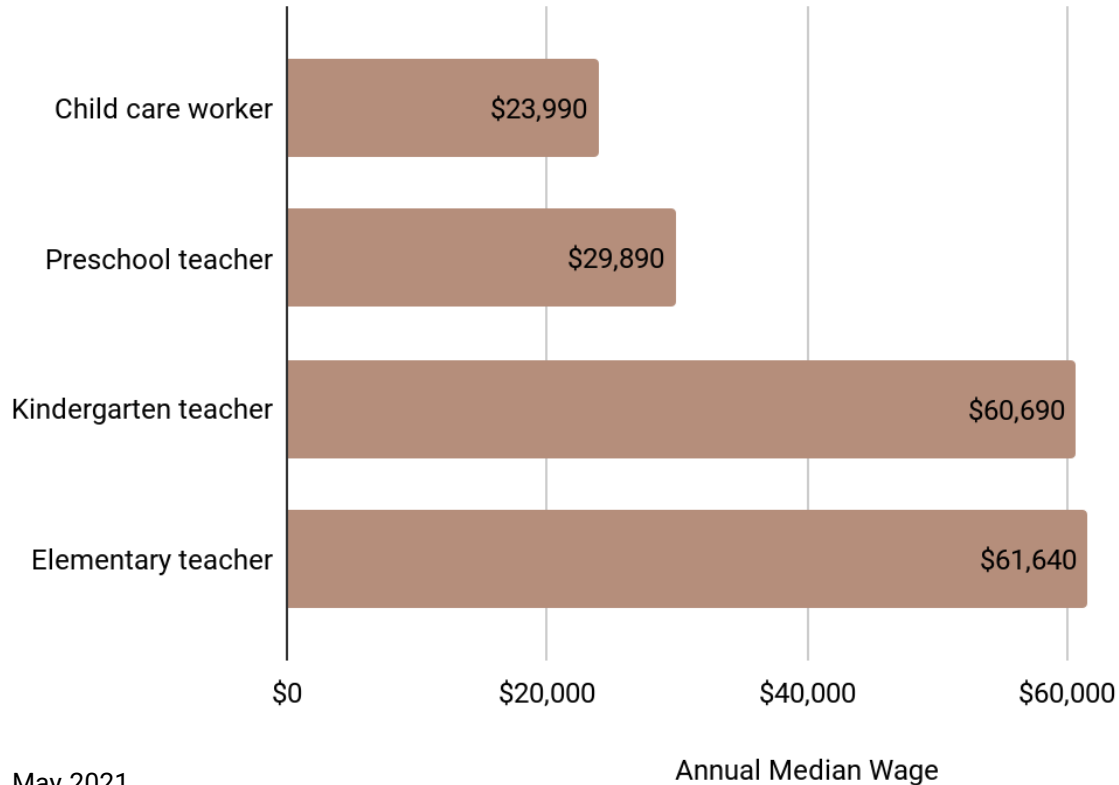
- ✓ Raising the payment standard, which will increase the benefit and the household income eligibility level. To free up TANF dollars for this purpose, the funding source for state financial aid programs primarily serving students from middle-class and affluent families should be shifted to the General Fund.
- ✓ Reinstating the time limit clockstoppers that were in place prior to 2011.
- ✓ Removing the drug felony ban, similar to what was accomplished for SNAP.
- ✓ Removing the asset test. State law currently requires the state to limit access to cash assistance to claimants that have in excess of a specific amount of assets. Administrative policy has this currently set at \$15,000.

Help Michigan families find high-quality, affordable child care and support child care workers

- ✓ Maximize state and federal investments: sustain current investments and expand both eligibility and provider payments.
- ✓ Eliminate the requirement that families must initiate child support to qualify for subsidies.
- ✓ Maintain and improve provider payments by paying based on enrollment rather than attendance and paying prospectively.
- ✓ Develop a strategy to improve child care worker compensation.



The younger the child, the lower the workforce is paid



Source: BLS, OEWS, May 2021



Other items we are watching and working on

- ✔ Monitor the unwinding of the public health emergency: Impact on Medicaid recipients
- ✔ ICHIA Option: Waive the 5-year waiting period for Medicaid and CHIP for lawfully residing children and pregnant people and provide more comprehensive coverage to individuals in the Maternity Outpatient Medical Services (MOMS) program.
- ✔ Provide multi-year continuous coverage to kids and 12-month continuous coverage to adults enrolled in Medicaid.
- ✔ Protect Michiganders from environmental health threats by investing in local health departments and implementation of the Filter First program.
- ✔ Invest in behavioral health, both in schools and in general practice.

Thank you! Please contact us with any questions you may have.

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