

MDHHS: FY21 Budget Executive Recommendation

Economic Stability Administration

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Economic Stability Administration

Pursuant to the mission and vision of the Department, the Economic Stability Administration (ESA) oversees the local MDHHS offices that provide:

- Food Assistance, Medical Assistance, childcare, cash benefits, etc. for families and individuals in need
- Supportive Services such as employment and training

ESA is also responsible for the oversight of the following Central Office Units:

- Disability Determination Services, which is responsible for determining disability eligibility for state and federal programs
- Office of Child Support, which is responsible for Child Support enforcement

Pathways to Potential

- Targets five outcome areas: attendance, education, health, safety & self-sufficiency
- MDHHS caseworkers assigned directly to schools to connect families with resources at **304 schools in 42 counties**
- In August 2018, MDHHS released Pathways to Potential report: www.michigan.gov/pathwaystopotential
- Statistics for the 2017-2018 school year:
 - **90,815 students served** by Pathways to Potential success coaches
 - **142,846 total student and family interventions** with 67,248 of the student interventions related to student attendance
 - **19.3%** of Pathways to Potential schools **decreased chronic absenteeism** in the 2017-18 school year from the school's corresponding baseline year
 - **13.2%** of Pathways to Potential schools **decreased the rate of chronic absenteeism by 10% or more**



Family Independence Program

- TANF-funded program
- Helps families achieve self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on public assistance
- Provides a monthly cash assistance grant for one- and two-parent families, which assists with the costs of:
 - Housing
 - Heat and other utilities
 - Food
 - Personal needs costs (clothing, household items, etc.)
- Families must meet income and asset requirements as well as other eligibility standards, including:
 - Time on assistance
 - Work participation requirements
 - School attendance and child support requirements

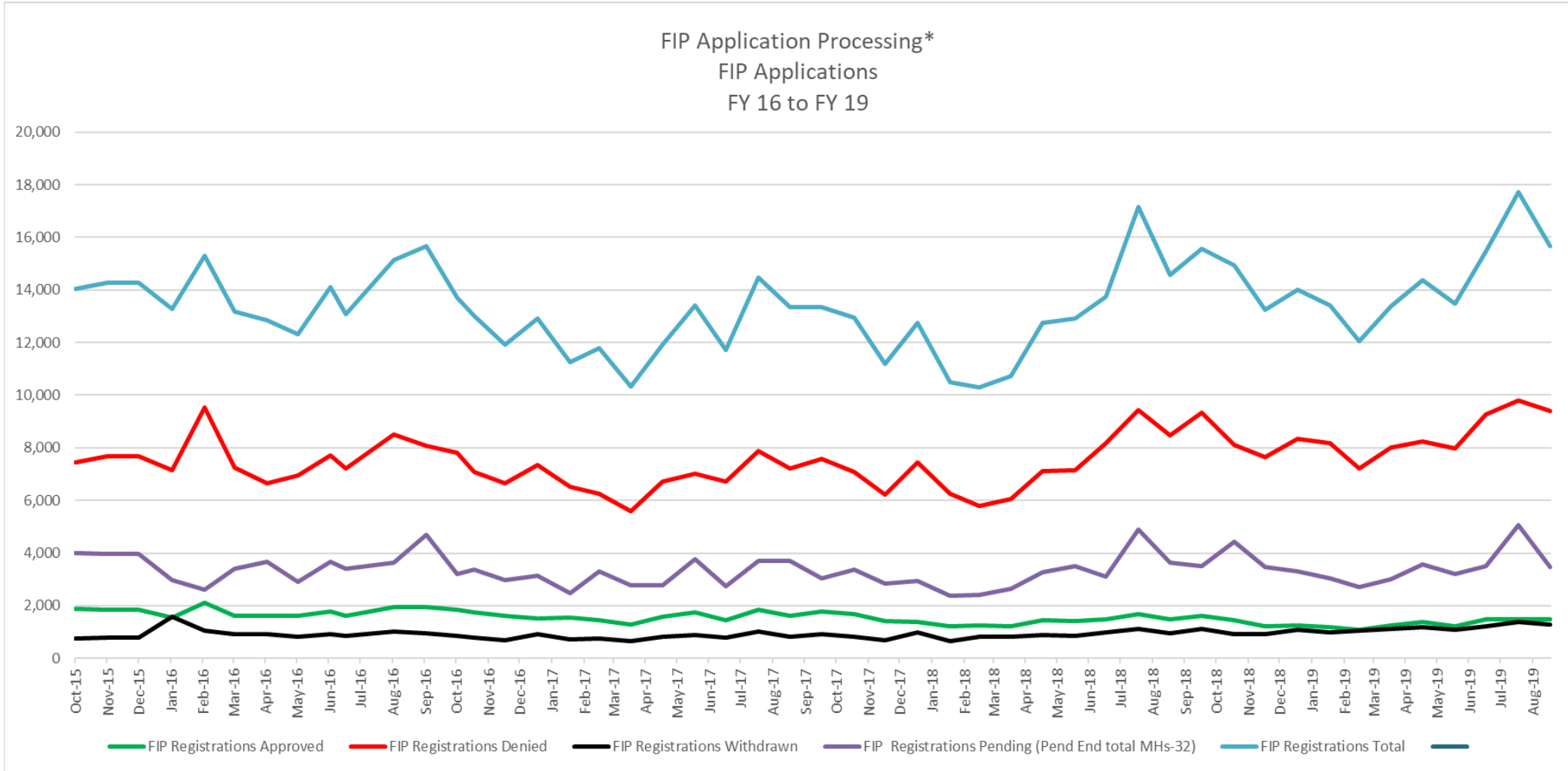
Fiscal Year 2019* Statistics

Average Monthly Payment Per Case:	\$379
Average Monthly Recipients:	36,584
Average Monthly Total Payments:	\$5,946,014

Fiscal Year 2020 Accomplishments

- The statewide Work Participation Rate (WPR) for FY19 as submitted to Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is 60.47% which far exceeds ACFs requirement of 50%
- Based on our statewide analysis, our WPR has exceeded 60% for 79 consecutive months, as of February 2020

Family Independence Program



*Source: Bridges MHS 32 Monthly Report

Food Assistance Program

- Benefits are 100% federally funded with administrative costs shared equally between the state and the federal government
- FAP benefits raise the food purchasing power of low-income persons
- Households are eligible for FAP benefits based on criteria such as:
 - Assets
 - Net income
 - Household size
 - Certain expenses

Fiscal Year 2019* Statistics

Average Monthly Payments:	\$140,636,229
Average Monthly Family Payment:	\$223 per Household; \$119 per Recipient
Average Monthly Cases:	630,851
Average Monthly Recipients:	1,180,070
Average Monthly Recipients per case:	1.87
Average Monthly Child Recipients:	478,520
Average Monthly Adult Recipients:	701,550

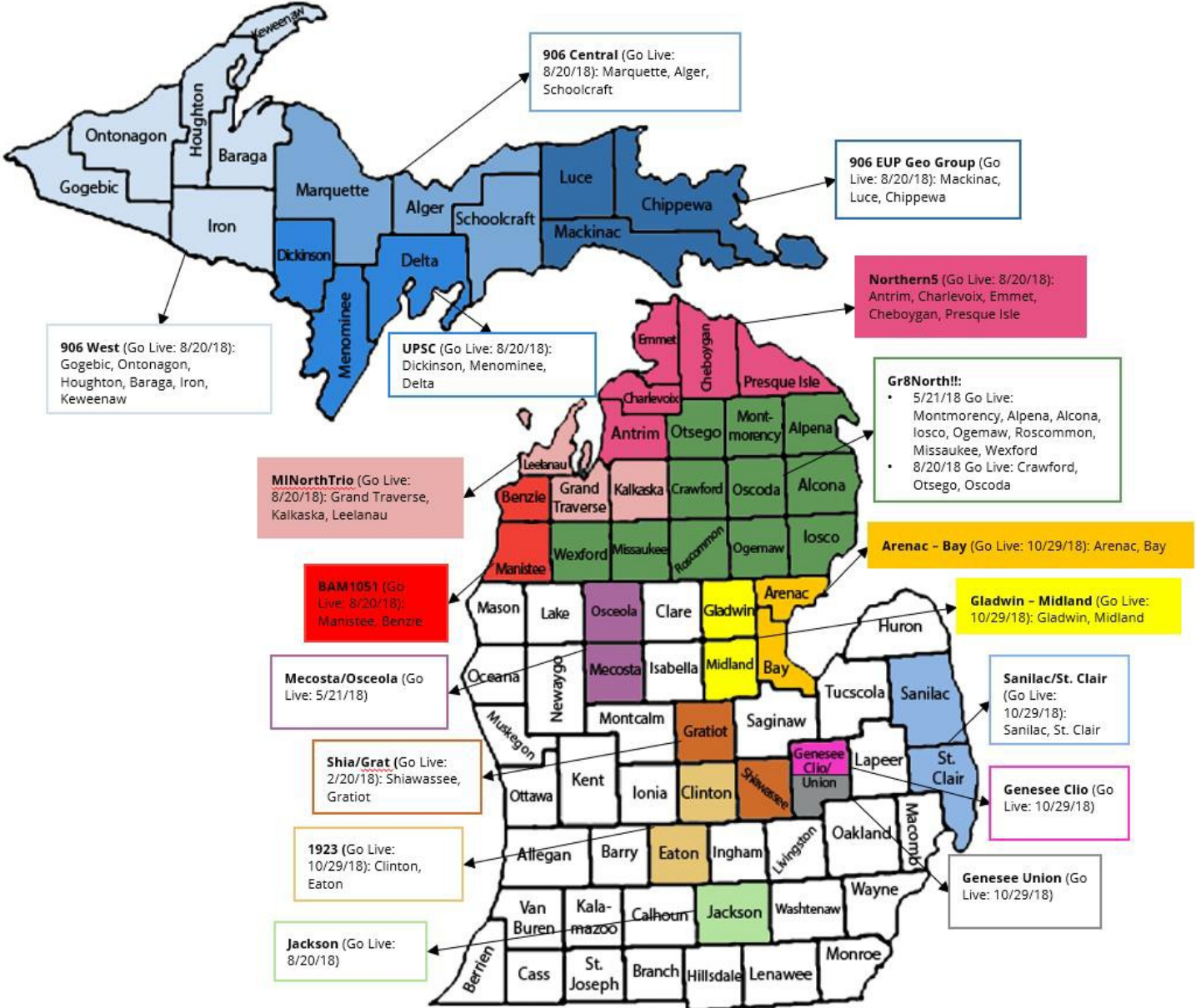
Heat & Eat

- Prior to the USDA Farm Bill of 2014, the state was able to provide Heat & Eat to all FAP cases
 - Each case received \$1 in LIHEAP
 - In 2014, LIHEAP cost was raised to over \$20 per case, making it difficult to continue the program
 - Rising costs also led to a decrease in benefits for many cases because residents were no longer allowed the full Standard Utility Allowance once they received \$1 LIHEAP
- In July 2017, a new initiative began to identify FAP recipients not receiving the full allowance because heat was included in the cost of rent
 - In July 2019, the initiative assisted **85,401** cases
 - The Fiscal Year 2020 allocation is **\$1.75 million** in LIHEAP funding for this ongoing initiative
 - Next payment will be distributed to the same population of FAP participants later this year

Universal Caseload (UCL)

- UCL lets a group of caseworkers handle pooled cases and allows call center calls to be routed to an MDHHS employee nearby
- MDHHS halted the original UCL rollout plan and will not expand it beyond the initial 50 counties at this time
- This year, the department will:
 - Continue to improve the process based on caseworker feedback
 - Test a hybrid approach with a pilot in two locations, Jackson and Bay/Arenac, beginning in April 2020
 - Make changes to the UCL phone line to better direct callers
- The goal is to continue the progress of the past year

Current UCL Counties



Universal Caseload (UCL) Backlog 1/05/2019 to 1/25/2020 weekly



State Emergency Relief (SER) Program

- Designed to assist low-income households that experience an unexpected emergency
- Some common services available through the SER program include:
 - Relocation Services
 - Home Ownership
 - Home Repairs
 - Utility Assistance
 - Burial Assistance

LIHEAP funded SER services for Fiscal Year 2019:

- SER Heat: \$26.6M
- SER Electric: \$30.3M
- Furnace Repair/Replacement: \$2.3M

Non-Energy SER Services for Fiscal Year 2019:

- SER Relocation: \$2.4M
- Water/Sewer: \$875,000
- Home Ownership: \$346,664
- Home Repairs: \$69,197
- Burials: \$3.1M

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