



# DHS BIENNIAL REPORT FY 2009-10

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
**Department  
of Human  
Services**

## MISSION

The Michigan Department of Human Services assists children, families and vulnerable adults to be safe, stable and self-supporting.

## VISION

We will:

- Reduce poverty.
- Help all children have a great start in life.
- Help our clients achieve their full potential.

## EMPLOYEES

The FY 2010 DHS budget appropriated 10,719 full-time equated positions. Most positions are located in local offices as family independence specialists, eligibility specialists, child and adult service specialists, disability examiners, clerical and investigative staff. The remaining employees provide management and support for field staff; provide support services such as data processing, policy development, personnel, financial management; and operate centrally administered programs or work in residential care facilities.

## LOCATIONS

The central administrative offices are located in Lansing. Services to clients are available through a county office network. Some of the more heavily populated areas have several district offices. For example, Wayne County has 20 district offices and Oakland County has five. Some staff serve clients through Family Resource Centers located in 49 community schools.

## INFORMATION

DHS program and service information is available via Internet at [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs).

## BUDGET

The FY 2010 budget totaled almost \$5.9 billion with more than \$3.6 billion dedicated to income assistance programs including cash, food, disability, energy and emergency assistance. More than 2.9 million Michigan residents received at least one assistance benefit from the department in FY 2010.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

For FY 2010 information on financial assistance programs, see one of these online reports located at [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs) under "News, Publications & Information":

- Under "Statistics" see Annual Report (2010 Annual Report).
- Under "Publications" see "Information Packet Pub 790 (August 2010).
- Under "Reports, Evaluations and Studies" see "Program Descriptions for FY 2010".

### Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity

Provides technical assistance and oversight to 30 community action agencies and two limited purpose agencies administering the federally-funded Community Services Block Grant, Weatherization Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program and other funding sources that flow to the local agencies through DHS.

### Child Development and Care

Pays a portion of child day care expenses for low-income families when the parent, legal guardian, or other caretaker is unavailable to provide child care due to employment, education, or a health or social condition for which treatment is being received. In FY 2010 the parents of a monthly average of 63,643 children received the child care subsidy.

### Office of Child Support

In partnership with local friends of the court and prosecuting attorneys, establishes paternity, establishes support orders, and collects and distributes child support payments through the statewide Michigan Child Support Enforcement System. Almost 966,000 children had cases in September 2010. The office distributed \$1.3 billion to families during 2010.

### Family Independence Program (FIP)

Provides cash assistance to eligible families with children. A typical FIP case is composed of one parent and two children. A family with income may be eligible if the income is less than the family's needs by FIP standards. DHS also provides in-home, family-based services that connect the family to community resources to prevent child abuse/neglect and enhance family interactions. Many FIP adults participate in the Jobs, Employment and Training, or JET, program. For more information see [www.michigan.gov/jet](http://www.michigan.gov/jet).

### Food Assistance Program (FAP)

Increases the food purchasing power of low-income households. In FY 2010, a household of four with a monthly gross income of \$3,676 or less, and net income (gross income minus allowable expenses) of less than \$2,224, qualified for benefits. Food Assistance benefits decrease as income increases. In 2010, more than 2.2 million people received benefits.

### Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Helps meet home energy costs, which includes assistance with heating, electricity and/or furnace repair or replacement. Some households may have received more than one service. LIHEAP funds for heating assistance are also available through the Home Heating Credit administered through the Michigan Department of Treasury.

### Medicaid (Medical Assistance Program)

Provides necessary health care services for FIP and SSI recipients and other low-income people who are under age 21, children in foster care and youths transitioning from foster care, caring for children, pregnant, disabled, blind, or age 65 and older. Medicaid funds are administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health. Eligibility is determined by DHS staff. About 2.2 million Michigan residents received medical benefits in 2010.

### State Disability Assistance (SDA)

Provides cash assistance to disabled adults who do not have dependent children. To qualify, a person must be unable to work for at least 90 days due to physical or mental impairment. A person with income can be eligible for SDA if his/her income is less than his/her needs by SDA standards.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

## State Emergency Relief (SER)

Provides limited assistance to individuals and families facing emergencies that threaten their health or safety. Covered services include: rent payments to avoid homelessness; house payments and property tax payments when foreclosure or tax sales are imminent; home repairs; assistance with home heating, electric, water bills and burials. DHS contracts with the Salvation Army to provide emergency shelter statewide. Anyone in need may apply for SER. Eligibility is not limited to recipients of other DHS assistance.

## Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

The Social Security Administration manages this program for people who are blind, disabled, or elderly. DHS pays a supplement to all SSI recipients. Recipients of SSI are also automatically eligible for Medicaid.

## Youth Programs

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

**Educational Training Vouchers** are scholarships awarded to YIT eligible youths and youths that were adopted from the child abuse/neglect system after their 16th birthday. These awards provide up to \$5,000 per year for costs related to attendance at accredited post-secondary education programs or training. To apply online go to <http://mietv.lssm.org/>.

# BUREAU OF CHILDREN AND ADULT LICENSING

The Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing is authorized to provide protection to vulnerable adults and children through the regulation and consultation with licensed agencies, facilities, and home. It is comprised of three divisions listed here.

For information on licensing laws, publications and information see these reports online at [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs) under "News, Publications & Information" under "Publications":

- Licensing - Adult Foster Care & Homes for the Aged.
- Licensing - Child Care.
- Licensing - Child Welfare.

For other information go to [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs) and click the "Licensing" Quick Link.

## Adult Foster Care and Homes for the Aged

Provides for the prevention of harm and the protection of vulnerable adults by licensing and regulating adult foster care homes, homes

for the aged, and specialized programs for developmentally disabled and mentally ill individuals who reside in adult foster care.

## Child Care Licensing Division

Provides for the safety and protection of children in child care through licensing and regulating facilities. The division is committed to promoting the improvement of the health, safety, and development of children in child care through technical assistance, consultation, and education to providers and the public. Child care facilities include both homes and centers as well as family and group day care homes.

## Child Welfare Licensing

Provides for the safety and protection of children in out-of-home care through licensing and regulation of facilities. Licensed organizations include child-placing agencies, child caring institutions, court operated facilities, children's foster homes, and child and adult foster care camps.

# SERVICE PROGRAMS

For FY 2010 information on services programs, please see one of these online reports located at [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs) under "News, Publications & Information":

- Under "Publications" see "Information Packet Pub 790 (August 2010).
- Under "Reports, Evaluations and Studies" see "Program Descriptions for FY 2010".

## Adoption Services

Plans and supervises adoptive placement of permanent state or DHS-supervised court wards. The Michigan Children's Institute superintendent acts as legal guardian for permanent state wards. Payment and medical assistance to parents adopting children with special needs may also be provided.

## Central Adoption Registry

DHS maintains a file of statements by former parents and former adult siblings consenting to or denying release of identifying information to an adult adoptee. The registry is accessed by the court or adoption agency only, upon request by the adult adoptee.

## Adult Community Placement

Provides community placement coordination for licensed, residential care for aged, physically handicapped or developmentally disabled adults who are unable to live alone.

## Adult Independent Living Services

Offers a range of Medicaid and non-Medicaid services to individuals of any age who require consultation or assistance to maintain and maximize functional capacity within their own homes or other independent living arrangements.

# SERVICE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

## Adult Protective Services (APS)

APS staff investigate allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation and provide protection to vulnerable adults. Abuse is harm or threatened harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by another person. Neglect is harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by the inability of the adult to respond to a harmful situation (self-neglect) or the conduct of a person who assumes responsibility for a significant aspect of the adult's health or welfare. Exploitation is the misuse of an adult's funds, property, or personal dignity by another person. Reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation can be reported to the Adult Protective Services Hotline at 1-800-996-6228 or by contacting your local Department of Human Services office.

## Bureau of Juvenile Justice

Provides care and supervision for juveniles placed in public residential treatment centers, quality assurance for juvenile justice programs in Michigan, grant management for federal grants, and training for all juvenile justice professionals in the state of Michigan. Bureau also administers the Michigan Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children. Services encompass a range of prevention, rehabilitation and residential programs to juvenile offenders ages 12 through 20. Placement options range from community-based programs to secure facilities with specialized treatment. Programs are comprehensive and individualized, providing appropriate educational services, mental health services, family involvement and reintegration services.

## Children's Foster Care

Foster care provides placement, care and supervision for children who are temporary or permanent court or state wards. This includes children who cannot remain at home because the parents are unable to provide minimal care and supervision. Department delivered services are focused on resolving the problems which necessitated the child's removal and providing stability and permanency for the child.

About 5,100 foster children reside in licensed foster care. About 5,500 children are placed with relative caregivers. About 3,000 children have been returned home under continued DHS supervision and about 800 are in institutional settings such as residential and shelter facilities. Placement decisions are made considering factors that keep children close to their communities, schools, friends and loved ones. In 2010, the department put greater emphasis on licensing relative providers.

## Children's Protective Services

Protects children by investigating reports of alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children. Provides services to families to help them to function responsibly and independently in providing care for those for whom they are responsible.

## Children's Trust Fund (CTF)

The Michigan Children's Trust Fund (CTF), also known as the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, is an independent, autonomous nonprofit organization created by Public Act 250 of 1982. It is a 15-member State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board whose members are appointed by the governor with staff administered by an executive director. CTF does not receive a state appropriation and its work is funded through children's license plate sales, direct donations, trust income, grants and other fundraising activities. CTF serves as Michigan's only source of permanent funding for the statewide prevention of child abuse and neglect. Its purpose is to prevent child abuse and raise awareness of prevention through community-based programs. It provides grants for direct services and local child abuse and neglect prevention councils that serve children and families before any involvement with the DHS Children's Protective Services division. The primary purpose of these prevention programs is to keep children safe, strengthen families and

promote safe, stable, and nurturing parent-child relationships. CTF is the Michigan chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America and also administers the Michigan Citizen Review Panel for Prevention.

## Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC)

Provides nearly \$8 million in federal funds to local communities for volunteer programs and activities. The MCSC funds 25 AmeriCorps programs, 25 Learn and Serve programs, and seven Volunteer Michigan grantees. In FY 2010, these programs engaged more than 139,000 individuals in volunteer service. Other key MCSC programs include the Governor's Service Awards and Mentor Michigan.

## Disability Determination Service (DDS)

Determines the disability eligibility of adults and children who apply for benefits under the Social Security and Supplemental Security Disability Income programs. Clients may also be referred by DDS to other agencies for job training and health services. DDS also makes disability decisions for disability related programs such as State Disability Assistance and Medicaid. Disability decisions are also made for the state retirement system.

## Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services

The Michigan Domestic Violence Treatment and Prevention Board funds services provided under contracts with 44 nonprofit domestic violence programs that include: emergency shelter; emergency intervention (24-hour crisis lines and emergency response services); supportive individual and group counseling; community education and prevention services; personal and support advocacy with health care, criminal justice systems, housing location, financial assistance, transportation and child care; and children's services to sexual assault survivors and it funds 19 non-profit domestic violence programs to provide for safe transitional supportive housing for up to 24 months. The board administers the federal STOP Violence Against Women Grant that provides grants to local collaborative projects to improve victim services and the criminal justice response to violent crimes against women. Local projects address domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking throughout the state including specialized Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs. These funds also support the development of statewide policies, protocols, and training in collaboration with state agencies and statewide organizations.

## Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC)

The Early Childhood Investment Corporation is a public nonprofit building investment in enhanced delivery of early childhood resources and services including quality child care through system-building. Among ECIC initiatives is the Great Start Child Care Quality Program focused on improving the quality of helping parents find quality early-learning environments. ECIC administers Michigan's statewide network of Great Start Collaboratives, parent coalitions, and regional child care resource centers. In its efforts to implement the Great Start system in Michigan, ECIC works to assure the most efficient and effective use of federal, state, local, public and private funds for early childhood programs, and aims at increasing public awareness and community engagement to rank Michigan's young children among the state's highest investment priorities.

## Family Preservation

A resource to local offices that provides programs and funding for services targeted at keeping families together. Families First of Michigan, an intensive crisis intervention program, provides families with the support they need at a time when out-of-home placement of a child is imminent. The Family Reunification Program provides services to families to facilitate an early reunification from placement. Technical assistance and support to local offices is provided for Child Protection and Permanency and Strong Families/Safe Children funds. Other local office contracts include Families Together Building Solutions and Wraparound.

# SERVICE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

## Office of the Family Advocate (OFA)

Serves as DHS' liaison to the Office of Children's Ombudsman. OFA is responsible for providing an objective review and assessment of department practice, policy and law to identify areas that need to be enhanced, or where additional training might help DHS workers do a better job of protecting children.

## Guardianship Assistance Program

Juvenile guardianship is available for temporary and permanent court wards and state wards when reunification and adoption have been ruled out as permanency goals. The purpose of guardianship assistance program is to provide financial support to ensure permanency for children who may otherwise remain in foster care until reaching the age of majority. The transfer of legal responsibility removes the child from the child welfare system, allows a caregiver to make important decisions on the child's behalf, establishes a permanent caregiver for the child, and addresses financial needs.

## HIV/AIDS Services

Provides advocacy services for people who test positive for HIV or AIDS including information, referrals and coordination of DHS services with community resources, case management and other government benefits. The Insurance Assistance Program or the Insurance Assistance Program Plus pays the private medical insurance premiums for those with HIV or AIDS who qualify.

## Migrant Affairs

The DHS Office of Migrant Affairs is responsible for the assessment, development and coordination of services for Michigan's estimated 90,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers, family members, and dependents. The office advocates for and coordinates services through the Interagency Migrant Services Committee that consists of representatives from major state and federal departments and private agencies providing services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. It works with nine Migrant Resource Councils comprised of local representatives from public and private migrant service agencies, growers, information, coordinate services and identify unmet needs at a local level. In addition, the office works in partnership with DHS Field Operations to provide training to 60 bilingual migrant program specialists located in 23 Michigan counties.

## Native American Affairs

Native American Affairs provides services and resources to raise awareness of the socioeconomic plight of North American Indians through advocacy to enhance the well-being and preservation of North American Indian tribes, communities and families in Michigan. It delivers a broad range of services to Michigan's Native American population including but not limited to: policy and program development; resource coordination; advocacy; training and technical assistance; coordination of efforts to ensure implementation of applicable state and federal laws including the federal Indian Child Welfare Act pertaining to Native Americans; tribal consultation; Indian outreach services in 12 counties providing information and referral to health, education, employment, training, and housing opportunities; and partnerships between the Office

of Native American Affairs and the 12 federally recognized tribes in Michigan, Michigan's state historic tribes, Indian organizations, federal government, and other community and state organizations. For more information visit the Native American Affairs Web site: <http://www.michigan.gov/americanindians>.

## 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 refugee minors, and initial health screenings. Approximately 3,300 refugees are resettled to Michigan each year. Sixty percent of those refugees are from Iraq and resettle to Oakland and Macomb counties. Forty percent of refugees arriving in Michigan settle in either the Lansing or Grand Rapids area. Those programs serve refugee youths who arrive in the United States without a parent or guardian (known as unaccompanied refugee minors.) Michigan's Unaccompanied Refugee Minors program is the largest in the U.S. with 350 refugee youths in care.

## Runaway and Homeless Youth Services Program

Provides services to runaway and homeless youths and, when appropriate, their families. Services are provided through contracts with private agencies.

## Safe Delivery

Michigan's Safe Delivery of Newborns law encourages troubled parents to place their newborn children in a safe environment. This law allows an anonymous surrender of an infant, from birth to 72 hours of age, to an emergency service provider - a uniformed or otherwise identified employee of a fire department, hospital or police station that is inside the building and on duty or a paramedic or emergency medical technician responding to a 911 call. The parent has the choice to leave the infant without giving any identifying information. Following an examination at a hospital, temporary protective custody will be given to a private adoption agency for placement with an approved adoptive family, if the child is unharmed. If the examination reveals signs of abuse and/or neglect, hospital personnel will initiate a referral to Children's Protective Services for an investigation. A toll-free, 24-hour telephone line has been established to provide information on services available to a prospective parent. The toll-free number is: 1-866-733-7733.

## 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.

## Volunteer Services

Based on the needs of the local DHS county offices, volunteers are recruited, trained, placed and supervised to provide direct and indirect services to DHS clients. Community resource coordinators develop community resources, obtain donations, raise non-traditional funds, and oversee a variety of volunteer programs.

Quantity: -0-

Cost: -0-

Authorization: DHS Director

Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.

### WEB ONLY

DHS Pub 325 (2-11) Previous edition obsolete.