

December, 2020

FY21 State Budget Supplemental – More Work Needed for Families

On the final day of the two-year legislative session, Michigan's Governor and Legislature agreed to a \$467 million stimulus plan, including significant funding for coronavirus health response and small business relief grants, as well as a few additional items for child, youth, and family advocates:

- \$220 million GF/GP to continue the unemployment benefit 6-week extension until April 1, 2021
- \$45 million GF/GP for relief grants up to \$1,625 to individuals who were employed in a workplace affected by gathering restrictions
- \$10 million in unspent federal funds to extend payments during school hours in certain cases for school-aged child care providers, but no additional aid for out-of-school learning programs
- \$2.5 million GF/GP for payments to pre-school, special education, and adult education teachers in public schools or nonprofit nonpublic schools, up to \$500 per full-time equivalent teacher.

On the heels of this supplemental, Congress announced an additional stimulus package that will send billions in funding to Michigan. State lawmakers will appropriate these new funds after January 1st, and must be called to prioritize issues where the previous session's leaders failed, whose neglect will continue to hold back families and the economy in our state:

Quality care for children. Before COVID, families already eligible for child care subsidy are struggling to secure the care they need. Child care professionals listed stress and behavioral support as the critical issue in their field. In FY21, Michigan's leaders missed an opportunity to utilize available federal funding for both extremely vulnerable family groups and for behavioral supports for the child care workforce.

Skill-building supports for families and young adults. Investing in skill-building will be crucial, with more need for parents to help their children's education, and with young people and parents without a high school diploma at-risk of being left behind due to permanent shifts in many industries. In FY21, Michigan leaders failed to dedicate funding for family literacy programming and coordination.

Supports for children, youth and families in crisis. With increased family exposure to toxic stress exacerbated by high unemployment, close proximity, and a lack of service access, many families will need more immediate support to make it through the next year. In FY 21, Michigan's leaders missed an opportunity to provide that support for community-based child abuse and neglect prevention councils and service providers through the Children's Trust Fund, and must continue to support housing access.

Support for the most challenged youth. The pandemic exposed significant gaps in services for young people trying to make successful educational and life transitions to independence. Michigan's leaders in FY21 missed a chance to provide any increased access to postsecondary scholarships, tax credit opportunities, or consistent peer mentoring for youth who experienced foster care.

Supports for struggling learners. Learning gaps have only grown during the pandemic for many learners. In FY21, Michigan's leaders missed an opportunity to provide statewide support for high-quality out-of-school time learning programs. State leaders also failed to reduce inequities in high school attainment rates by ensuring that students experiencing instability, disability, or adjudication are receiving the support they need to continue on a path towards earning a credential or degree.