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### State DHS Launches Welfare Education Campaign

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Andrew Green Reporting

The Michigan Department of Human Services is launching a campaign aimed at dispelling myths about the various assistance programs that it offers. DHS Director Ismael Ahmed tells us that the state's economic climate has caused an unprecedented number of families to seek help with paying their bills or putting food on the table, and the numbers keep rising. He says that some who need help may be reluctant to seek it because of a stigma that goes with public assistance programs, but the truth is that millions of Michigan residents turn to them at some point.

Listen:



The Department of Human Services is holding events around the state this month, talking about the availability of assistance programs and those who depend on them in tough times as part of its Welfare 101 - Busting Myths About Welfare campaign:

Listen:



He says that between 2008 and 2010, Benton Harbor has seen a 34 percent increase in Medicaid recipients, and a 12 percent increase in food assistance benefits. Saint Joseph has experienced a 30 percent increase in Medicaid recipients, and a 49 percent increase in food assistance...and Stevensville, a 28 percent increase in Medicaid with a 21 percent increase in food assistance. You can find out more at [www.Michigan.gov.Welfare101](http://www.Michigan.gov.Welfare101).

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