

Marianne Udow, Director Department of Human Services



Marianne Udow was appointed DHS Director by Governor Jennifer Granholm effective January 12, 2004. The Department of Human Services directs the operations of public assistance and service programs through a network of local offices. DHS programs include temporary cash assistance, food assistance, childcare, child support enforcement, medical assistance, adoption and foster care services, domestic violence services, juvenile justice services and adult and children's protective services.

Prior to her appointment, she served as Senior Vice President of Health Care Products and Provider Services for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. She was also the former Senior Vice President and Vice President of Plans and Operations for Mercy Alternative and Care Choices. She has a master's degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

In addition to her long standing commitment to improving the quality and affordability of health care, Marianne is a passionate advocate for improving the lives of the poor with a special emphasis on children, including a focus on early childhood development. She has served on many boards and commissions. Among others, her current board involvement includes the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, Children's Trust Fund, Michigan State Housing Authority, School of Public Health Dean's Advisory Committee and Freedom from Hunger. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the Anti-Defamation League's "Women of Achievement Award", Crain's Detroit Business top 100 "Most Influential Women," Wayne State College of Nursing's "2003 Lifeline Award," Girl Scouts of Huron Valley Council's "2006 Women of Distinction Award," Michigan Business and Professional Association's "2006 Women & Leadership in the Workplace Award," and the "2007 Child Advocate Award" from the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition.