



MICHIGAN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS AGENDA

June 21, 2021

2:00 p.m., Zoom Webinar

Registration Link: <https://michigan-host.zoom.us/j/84519418891>

Attendees: Kelly Rose, Kris Brady, Phil Cavanagh, Michelle Williams, Erika Hoover, Paula Kaiser Van Dam, Ryan Hertz, Sarah Goad, Crissa Blankenburg, Kelly Wilcox, Cylenthia Miller

Regrets: Mark Hoffman

Members of the public: Jason Weller, Joshua Rivera, Eric Hufnagel, Christina Soulard, Mercedes Brown, Lindsey Bishop Gilmore, Lynn Hedges

- 1. Approval of Agenda** - Paula moved to approve. Seconded by Kris. Motion approved.
- 2. Approval of March Minutes** – Phil moved to approve. Paula seconded. Minutes approved.
- 3. Public Comment – no public comment**
- 4. Welcome 3 new members – Jason/Kelly**
 - a. Erika Hoover, Kelly Wilcox, Sarah Goad**
 - i. Kelly welcomed all the new members to the ICH. Jason added that official welcome emails had been sent for Erika and Sarah, however Kelly Wilcox had been named as Rachel Eldridge’s replacement as Rachel has taken a new position within DTMB. He added that an official welcome email will be forthcoming once the Governor’s office completes the appointment process.
- 5. Update on the 2020 Annual Report – Christina (5 mins)**
 - a. Christina** Soulard provided an update on the 2020 Annual Report. The report is going to focus on the impact COVID 19 had on the homeless service delivery system. Aside from the HMIS data, the report will also pull from 211 and Poverty Solution Eviction data. The writing team is also planning to do outreach to providers in the regions which saw declines in their HMIS data to get a better sense of what contributed to the decline. Members of the ICH are welcome to join the writing team if they are interested, the team is meeting Weds from 12-1

and members can reach out to Christina or Jason for more information. Paula stated that she would like to see the report address the declines in the HMIS data and address some of the possible causes. Kelly added that it might be difficult to identify causation versus correlation, but the writing team should name the possible causes.

6. American Rescue Plan Act funding updates (60 mins)

a. MDHHS programming – Joshua (see power point slides below)

- i. Kris asked about the water security program and rural residents who may be on well water and why no money was allocated for this use. Joshua responded that congress allocated the funds to be sent directly towards water utility providers and this is an excellent place for additional action. Kris asked if there was another aspect of ARPA that addressed rural utility assistance. Joshua said that he would do some additional research and follow up with Kris. Kelly added that she hasn't heard of any other utility assistance programs for rural residents.

b. MSHDA programming – Kelly (see power point slides below)

- i. CERA updates: Since March 15 over 37,000 applications have been submitted of those 11,000 applications have been processed and 10,000 applications have been approved for \$60 million in assistance. The primary reasons for denial have been duplicate applications or applicants were over income guidelines.
- ii. Phil asked how the ARPA program funding compared to pre-COVID funding. Kelly responded that with the HCV program the EHV is not a huge increase. The standard portfolio is around 28,000 vouchers with an average of 2500 new families per year. Kelly added that the ESG program is a huge increase over the typical funding. She added that MSDHA typically gets \$17 million annually so this is about 4 times the usual amount. She added that MSHDA will need to get a NOFA out for communities and developers to start the conversations around developing new housing. Phil asked if Kelly was happy with how quickly the money was going out. Kelly responded that she would like to see the CERA funding getting out quicker, and currently Detroit is about 40% of the program which is higher than originally anticipated. Correspondingly, there is also concern about what could happen once the eviction moratorium expires.
- iii. Kelly added that there is another new MSHDA program- Homeownership Assistance Fund which has \$242 million dollars to use for mortgage, property tax, and utility assistance. The program is hoping to launch in August or September depending on approval of the legislature.
- iv. Crissa asked if there was an opportunity to prioritize homeless youth for the EHV program? Kelly responded that all the referrals originate from the CoCs so they need to prioritize how the EHV's are used. CoCs began populating the EHV waiting list last week. Kelly added that there is also a

focus on folks who are justice involved as the EHV program allows for more creativity than the traditional program.

iii. **MDE funding – Michelle** (see power point slides below)

- i. There were no questions for Michelle.

7. How can the MHPC/ICH influence decisions at the local/state/federal level

a. for how ARPA funding will be used? – Mercedes/Kris (30 mins)

- i. Mercedes shared that there is a workgroup which has been meeting for the last month to develop a better understanding of how the ARPA funds can be used and targeted for populations who are housing insecure or homeless. The first product of the group was the webinar we held on June 2nd to help communities across the state to develop a better understanding how they can leverage these resources. Recently the workgroup has started to explore how the ICH/MHPC might be able to influence how the ARPA funds can be used at the local, state, and federal level. At the most recent workgroup meeting there was some brainstorming around different groups that we could be reaching out to.

b. Next steps:

- i. **Local - outreach to MML/CoC leadership**
- ii. **State - outreach to Michigan Poverty Taskforce, update the ICH about funding state departments are allocated (per today's meeting)**
- iii. **Federal - outreach to USICH, HUD, CSH**
 - 1. Mercedes shared that we are expecting to receive guidance from HUD about how HOME ARPA funding can be used in the coming weeks/months, but in the meantime we exert some influence.
 - 2. Mercedes said that we would like to have a member of the USICH, Beverly Ebersold, to present to ICH and the MHPC about how other states/jurisdictions are using this funding in innovative ways. Mercedes added that she has already reached out to Beverly to ask about her willingness to present to this group. Kelly and Paula both said they supported that. Kris asked about the timeline when we would want this meeting to occur as the next ICH meeting isn't until September. Kelly said that she would support having the discussion before the next ICH meeting and making it a joint MHPC and ICH meeting. Kris said that is what the MHPC would like to see as well. It would be helpful to hear these ideas sooner rather than later. Mercedes added that we should try to use the next MHPC as an opportunity to hear from Bev. Kelly added that even before the meeting there is some federal guidance we can already start to work through to develop a better understanding of how these funds can be best used at the local and state level. In particular, she said that it would be good to start the conversation with the Michigan Municipal League. She said it would be good to work towards this over the next

month and do some outreach with the governor's office. Mercedes added that this is something the smaller workgroup could undertake. Mercedes added that HUD and Treasury are planning to release some resources in the lead up to the formal announcement about how these funds can be used. To that end, she advocated for members of the ICH and MHPC to participate in the national webinars that are being offered to help cultivate a deeper understanding of these programs. Kelly added that it would be great for us to digest the content from these webinars and begin sharing that knowledge with CoCs so they can start/maintain conversations at the local level. Kelly added that she will also check on the Open Meetings Act to make sure we are in compliance for the workgroup meetings.

8. 2020-2022 Action Plan Next Steps – Mercedes/Jason (15 mins)

a. Review MCTEH Blueprint

- i. Jason shared that he has been working with the designer at MSHDA to finalize the MCTEH blueprint which highlights the structure of the MCTEH, including the roles of committees and workgroups, as well as the key activities of the MCTEH such as the Annual Summit on Ending Homelessness, and the Annual Report. He will share the blueprint with the ICH for feedback electronically once it is ready.

b. Update on workplan

- i. Jason shared that the Action Plan Implementation Workgroup has been meeting regularly and now that it completed the draft of the MCTEH blueprint has moved onto creating an MCTEH workplan to track our activities related to the action plan. The last meeting was the first time spent solely discussing the workplan and the workgroup members are still working on the majority of the content. The other issue the group has been discussing is the impact of the ARPA funds on the workplan. At this time the group does not see the need to rewrite the workplan, however we do need to incorporate the changes the ARPA funds will have on the homeless service delivery system. He said will share a draft of the workplan when it becomes available.
- ii. Cylenthia asked If there were ways that other members of the ICH could support these projects? Jason responded that currently there is no need for additional assistance, but he will reach out if there is a need.

9. Roundtable – all (10 mins)

- a. Cylenthia – shared that she in the process of setting up a pilot project for families for whom housing the last impediment for reunification cases when there were allegations of abuse or neglect. Cylenthia reached out to a landlord she knows via the court and are currently exploring a relationship with MDHHS once the court, landlord, and Cylenthia have mapped out what the project will look like.

She hopes to have more information to share at the next meeting. Kelly asked if they have talked with the Detroit Housing Commission and Cylenthia said she will reach out to them and invite them to some upcoming meetings. Cylenthia added that the landlord is willing to make some special arrangements such as providing appliances because they know these folks are still in the court system. Sarah added that she is happy to hear about this project. Kelly added that now is a great time to create a program like this because of the additional resources that are available.

- b. Crissa provided an update that MDOC is working with the Michigan Poverty Task Force.
- c. Erika – she has been having a lot of conversations around veterans homelessness across the state, and is also exploring new programs such as partnering with SOAR. More updates will be forthcoming.
- d. Ryan shared that Lighthouse is 1 of 3 programs providing CERA assistance in Oakland county. Since March they have already provided \$1 million in assistance, and they are bracing for the end of the eviction moratorium. Kelly added that she has appreciated the work Lighthouse has been doing.
- e. Sarah shared that they are currently waiting for the legislature to pass COVID related funding (\$5 million) through Children Services to extend services for youth in foster care or with closed cases who are at risk of homelessness.

10. Adjourn - Cylenthia moved to adjourn. Paula seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.



American Rescue Plan Act

Discussion Document



Our Programs



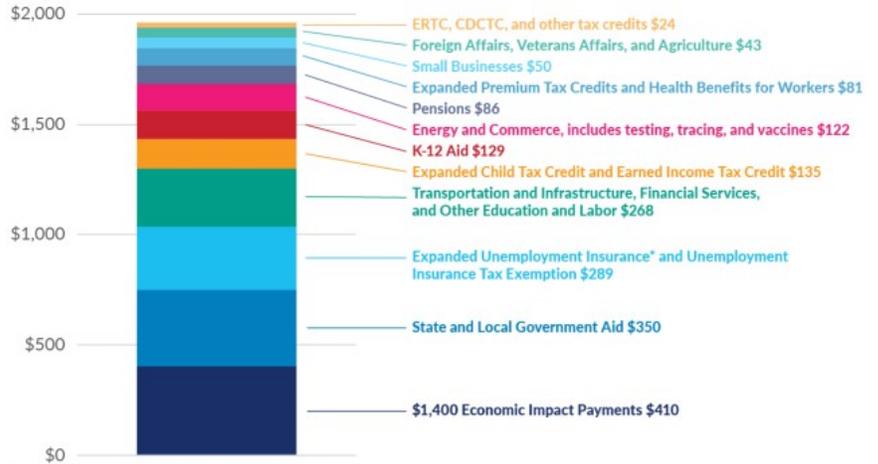
American Rescue Plan Act

What's in the \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan Act?

On March 11, President Joe Biden Signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

The Bill Provides \$1.9 Trillion in Funding, Program Changes, and Tax Provisions to Aid the Nation's Response and Recovery from the Coronavirus Pandemic

Topline summary of relief in Billions of Dollars



Note: *Subject to change pending estimate of Senate version of unemployment insurance expansion.
Source: Joint Committee on Taxation and Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget



Food Security

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Extends the 15% SNAP Benefit increase through September 30, 2021
- Emergency Allotments

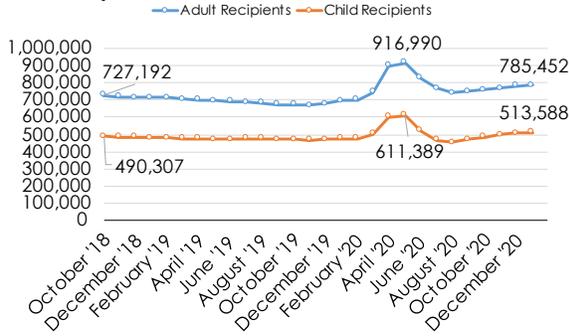
Extends Pandemic-EBT program (providing SNAP benefits to low-income children who have lost access to meals at school and childcare due to the pandemic) through the summer months

Expands College Student Access

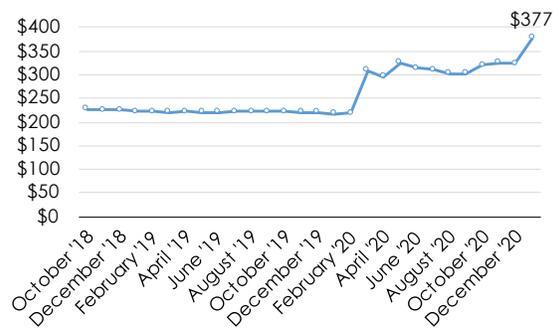


ESA Food Assistance Response

FAP Recipients



Average per Case



ESA Food Assistance Response



Became one of the first states to deliver **emergency allotment** food assistance.



Became the first state to issue **Pandemic EBT benefits** to over **900,000 children**.



Implemented **on-line EBT** technology allowing food assistance recipients the ability to purchase groceries on-line through Amazon, Walmart, and Aldi.



Implemented the **Restaurant Meals Program**, where seniors, disabled, and homeless can use their food assistance benefits to get hot prepared meals at restaurants.



Eliminated the **drug felony disqualification** ban.



Implementing reforms to expand **college student access** to FAP. Implemented Perkins changes.

Energy Security

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): federal \$4.5 billion, **Michigan allocation 238 million** available thru September 30th, 2022.

- Considering a mix of responsive and preventative measures to improve energy security.
- Using federal money to assist low-income families with energy costs.
 - Home Heating Credit
 - State Emergency Relief
 - Weatherization Assistance Program
- Implementation awaiting legislative authorization of funds



Water Security

Low-income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP): federal \$1.1 billion, **Michigan allocation 36 million** available until 2023.

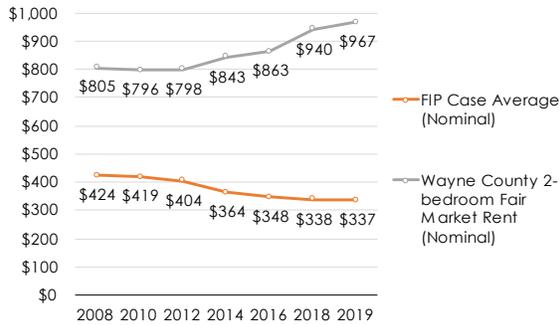
- Program for assistance with water arrearages: arrearage refers to an unpaid past due bill for household drinking water and/or wastewater utility services. May include reconnection charges, fees, and penalties
- CAA program implementation statewide.
- Implementation awaiting legislative authorization of funds



Supporting Working Families

Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund:
Michigan allocation \$19 million available thru September 30th, 2022.

- Considering increasing benefits to FIP recipients.



Kelly Rose's Presentation

American Rescue Plan Allocations: Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV), COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) & HOME-ARP

| Program Title | Amount allocated | Availability | Eligible Activities |
|---|---|--|---|
| Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) | 779 vouchers (MSHDA) + 300 (Other PHAs) | Now to 9/30/2023 | Case Management and Financial Assistance mshda-hs@michigan.gov |
| COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) | \$622 million + \$523 million | 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021 | Rental Assistance, Utility Assistance, Staffing, and Administration michigan.gov/CERA |
| HOME-ARP | \$64 million (MSHDA) + \$90 million other Cities/Counties | Funds committed by 2025; fully spent by 2030 | Develop affordable housing, non-congregate shelter to permanent affordable housing, service funding for these projects |

Michelle Williams' Presentation

American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth ARP Homeless I and II

| Program Title | Amount allocated | Availability | Eligible Activities |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| ARP Homeless I | \$6,091,723 (75% to MV Sub grantees) | Available immediately— <i>pending state authorization</i> | Designed to supplement existing EHCY funds, interventions and supports |
| ARP Homeless II | \$18,275,168 | May be available as soon as early June | Designed to support interventions and supports for students experiencing homelessness |
| Additional Program Details | Funds must support: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification 2. Wrap around services 3. Full participation and engagement in available educational opportunities for McKinney Vento eligible students | | |

Current MDE Homelessness Funding

Title I, Part A Homeless Set Aside

- *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* Amount based on need and determine by districts (varies year to year)

Title IX, McKinney-Vento Regional Sub grants

- *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* Amount based on counts and population size for consortia of districts, optional and competitive (approximately \$2.4 million)