

Fiscal Year 2024 Executive Budget Recommendation

Children's Services Administration

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Lewis Roubal, Senior Chief Deputy Director
for Opportunity

Demetrius Starling, Senior Deputy Director,
Children's Services Administration

Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director, Financial
Operations Administration



*Putting people first, with the goal of helping all
Michiganders lead healthier and more
productive lives, no matter their stage in life.*

Children's Services Administration Priorities



Children's Services Administration

State-Administered Child Welfare System

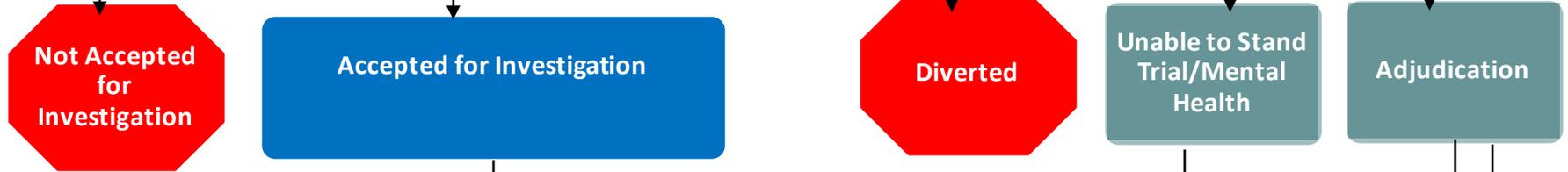
- **83** counties.
- **5** Business Service Center (BSC) regions.
- **3,614** local county and central office staff.
- Contracts with **58** agencies to provide family preservation, foster care, licensing, and adoption services.

Children's Protective Services	Foster Care	Prevention	Adoption	Juvenile Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abuse-Neglect referrals: 174,325• Abuse-Neglect investigated: 68,739• Confirmed case of Abuse-Neglect: 15,256	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10,107 youth in care• 9,408 youth in out-of-home care• 361 youth placed in a Child Caring Institution (CCI)• Children entered foster care: 4,247• Children exited foster care: 5,122	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevention cases: 1,139• Title IV-E Prevention cases: 746• Youth served by prevention services: 2,216	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,683 completed adoptions• 97% of youth adopted received adoption subsidy, medical subsidy or both	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 405 youth supervised by MDHHS• 174 Dual wards.• 106 youth placed in a Child Caring Institution (CCI)

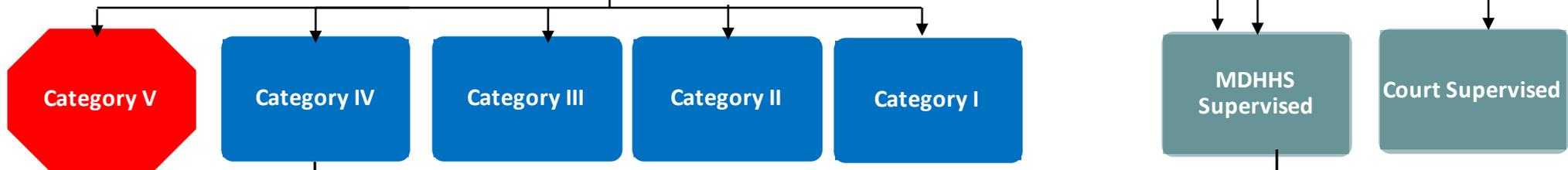
System Entry Pathway



Intake



Disposition



System Exit



Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)

Background:

Federal mandate to implement CCWIS.

- Final rule issued on June 2, 2016, changed the rules from SACWIS regulations to the new CCWIS regulations.
- Must be compliant with CCWIS regulations to receive federal funding for child welfare information technology.
- CCWIS receives approximately 50% in federal funding.
- Regulations include automated functions, data sharing, modular design, agile projects, cost allocation and data quality.

Status:

CCWIS is a multi-year project with an estimated completion date of 2026.

- October 31, 2022, was the implementation of the first module: Child Welfare Licensing Module.
- Michigan Foster Care Portal centralized location for Prospective Foster Parents to share their interest in fostering.

Next Steps:

Request for proposal (RFP) includes solutions to cover the remaining modules. The contract is estimated to be effective October 16, 2023.

Juvenile Justice Reform

Michigan Taskforce Recommendations

To align system policies and practices across diverse locales with what research shows works to improve community safety, reduce juvenile recidivism, and reduce system disparities.

Objectives

- Safely **reduce placement** in **detention** and residential placement and increase community placements.
- **Increase** the **safety** and **well-being** of youth impacted by the juvenile justice system.
- **Reduce** racial and ethnic **disparities** among youth impacted by the juvenile justice system.
- **Improve** the **efficiency** and **effectiveness** of the juvenile justice systems.
- **Increase accountability** and **transparency** within the juvenile justice system.
- Better **align practices** with **research** and constitutional mandates.

Investments

- Community-Based Diversion Services
- Case Practice Model
- Risk Assessment Screening
- Capital Improvements
- Increased Staffing
- Technology and Data Reporting

Placement Array Development

- Critical **shortage** of **available placements nationwide** fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Children's **needs** are **greater** than ever.
 - Recruiting new foster families has been difficult, in part because of the **low rates paid** to foster families.
- Efforts to address the **placement crisis** is an **ongoing priority**.



Workforce Challenges

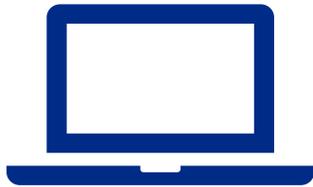
- 431 **vacancies**.
- Starting **pay** - \$23.47.
- Increased acuity of cases.
- **Emotionally** demanding.
- Burnout.
- **Unpredictable** hours.



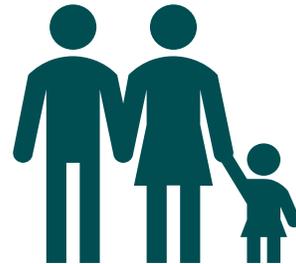
A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and a young girl with a pink bow in her hair, both smiling and touching noses. The man is on the left, wearing a grey t-shirt. The girl is on the right, wearing a white t-shirt with colorful abstract patterns. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

Supporting Children and Families

MDHHS Budget Investments Fiscal Year 2024



**Child Welfare Information
System**



Foster Family Support



**Juvenile Justice
Reform**

Increasing Foster Family Support

Background

- Michigan's foster care system relies on the **volunteerism** of individual families to provide children with out-of-home care.
- The **standard rate** foster parents receive is **\$20-\$25 per day**.
- Nearly **75%** of foster parents who closed their license indicated they **closed due** to needing more **financial support** and **respite** care.
- Michigan needs to **maintain/increase** the number of foster care homes.

Proposed Response

- \$19.3 million gross (\$7.8 million GF)** to provide an **8% rate increase** to foster, relative, guardian, and adoptive families to support inflationary costs.
- \$15.1 million gross/GF** to establish a **respite care support program**. Funding will be used to identify both licensed and closed foster homes to participate in a network of caregivers who provide short-term respite care. Caregivers will receive a daily rate for this service.

Expected Impact

- Increase the financial capacity** of foster parents and relative caregivers.
- Support foster parents and caregivers and **improve placement stability** for youth in care.
- Placement stability directly impacts **safety, well-being,** and **permanency** outcomes.

Investing in Juvenile Justice

Background

- The **Michigan Taskforce on Juvenile Justice Reform** was formed to provide recommendations to Michigan's juvenile justice system.
- **Raise the Age** legislation enacted in 2019 increased the age to 18 for juvenile court jurisdiction.
- **Bay Pines Center and Shawono Center** are secure facilities serving over 70 youth with complex trauma and the need for emotional/behavioral stabilization.
- The **Child Care Fund (CCF)**—the primary statewide juvenile justice funding structure— does not provide **financial incentive** for youth **to remain in the community** given that community-based and residential placements are reimbursed at the same rate (50%).

Proposed Response

This proposal includes two recommendations for investments from the Michigan Taskforce on Juvenile Justice Reform:

- **\$1.3 million gross** (\$643,000 GF) for **12 FTEs** for **Bay Pines Center** and **Shawono Center** to align staffing ratios and expand capacity.
- **\$31.5 million gross/GF** increase in state support for community-based services and alternatives to residential detention.

Expected Impact

- Reduction in the use of seclusion and restraints and improvement in **behavioral management skills** for facility staff through the modification of current staffing ratios.
- Ensure all youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system have **access to** a continuum of **evidence-based services**.
- Provide **rehabilitation opportunities** in a safe, supportive, and respectful environment that honors the youth and family voice.

Modernizing the Child Welfare Information System

Background

- The Michigan Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (MiSACWIS) is being replaced with the the **Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)**.
- Over **7,000 public and private staff** use the software for children's protective services, foster care, and adoption case management.
- CCWIS is a **state-of-the-art, cloud-based** system that will **better support** child welfare staff and families.

Proposed Response

- **\$12.6 million gross (\$7.5 million GF)** to continue the work of replacing MISACWIS by supporting the **planning, development, and implementation** of the next phase of CCWIS modules.

Expected Impact

- **Improved outcomes** for kids and families and **caseworker satisfaction and retention**.
- **Improved data collection**, data-driven decision making, and assessment of program performance.
- **Compliance with federal regulations**.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

MDHHS Contact Information

Chardaé Burton
Director of Legislative Affairs
517-243-3221
BurtonC5@michigan.gov