The Intersection of Housing, Health and Early Childhood: Using ARPA Funds to Support Stable Housing and Better Outcomes for Michigan's Young Children and Families

Wednesday, September 21, 2022





BUILD Consultants (BUILDers)



Brenda Blasingame



Karen Howard

BUILD helps . . .

- State leaders create policies, infrastructure, and connections across agencies and organizations to advance comprehensive, high-quality, and equitable programs, services, and supports for young children, their families, and communities.
- Support state leaders to embed racial equity and inclusion in state systems using their roles as leaders to advance and achieve equitable outcomes.
- Pritzker Children's Initiative's coalitions of advocates, providers, community leaders, and state agencies working to promote policies for children and families prenatal-tothree in 20 states and 10 communities by providing structured technical assistance and support.



Webinar Objectives:

- Elevate the importance of housing to the health and well-being of young children and families.
- Explore the use of pandemic funding to support rental assistance, homelessness services, home repairs and housing development; and
- Highlight strategies that bring the early childhood and housing sectors together to address homelessness and housing stability for families with young children.

Accessing **American Rescue** Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for Michigan Communities

With funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, BUILD is assisting organizations in Battle Creek, Detroit. and Grand Rapids to access pandemic funding.

Supports include:

- Hosting webinars and workshops on key topics
- Researching and highlighting funding opportunities tailored to the needs of grantees
- Providing support with completing applications, grant writing, and developing proposals including being a thought partner on the development of concepts and partnerships
- Connecting organizations to national nonprofits that work with states and communities
- Providing advocacy supports to conduct outreach to elected officials, policymakers, and others with influence over pandemic funding

WHO IS THE ROOM?

Polling Questions:

- 1. Who is in the room by issue area?
 - Employment Equity
 - Early Care & Education
 - Maternal & Child Health
 - Health Equity
 - Food Systems
 - Housing



2. In the past 2 years, have you worked across early childcare/education, health and housing sectors on initiatives, policies, or programs for children and families in your communities?

Presenters:

- Lisa Chapman, Director of Public Policy, Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness
- Barbara Duffield, Executive Director, SchoolHouse Connection
- Erin Patterson, Director of Education Initiatives, SchoolHouse Connection
- **Kelly Rose**, Chief Housing Solutions Officer, Michigan State Housing Development Authority
- Kathy Szenda Wilson, Co-Executive Director, Pulse @ the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Battle Creek City Commissioner, Ward 4





The Intersection of Housing, Health, and Early Childhood: Using ARPA **Funds to Support Better Outcomes for Michigan's** Children

Prepared by SchoolHouse Connection

Wednesday, September 21st, 2022

About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education.

We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

WEBSITE:

schoolhouseconnection.org

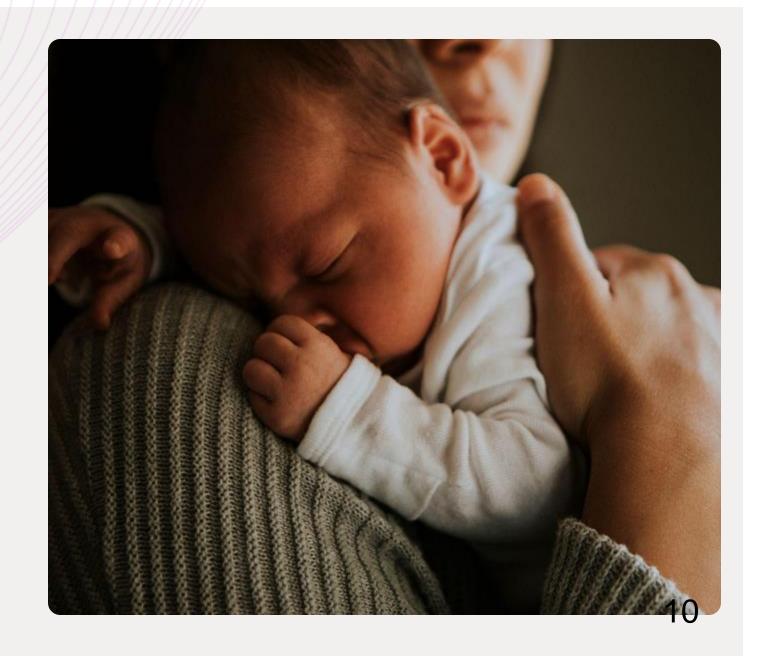
NEWSLETTER:

schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

Topics

- 1 Overview: Prevalence & Impacts
- Basic Cross-Sector Framework
- Using Early Care & Education ARPA Funds
- **Examples**



Overview

DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS:

Early Childhood & Education

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.



Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.



Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.



Living in emergency or transitional shelters.



Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

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- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Homelessness is more than a housing problem; it has many systemic drivers and complex causes, as well as far-reaching consequences for child development.
- Families experiencing homelessness face multiple barriers to accessing quality early childhood programs that can provide comprehensive support.

DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS:

Housing Definition

Narrower than the early care & education definition



Unsheltered - e.g. staying outside, in cars, tents, etc



Sheltered - emergency or transitional shelter, motels paid for by charity or government agencies.



Under certain circumstances, fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence



Under even more narrow circumstances, at imminent risk of displacement (loss of housing in 14 days).

See here for the details.

Families often stay with others temporarily because of lack of shelter availability, and the fear of having children removed from their custody.

Staying with others puts families, infants, and toddlers in vulnerable, harmful situations, and, conditions that may contribute to developmental delays. Parents may stay with abusive/exploitive people, or trade sex in order to have a place to stay.



Infants, Toddlers, & Families Overcrowded Housing and Disparities

15.4%

Of infants and toddlers live in crowded housing, which is known to jeopardize child development. 2.9% of babies and toddlers have moved three or more times since birth.

State of Babies Yearbook 2022 (Zero to Three)

Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Black Babies

Have a higher incidence of living in crowded housing, and low-income babies are nearly three times more likely to live in crowded housing.

Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness

1.3 MILLION

babies, toddlers, and young children under age 6 experienced homelessness in 2018-2019

(USED 2018-2019 Profiles)

44% of young women (age 18-25) and 18% of young men experiencing homelessness are current or expectant parents to over

1.1 MILLION young children

(Chapin Hall, University of Chicago)

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness in Michigan



13,829 infants and toddlers (birth - age 3) experiencing homelessness in Michigan



5.08% are enrolled in an early learning program (child care, Early Head Start, or home visiting)

Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness



Infancy is the period of life when a person is most at risk of living in a homeless shelter.
(HUD Annual Report to Congress)



Homelessness is more than a housing issue; it has many systemic drivers and complex causes, as well as far-reaching consequences for child development.



Families experiencing homelessness face multiple barriers to accessing quality early childhood programs that can provide comprehensive support and connections.

Homelessness Has Serious Consequences for Young Children



Homelessness in infancy has been found to be associated with delays in language, literacy, and social-emotional development, putting children at risk for later academic problems.



The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll of negative health outcomes.



The impacts of homelessness on young children are long-lasting, even once families are housed, including on children's school readiness.

Homelessness Also Has Long-Term Consequences



The high school graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness is 68% compared to 85% for all students. This is the lowest graduation rate of any student sub-group, including economically disadvantaged.



High school students who experience homelessness are **10x more likely to become pregnant or get someone pregnant.**



In addition to the academic impacts, homelessness in the early years can cause developmental delays, social-emotional challenges, and long-term trauma.

IMPORTANCE OF CROSS-SECTOR WORK

Safe and stable housing is foundational for families and communities;. Participation in quality early childhood programs is essential for healthy child development and connections to community resources. Homelessness creates barriers to both housing and quality early childhood programs.

CROSS-SECTOR FRAMEWORK

PUBLIC PRE-K

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

CHILD CARE

HUD HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

McKinney-Vento Act requires liaisons to proactively identify children and youth experiencing homelessness and ensure enrollment in Head Start and ECE programs.For public PreK, provides immediate enrollment, stability, transportation.

Categorical eligibility.for homeless families. Also requires proactive outreach, grace periods for immunizations, prioritized enrollment. Allows programs to reserve slots.

Requires prioritization, use of funds for outreach and enrollment of homeless families, expedited enrollment.

Requires programs serving families to designate a staff person to ensure enrollment in early childhood programs and school.

Michigan Child Care Provisions for Children & **Families Experiencing** Homelessness



Automatic eligibility for children experiencing homelessness with no income test and expedited processing (within 7 days)



Family **co-payment is waived** for families experiencing homelessness



Temporarily **deferred verification requirements** for eligibility and enrollment documentation.

Using ARPA to Support Stability: Early Childhood and Education Funds

Head Start COVID Relief Funds

Official HHS Guidance:

- Partnerships to increase the enrollment of children experiencing homelessness.
- **Transportation.** Hiring bus drivers and monitors to allow more trips with fewer children per bus. Purchasing buses and other vehicles that support continuity of program service and reaching families most in need of services, including families experiencing homelessness.
- Mental health support for children and families. Employing additional family service workers and mental health consultants to assist families with adverse circumstances, including families who may be experiencing homelessness.

Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Funds

Dollar amount in Michigan: \$5,768,583,528

- Increase liaison capacity for outreach, identification, and services to families experiencing homelessness
- Enhance communication options with families.
- Provide transportation assistance.
- Increase capacity in preschool, Head Start, and early intervention programs.

American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth Funds

ARP-HCY in Michigan: \$24.3 million (Regular appropriation for Education of Homeless Children and Youth is \$3 million)

Use of ARP-HCY funds to support housing-related needs:

- Permits 2-3 days emergency short-term housing (motel stays) to enable attendance and help stabilize while longer-term options sought
- Hiring housing navigators to help families access and remain stable in housing.
- Housing partnerships with nonprofits that specialize in housing placement and wraparound services.

Examples of Cross-Sector Partnerships

EXAMPLES

Head Start on Housing: Connecticut Pilot Program

- Partnership between the state Department of Housing and the Office of Early Childhood.
- 1 out of every 3 turnover vouchers reserved for Head Start families.
- **Landlord recruitment improved** by involvement of Head Start program.
- Head Start can be a more organic, trusted, streamlined source of help.

Webinar: CT Head Start on Housing Pllot Program: Wednesday, October 12 @ 2pm

Family Aid and Boston Public Schools

- Boston Public Schools used ESSER and ARP-HCY funds to contract with FamilyAid Boston, which provides housing, navigation, and services.
- 2 Increased case management capacity to walk families through the process of preparing housing applications, searching for housing, and signing a lease.
- Supports Homelessness Prevention Intervention to increase family access to housing, connect to health care partners, support social-emotional needs.

Stable Homes Stable Schools: Minneapolis

- Partnership between the City, the school district, the public housing authority, the county department of human services, and the YMCA
- Provides rental assistance, or one-time emergency assistance and wrap around services, to families who meet the education definition of homelessness in 18 schools with the highest rates of homelessness.

Resources & Tools

Resources & Tools



- Supporting Young Children & Families
 Experiencing Homelessness with American
 Rescue Plan Act Funds
- Preschool to Prevent Homelessness: Research, Rights, and Resources
- Access to Early Learning for Young Children
 Experiencing Homelessness, Birth to Five
- SchoolHouse Connection's Early Childhood Resources

Contact



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Erin PattersonDirector of Education Initiatives

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Empowering Communities, Ending Homelessness

The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness serves as an inclusive statewide voice to improve systems and support communities to prevent and end homelessness in a way that leaves no one behind.

Follow us

<u>www.mihomeless.org</u>
@MIHomeless



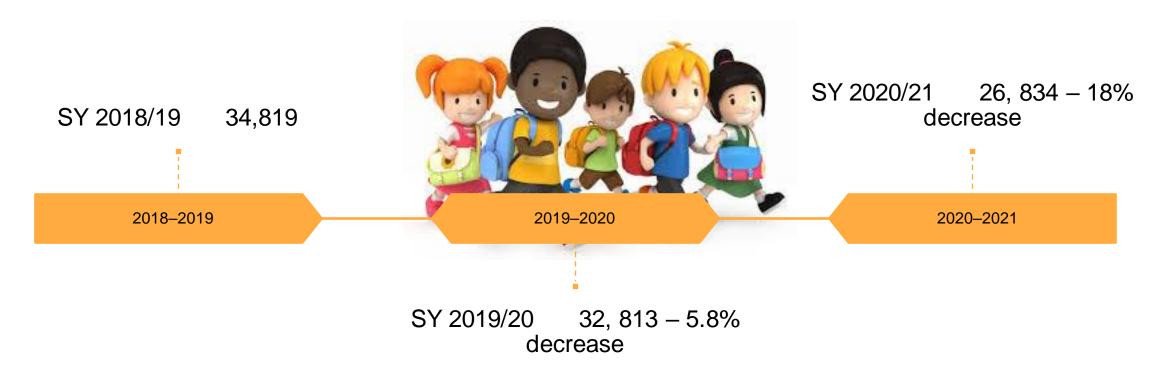
Homelessness Trends

- Overall homelessness declined in 2020 in MI by 19% and 2% in 2021
- 30, 115 persons were unhoused during the course of the year 2021
- 22% of people experiencing homelessness for the first time in 2020 were *children under age 18, compared to 32% in 2021.*
- More than half of Households that were unhoused in 2020 experienced homelessness for the first time
- Youth (age 18-24) homelessness decreased 4% in 2021
- Adults with children increased 5% from 2020-21





Number of Homeless Students Enrolled in Public School by Year in Michigan





Housing stock - MI is falling behind

- Between 2010 and 2019, Michigan's units for rent declined by 40%, compared with a national decline of 15%
- The average number of building permits in Michigan for new construction issued between 2016 and 2020 is less than half of what it was between 1986 and 2006
- Of all MI housing, just 14% is multi-unit (2-9 units) or single family attached housing.
- 47% of all Housing Units in MI were
 built prior to 1970! More than 52 years old





Policy Priorities

Increase Housing Access:

- Eviction diversion program continuance after
 Emergency Rental Assistance funding is exhausted
- Increase landlord engagement, outreach and partnership to access existing rental units
- Risk mitigation fund development, funding, advertisement and implementation
- Dedicated revenue source that is sustainable and renewable for <u>Housing & Community Development</u> <u>Fund</u>





- 26% of Michigan's residents (and 48% of renters) are housing cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing
- 43% MI HH respondents to Census Pulse survey reported very likely or somewhat likely they would leave home due to eviction in next 2 mos. 8/22
- 23% of MI renters reported Housing discrimination in a 2021 public survey
- Rents are on the rise-increases seen in double digits in both apartment units and single-family homes







Decrease Barriers:

- Source of Income protections laws enacted, education promoted and outreach to Landlords
- Housing Choice Voucher (former Section 8)increased supply, regulations and policies relaxed to enable more people to qualify
- Promote sources of income for low-income persons (EITC, SNAP, etc.)
- Additional tenant protections put in place

Racial Disparities

- Longstanding Racial and ethnic disparities exist amongst the population of persons experiencing homelessness, persons with disabilities and persons with low incomes
- Black people make up 14% of MI total population, 48% of the population of people experiencing homelessness
- BIPOC and persons with disabilities are the most frequent targets of housing discrimination- renting and owning
- 38% of Hispanic renters and 30% of Black renters had little or no confidence in their ability to pay their rent compared to 25% of White renters after the pandemic

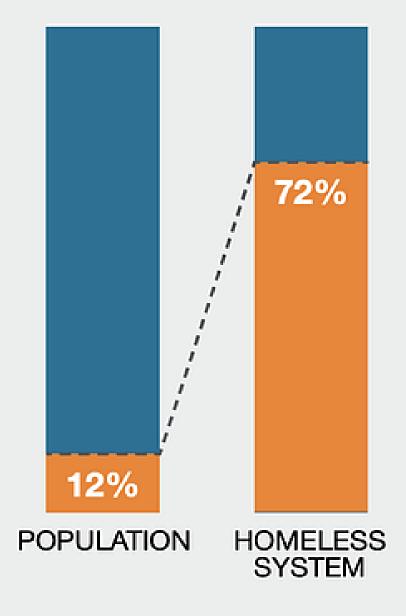


THE PREVALENCE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN KENT COUNTY'S HOMELESS SYSTEM

African Americans make up only 12% of Kent County's total population **BUT** 72% of all the children and adult in families in the homeless system.

African Americans

Other Populations





Policy Priorities

Reduce Racial Bias and Inequities in Homeless Response System:

- Strive to address racial disparities in homeless response
- Include authentic participation wherever possible of persons with lived experience (item from MI Campaign to End Homelessness plan)
- Utilize and examine data to determine trends, impact of policies, gaps

Solutions

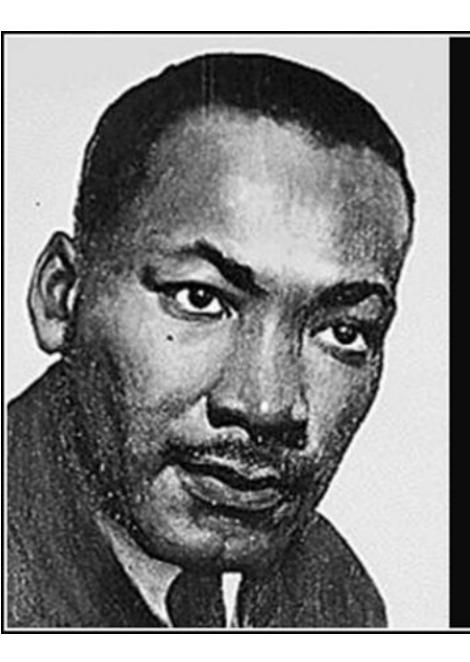
Battle Creek- City CDBG \$-Hmls prevention, ES, Rental Assistance

Grand Rapids- 2020 study 8,888 units needed- Housing Kent

Detroit-Right to Counsel ordinance passed 2022

Other state and federal legislation for tenant protections and funding proposed for housing prevention, creation, and homeless response





Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

— Martin Luther King —

AZ QUOTES

Questions?







MSHDA Programs to Support Housing Access and Stability

9.21.22

Covid Emergency Rental Assistance

- Program started March 2021
- \$1.1 billion available for rent and utility assistance for lowincome renters
- Must be under 80% AMI
- Must have rent arrears
- Over 300,000 applications received
- So far about \$900 million spent
- Over 124,000 children served
- Housing Stability Services to continue in 2023

Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund

- Program started February 2022
- \$210 million available
- Can assists with mortgage, property tax and utilities for homeowners that fell behind during COVID
- Over 28,000 applications received
- \$44 million paid so far

New Programs

- HOME-ARP
- Missing Middle
- Housing Opportunities Promoting Energy-Efficiency
- Housing and Community Development Fund

HOME-ARP

- \$63 million in available funds
- Purpose
 - New affordable housing opportunities
 - Services to help maintain and access housing
 - Expand emergency shelter options
- Eligible households
 - Those experiencing homelessness or at-risk
 - Households fleeing domestic violence

HOME-ARP allocations

	•			Regional % of minimum state and local funds	Regional % of only MSHDA funds
Region 1	3.27%		\$3,950,000	2.6%	6.4%
Region 2	2.58%		\$3,120,000	2.1%	5.1%
Region 3	2.24%		\$2,700,000	1.8%	4.4%
Region 4	13.20%	\$9,201,683	\$8,910,000	12.0%	14.5%
Region 5	5.98%	\$2,389,364	\$5,400,000	5.2%	8.8%
Region 6	8.55%	\$7,226,566	\$4,810,000	8.0%	7.8%
Region 7	4.78%	\$2,784,822	\$3,650,000	4.3%	6.0%
Region 8	7.12%	\$2,976,006	\$6,330,000	6.2%	10.3%
Region 9	9.40%	\$5,699,628	\$7,000,000	8.4%	11.4%
Region 10	42.87%	\$59,571,333	\$6,230,000	43.5%	10.2%
		\$89,849,402	\$52,100,000	Fixed to Region	
			\$9,193,681	Floating Statewide	



Missing Middle

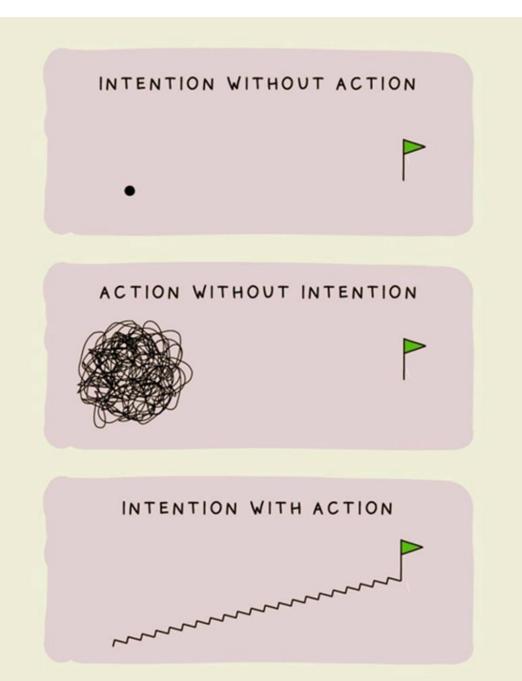
- Funding to construct/rehab rental or for-purchase homes for households between 185%-300% federal poverty level
- Family of 4 income between \$51,350-\$83,250
- Non-profits receive between \$35,000-\$60,000 per unit
- Once constructed, they are sold/rented to families in the income range; rent/purchase price limits make it affordable to families in this income range
- \$48 million available
- Should create between 1,100-1,300 homes
- Application window opened September 19

Housing Opportunities Promoting Energy-Efficiency

- \$28 million available to non-profits or local units of government
- Up to \$25,000 per home to be spent on energy efficiency upgrades to the home
- Grants can range between \$100,000-\$1 million
- Intended to be leveraged with other programs like DHHS's Weatherization Assistance Program and utility Energy Waste Reduction programs
- Application window for homeowners to start October 26 (tentative)

Housing and Community Development Fund

- \$50 million available
- Can be used for a wide variety of housing programs
- Possibilities include:
 - Gap financing for supportive housing for persons experiencing homelessness
 - Down Payment Assistance for new homeowners
 - Rental assistance to prevent homelessness
 - Gap financing for affordable housing
 - Housing Choice Voucher mobility services
 - Community development oriented projects





PLAYING THE LONG GAME

FOSSLIEN

KATHY SZENDA WILSON

BATTLE CREEK WARD 4 COMMISSIONER CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PULSE @ THE WE UPJOHN INSTITUTE

HOW WE MANAGED TO SECURE ARPA FUNDING FOR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD HOUSING INCENTIVE PILOT PROJECT +++

BUT FIRST, A LITTLE HISTORY + CONTEXT

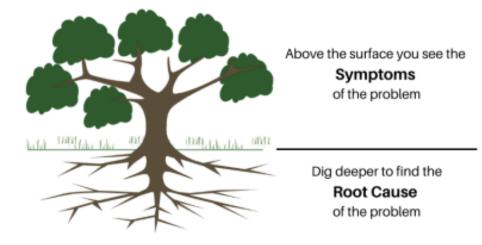


HOW/WF'RE ORGANIZED

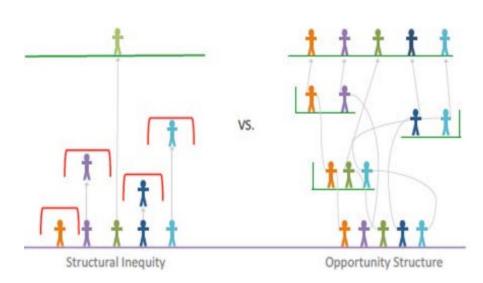




SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



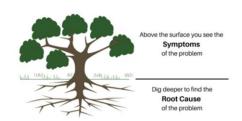
ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS



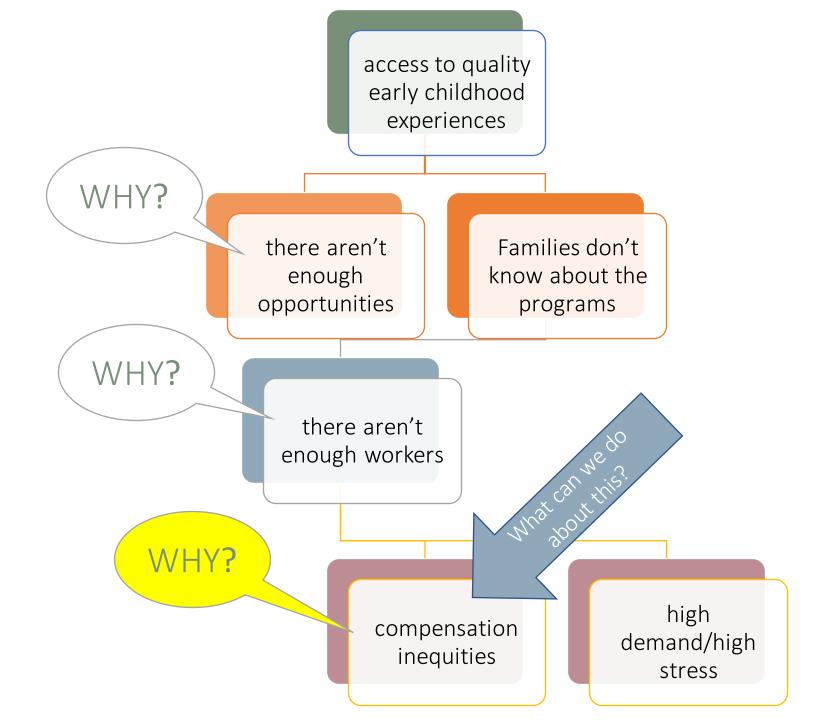
TARGETED UNIVERSALISM



PUBLIC WILL BUILDING



Goal:
EVERY CHILD HAS
EQUITABLE ACCESS TO
OPPORTUNITIES TO
THRIVE





A EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE INDEX

*BATTLE * CREEK*

- IT IS WIDELY AGREED THAT THE CVRRENT EARLY CARE & EDUCATION (EC)
 SYSTEM ACROSS STATES IS WOEFFULLY UNDERFUNDED. THE COST OF SERVICES IS
 OUT OF REACH FOR MANY WORKING FAMILIES, INCLUDING THOSE EARNING
 MIDDLE CLASS WAGES
- 37.9 × DF BC CHILDREN 6 & UNDER ARE PART OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.

 52 × OF LOCAL FAMILIES STRUGGLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET (ALICE REPORT). THE

 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IS \$39,679 (OVERALL) WITH WOMEN OF COLOR

 EARNING MICH LESS (\$28,646 FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN \$ \$22,456

 FOR LATINAS)
- AT THE SAME TIME, LARGE SWATHS OF BC TEACHERS, EVEN THOSE WITH COLLEGE DEGREES, EARN UNLIVABLE WAGES. MORE THAN 520 MEMBERS OF THE BC WORKFORCE PROVIDE SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN BATTLE CREEK.

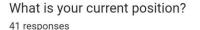


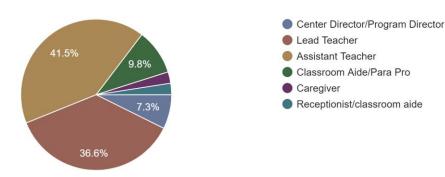




EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS

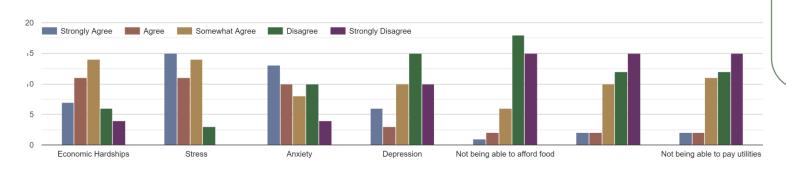






85.4% of respondents are Center Directors, Lead Teachers or Assistant Teachers

While working in my current position, I have experienced:



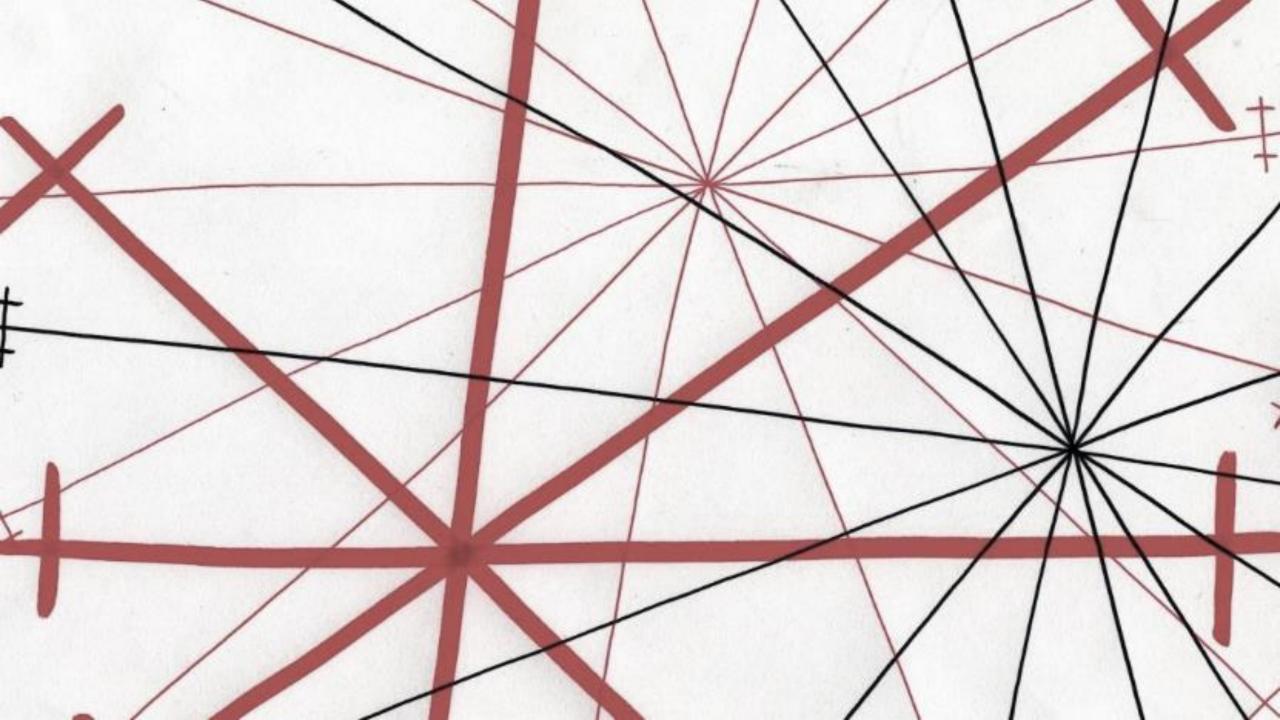
HIGHLIGHTS:

76% of respondents report experiencing ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS

22% of respondents report NOT BEING ABLE TO AFFORD FOOD

34% of respondents report NOT BEING ABLE TO AFFORD HOUSING

39% of respondents report NOT BEING ABLE TO PAY UTILITIES





OUR CHALLENGE:

HOW CAN WE RELIEVE SOME OF THE FINANCIAL WEIGHT IMPACTING OUR EC PROFESSIONALS?



LEARNING & LEVERAGING:

- CITY OF BC & BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS' HOUSING INCENTIVES PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS LESSONS LEARNED
- BUILDING BRIDGES WITH OUR MUNICIPAL PARTNERS





Mayor & Commission

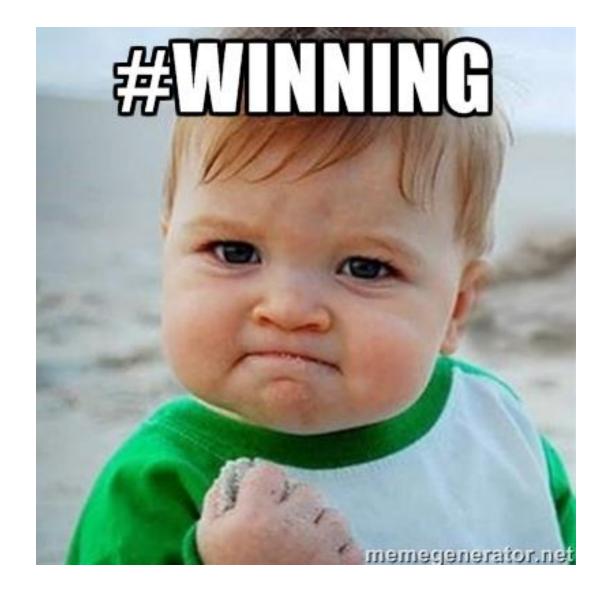
2020-2022 Battle Creek City Commission



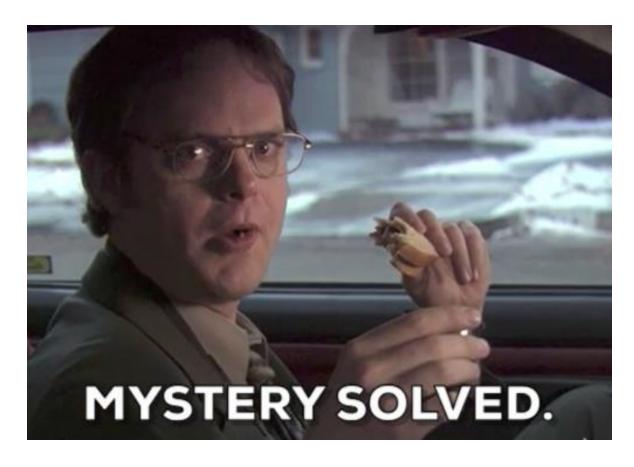
Top, L-R: Mayor Mark Behnke, Kristin Blood, Jenasia Morris Middle, L-R: Boonikka Herring, Kathy Szenda Wilson, Jim Lance Bottom, L-R: Vice Mayor Carla Reynolds, Sherry Sofia, Lynn Ward Gray







SUCCESSFULLY GARNERED ARPA FUNDS, PRIVATELY MATCHED 2:1 BY LOCAL FUNDER



LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
WITHIN THE CITY & ADVOCATING FOR EARLY
CHILDHOOD

OUR ++ WITH THE CITY

(what's next)

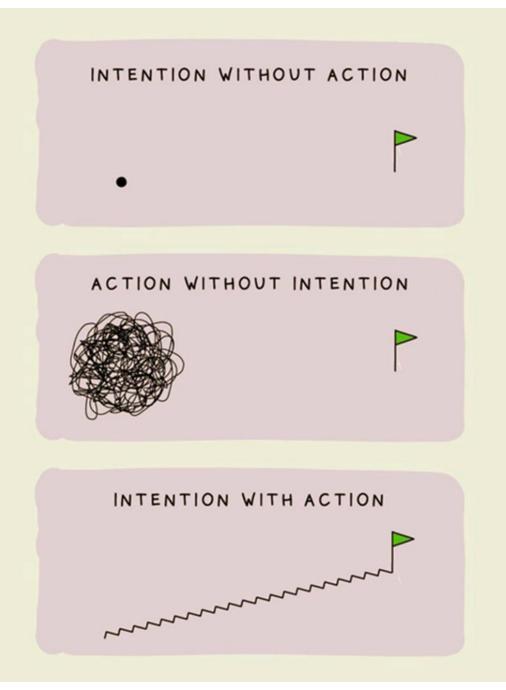
LAUNCHING + IMPLENTING THE HOUSING INCENTIVES PILOT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS (FALL 2022)

SUCCESSFULLY LEVERAGING PUBLIC SCHOOL ESSER \$\$ TO FUND MUCH NEEDED TRANSITION COACHES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES (est JANUARY 2023)

WORKING WITH A LOCAL DEVELOPER ON A WORKFORCE HOUSING PROJECT THAT WILL INCLUDE CHILDCARE (IN PROCESS)

PARTNERING WITH CITY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (BCU & the CITY) ON CHILDCARE CONSORTIUM BUILDING WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS (IN PROCESS)





FOSSLIEN

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