



# 2020 BUDGET PRIORITY: PROTECT STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FOR ALL MICHIGANDERS

## LEAGUE RECOMMENDATION:

- Protect state and federal funding for Medicaid, the Healthy Michigan Plan and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.
- Invest in the services needed to comply with Healthy Michigan Plan work requirements should the waiver submitted to the federal government be approved.

## BACKGROUND:

Continuation of the Medicaid program, the Healthy Michigan Plan and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP or MICHild in Michigan) are critical to the League’s goal of ensuring that all Michiganders are insured and have access to healthcare. Michigan was among the states that elected to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and since 2014 over one million individuals have received health coverage and care through the Healthy Michigan Plan, with over 650,000 currently enrolled. The Michigan Legislature has appropriated sufficient state funding for the program through the end of the 2018-19 budget year. The Snyder administration recently submitted a waiver to the federal government to approve a plan that would impose work requirements and premiums on those enrolled in Healthy Michigan.

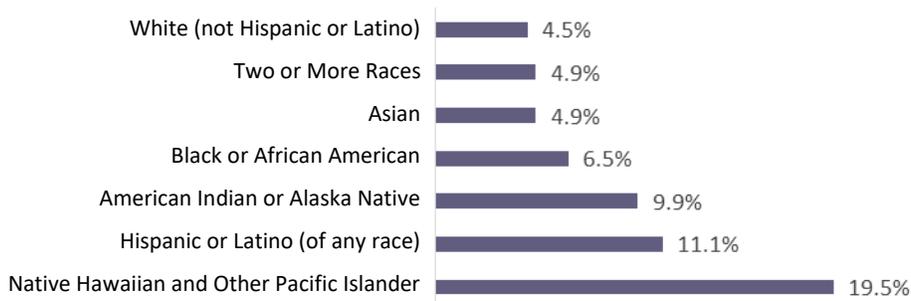
**Sabotage attempts at the federal level still threaten healthcare coverage in Michigan.** A new Democratic majority in the U.S. House of Representatives likely ends any serious attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but the Trump administration’s sabotage attempts to undermine the law are still of concern and threaten the progress Michigan has made in reducing the number of uninsured residents.

**Michigan has a history of effectively covering children.** Healthcare coverage for children has been a high priority and was increased by the passage of CHIP and the ACA at the federal level.

**Despite the state’s progress, people of color are more likely to be uninsured.** Latinx Michiganders are uninsured at more than twice the rate of White residents, for example.

**Data shows work requirements don’t work.** Michigan submitted a waiver to the federal government asking to have work requirements imposed on Healthy Michigan enrollees, despite overwhelming evidence that work requirements do nothing to improve an individual’s health. The League opposes work requirements, but if the waiver is approved, resources will be needed for those required to comply.

## LIKELIHOOD OF BEING UNINSURED IN MICHIGAN VARIES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



Source: 2017 American Community Survey

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

**Michigan residents who are insured are much more likely to receive less expensive preventive and primary care.**

Following Michigan's implementation of the Healthy Michigan Plan, over 80% of enrollees had a primary care visit and reduced their reliance on the emergency department as their primary source of care from 16% to just 1.7%

**Access to health insurance has improved outcomes for children and adults.** While access to insurance is not the only influence on health outcomes, it does improve economic security for families, increase the likelihood of regular well-child and primary care visits, expand access to screenings for potentially expensive chronic illnesses like diabetes, and improve access to needed prescription drugs.

**The Healthy Michigan Plan helped Michigan's economy grow.** The Healthy Michigan Plan resulted in 30,000 jobs annually, \$2.3 billion in additional personal spending power, and \$150 million in state tax revenue as a result of added economic activity. Uncompensated care by hospitals fell by nearly 50% across the state.

**Access to transportation, affordable child care and job training are lacking.** Transportation, child care and training are lacking in our state, but they should not prevent someone from having health coverage. If the work requirement waiver is approved, Healthy Michigan enrollees would need to comply beginning Jan. 1, 2020. Funding must be devoted to address the barriers individuals may face trying to work.