

UPLIFT MI FAMILIES



Uplift MI Families is a coalition of organizations working to ensure the lives and experiences of Michiganders are being prioritized on a federal level. Collectively we represent low income workers, families with small children, caregivers and individuals with disabilities. We are coming together to have conversations with the Michigan members of congress about how issues that affect Michigan families are being addressed in the budget process. We believe any infrastructure package must be more than just roads and bridges--it's building what we need for our communities and our families to thrive. This year we have the opportunity to align our public funding with the values we hold dear, ensuring every family has food on the table, and a roof over their heads and the ability to get the care that they need.

CARE

The people who take care of our children, elders, and disabled family members deserve the same dignity and respect they give to our loved ones- and individuals needing care deserve the resources to get it. This is why we support increased resources and funding for essential caregivers and substantive investment in programs serving elderly and disabled Americans. We urge you to fight for home and community based services. In addition to our support for caregivers, we know that families are struggling to afford the cost of childcare and early education. We urge you to support universal pre-K and access to affordable childcare. In Michigan, Governor Whitmer has proposed spending ARP dollars to expand access and eliminate the waiting list from the Great Start Readiness Program child care and make it more affordable, providing funding to all eligible 4 years olds.

TAXES

Our families have gotten some immediate relief from the American Rescue Plan, but we need much more to truly recover and build a country that works for everyone, not just the wealthiest few. According to the Michigan ALICE Report, 38% of households do not earn enough to afford all of their monthly necessities and childcare remains the highest cost for a household with children. The expansions to the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit in the American Rescue Plan have provided struggling families in Michigan with the support they need to make ends meet; 80% of Michigan children -- 2,210,000 children -- are benefitting from the temporary CTC expansion, and 9% of adults in the state are benefitting from the expanded EITC. Together, the expansion of benefits is adding more than \$3.8 billion in spending in local communities across the state. If made permanent, these tax credit expansions will keep 4.1 million U.S. children out of poverty and improve the financial stability of 17 million low-paid working adults.

FOOD

The American Families Plan included a number of provisions that would reduce food insecurity for children in our communities, including Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (Summer EBT) and increased access to school meals. The Summer EBT program ensures children have access to meals in the summer months when school meals are no longer available by providing a monthly benefit for parents to purchase additional food. We urge you to expand this program to include all students who are eligible for free and reduced price meals and to make Summer EBT permanent. We also ask you to include in the reconciliation package the expansion to community eligibility so more students in need will be able to access school meals.

HEALTH

The pandemic has brought to light the significant disparities in health services and access to care that exist in our nation. When facing any illness, but especially during a pandemic, it is essential that all workers have access to the paid leave they need to care for themselves or a sick loved one. Without this paid leave, people are forced to go into work and risk spreading illness. As discussions around the next package continue we hope that you continue to look at the much needed and long overdue Medicaid expansion to include vision, dental and hearing coverage. Ignoring medical issues related to dental, vision and hearing often devolves into far more serious medical problems for people -- especially seniors -- that cost more to treat and are harder to remedy.

EDUCATION

The pandemic has exasperated the public education crisis in Michigan. Pre-pandemic Michigan's public schools were 3.7 billion dollars underfunding. During the pandemic, we saw extensive technology and broadband investment across the state as well as facilities investment. Some communities were able to easily update their buildings with new pipes to eliminate lead, upgrade the HVAC system and disperse technology to their students. While others are struggling to keep their buildings up to code and provide access to reliable broadband services. The ESSER investment will cushion our pending financial crisis for a few years; however, we need extensive federal investment in education infrastructure. We ask that you advocate that the next stimulus package needs to include expansion of early childhood education and significant investment in our public school infrastructure.

HOUSING

We are facing a housing crisis that goes far beyond the pandemic. Without access to high quality, stable housing, an economic recovery is not possible for everyone in our community. We are urging you to develop affordable and accessible housing, provide support to first time home buyers, and repair public housing so everyone has access to a safe and decent home .

ORGANIZATIONS:

DETROIT DISABILITY POWER
MOTHERING JUSTICE

UNITED WAY FOR SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN LEAGUE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

MICHIGAN UNITED