

Strength in Numbers

2022 Annual Report



From our President & CEO

We are stronger when we work together. That is what comes to mind when I think back on 2022, which marked the League's 110th anniversary and my first full year proudly serving as the League's president and CEO.

Without the support of our Board of Directors, donors and community partners, the important work that we did throughout the year to advocate for families with low incomes and strive for a stronger, more equitable Michigan would not have been possible. It is with that in mind that we chose our 2022 Annual Report theme: "Strength in Numbers." This year's theme recognizes the League's data-supported advocacy work as well as the invaluable, collaborative partnerships that have helped us to remain fully committed to our mission and values over the past 110 years.

In 2022, the League and our partners celebrated a number of state policy and budget wins, including the most meaningful improvement to the Family Independence Program in more than a decade; the passage of a series of bills to strengthen Michigan's child care system; and nearly \$5 billion in state and federal funding for critical state infrastructure improvements, including safer water infrastructure. We also celebrated major investments in K-12 education, including full funding for the At-Risk school aid program for the first time in decades as well as new funding to better support Michigan students struggling with their mental health.

We, along with hundreds of other advocates across the state, also gained significant momentum in our years-long push for an increase to Michigan's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which was devastatingly reduced to just 6% of the federal credit in 2011. While the historic expansion of the EITC to 30% of the federal credit didn't become a reality until early 2023, the advocacy work in 2022 and the many years before that certainly helped pave the way for this major win for working Michigan families with low incomes.

As we continue our work in 2023 and the years to come, I'm confident that our ongoing collaborative efforts with partners like you will bring about additional positive outcomes for the people who call Michigan home. Together, we can keep working to make Michigan a better place to live for all people—regardless of their race, ethnicity, zip code, income, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, national origin or any other distinguishing characteristic or trait. We can do this by continuing to listen to the voices of our fellow Michiganders and working with our state leaders to understand and meet their critical needs. Here's to another 110 years of partnership and advocacy.



Monique Stanton, President & CEO
Michigan League for Public Policy



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Data in Action

As we look back on 2022, there were many hard-fought policy and budget wins that we celebrated here at the Michigan League for Public Policy.

Thanks to the support and collaboration of our partners and the data-driven advocacy work of League staff, we were able to see many recommendations become reality.

Here are just a few of the wins we celebrated:



Passage of the Building Michigan Better Plan, which allocated nearly \$5 billion in state and federal funds for critical infrastructure improvements, including safer water infrastructure; affordable, accessible housing; and improved broadband access.



Critical investment of state and federal funds to implement 'filter first' protections for safer drinking water in Michigan schools.



Passage of a series of bipartisan bills to improve Michigan's child care system, including improved access for families and better support for home-based child care providers.



Several K-12 education budget wins, including full funding for the At-Risk school aid program for the first time in decades and a major change to the special education formula.



Increased cash assistance payments to parents raising young children—the most meaningful improvement to the Family Independence Program in more than a decade.



Major progress in the ongoing work to advocate for an increase to Michigan's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In March 2023, the EITC was increased from 6% to 30% of the federal tax credit, marking a major milestone and historic win for working families with low incomes.



Voter approval of Proposal 2—a ballot initiative endorsed by the League that establishes nine days of early voting and several other provisions that ensure voters that their voices will be heard and their votes counted.



Voter approval of Proposal 3—a ballot initiative endorsed by the League that enshrines the right to reproductive freedom in the Michigan Constitution.



Establishment of the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, which is helping make a higher education more affordable—and, in turn, more of a reality—for a significant majority of Michigan high school graduates.



Significant investments in postsecondary education and training to support non-traditional learners, include significant financial increases for universities and community colleges as well as new financial aid programs to make college more affordable for older students and students with children.



Budget wins for workers, including continued funding for the following successful programs: MI Tri-Share Pilot Program, Going PRO, Michigan Reconnect and the Barrier Removal Employee Assistance Program.

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Major Wins for Education

As long-time advocates for improving outcomes for Michigan children, the League and our partners celebrated some major advancements in education in 2022, including the state's K-12 budget for the 2022-2023 school year, which totaled \$19.6 billion – a 15.5% increase from the previous year.

Here are just a few of the K-12 budget wins we celebrated:



Increased support for students, including targeted funding for students with the greatest need. In addition to more per-pupil spending, the budget included increased funding and a new funding formula for special education as well as increased funding for English language-learners and small, isolated school districts. The At-Risk school aid program also received full funding for the first time in decades with a \$223 million increase in support for students from low-income backgrounds and those at risk for educational failure.



Continued support to help children read by grade 3. Funding was maintained to provide additional instructional time for struggling students, while spending was increased for Michigan Education Corps reading programs and early literacy professional learning.



Additional investments in early childhood learning. Building on the momentum of the previous budget year's substantial funding increase for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), the Michigan Legislature increased the GSRP funding by another \$34 million, further supporting early learning for eligible four-year-olds in the state.



Additional spending on teacher recruitment and retention. Recognizing the need to grow and support the teacher profession, a total of \$284 million was allocated to support recruitment efforts and provide tuition assistance, grants, stipends, mentorship programs, training and additional support for aspiring teachers.



Significant investments in student mental health. Recognizing the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on student mental health, the budget included \$150 million in new funding for per-pupil payments to school districts for the hiring of support staff, implementation of screening tools and other much-needed support. Funding was also increased for mental health services offered by Intermediate School Districts.

Our Priorities

Incorporate racial equity within all our goals and activities.

Make sure all Michiganders can meet basic needs.

Make affordable, high-quality child care available to working parents.

Ensure that all Michiganders have access to healthcare.

Strengthen public education at all levels, from pre-K to adult education.

Ensure that Michigan has adequate revenues to invest in an economy that works for all.

Reform the criminal justice system to reduce racial and economic disparities.

Make Michigan a welcoming state for immigrants.

“The League is a champion of equity and opportunity for children, families and all the people of Michigan, but especially those who are facing barriers.”

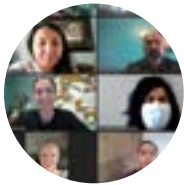
- Paul Hillegonds, Former Representative



Strength in Numbers

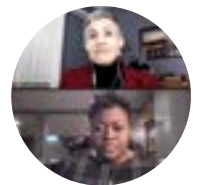
With your support, we were able to continue our work in advocacy and analysis in 2022, while also offering several informative engagement opportunities for partners and stakeholders from across the state.

Organizational Highlights



A total of **91** advocates from around the state participated in **three** Advocacy Boot Camps in 2022. Campers were able to learn how to better use data, communications tools and legislative knowledge to advocate for policies that matter most to them and their communities.

In addition to Advocacy Boot Camps, the League held **two** focus groups and **dozens** of presentations and meetings with partner organizations in 2022, all of which helped to identify priorities for Michigan families and develop policy recommendations that meet the needs of people across the state.

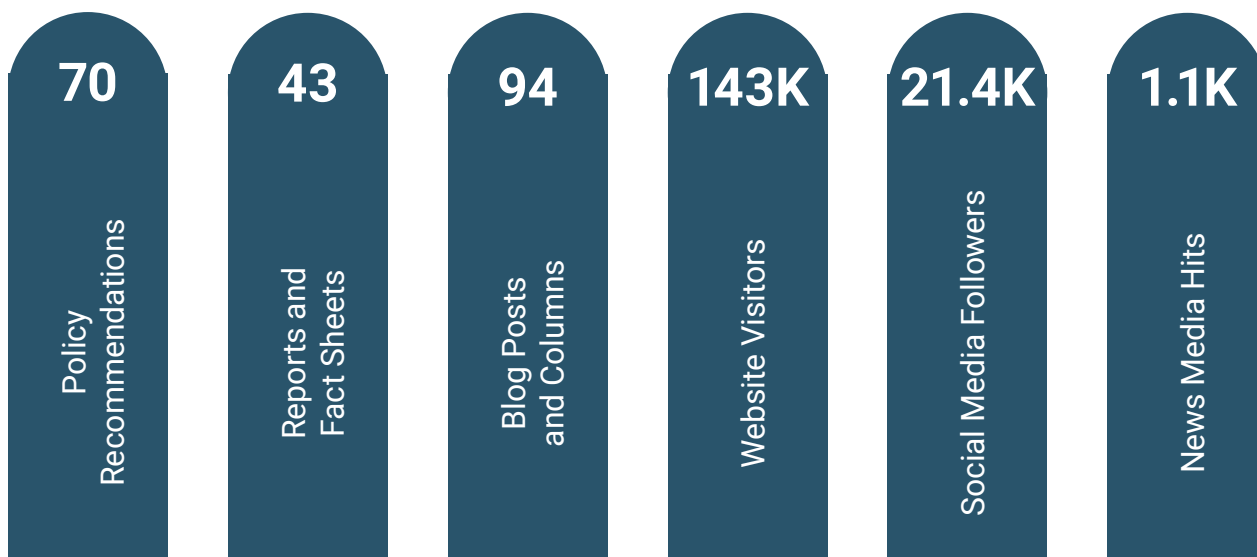


Our annual public policy forum, "Just in Time," featured keynote speaker Taifa Smith Butler, the President of Demos, and brought together more than **600** people virtually to learn more about building economic justice in Michigan and strategies to help the state emerge from its affordable housing crisis. Additionally, the Sharon Parks Award was presented to Detroit Disability Power.

The League celebrated its **110th** Anniversary at the Michigan's Next Chapter celebration in 2022. The event also served to honor and celebrate the remarkable achievements of Gilda Z. Jacobs, who served as the League's president and CEO from 2011-2021.



2022 By the Numbers



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Voices for Transformation

“I feel empowered to create change at the legislative level. If we are strategic and work the plan that the Boot Camp shared, we will be moving in the right direction to build and lead an organizing effort for change.” - Advocacy Boot Camp Participant

As the League continues to push to make Michigan a better, more welcoming place to live for all people, we’ve turned to community members and advocates to share their vision of what our state can become. When we focus on dismantling racist policies and recreating a state built on equity and inclusion, all Michiganders win.



2022 Public Policy Forum

The 2022 Public Policy Forum featured a panel of experts who explored strategies that will help Michigan emerge from its affordable housing crisis.



Advocacy Boot Camp

The League’s Advocacy Boot Camps continue to build knowledge and strong partnerships with advocates around the state in order to advance policies that improve outcomes for Michigan’s kids, families and workers.



Yeas & Nays

Yeas & Nays is the League’s weekly Facebook Live program featuring informative discussions with League staff and partners. Each installment provides a legislative and policy update for advocates in Michigan.



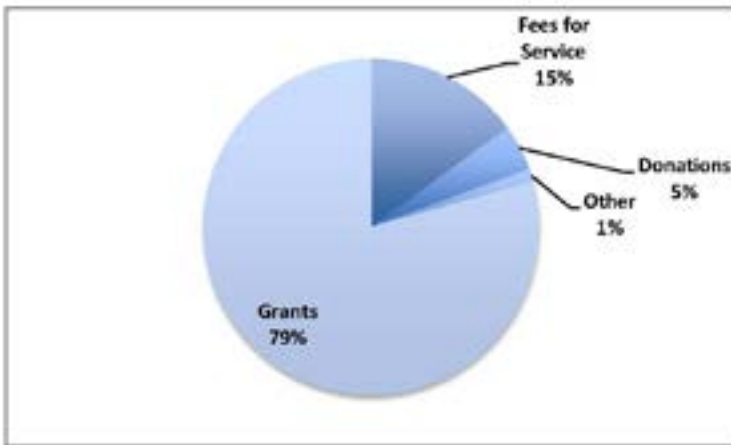
Wonk-Life Balance

In 2022, the League continued with its podcast, Wonk-Life Balance. The program provided a comfortable space where families, community members, advocates and policy wonks could come together and find solutions.

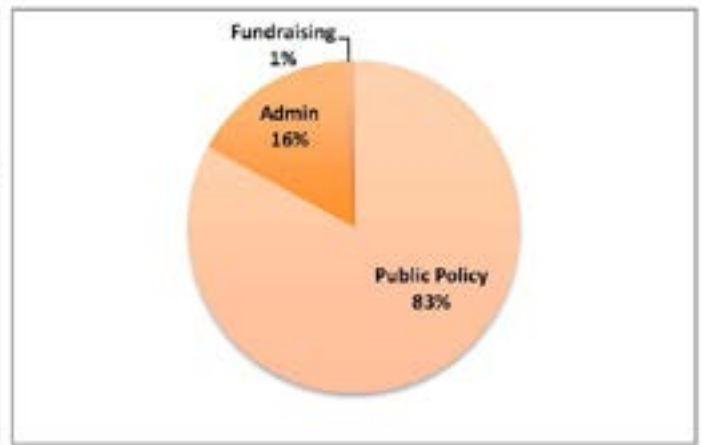
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2022 Financials

SOURCES OF FUNDS



EXPENDITURES



Net Assets - Beginning of Year
\$7,716,261

Net Assets - End of Year
\$6,913,237

Change in Net Assets
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