

2023 Annual Report



Partners for Progress

From our President & CEO



Thinking back on the strong partnerships that were instrumental in achieving so much progress for the people of Michigan in 2023 helped us in choosing the theme for this year's Annual Report: Partners for Progress.

The year started off with a major milestone for Michiganders when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed into law a historic boost to the state's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), from 6% to 30% of the federal credit. This major, years-in-the-making win for working Michigan families was the result of the hard work and dedication of countless advocates from across our state and we were honored to be a part of that shared effort. An estimated 740,000 Michigan taxpayers will benefit from the EITC increase, putting more of their hard-earned money back into their pockets and helping them to better cope with inflation and make ends meet for their families, including nearly 1 million Michigan kids. We recognize the tremendous power of the EITC in helping families who are struggling to get by, which is why we want to see it expanded to include those who are currently excluded from receiving it. This includes younger and older workers without qualifying children and immigrant workers who pay taxes, but do not have Social Security Numbers.

Another major policy win in 2023 was the elimination of the state's asset test as an eligibility requirement for food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The asset test was an unnecessary barrier to food assistance, requiring Michigan families to spend down their responsible savings in order to access nutritious food during hard times.

We also celebrated several wins for Michigan kids in 2023, including, but not limited to: better alignment of school funding to meet the needs of Michigan students, universal breakfast and lunch for school-aged kids, the expansion of lead testing to all Michigan toddlers, passage of the Filter First legislation to ensure safe drinking water in the state's child care centers and schools, and critical investments in student mental health.

We want to thank our many partners for working with us in 2023 to build a stronger Michigan for all people and we look forward to continuing to be Partners for Progress in 2024 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monique Stanton', written in a cursive style.

Monique Stanton
Michigan League for Public Policy, President & CEO

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Data in Action

We are thankful for the many major policy and budget priorities that made it across the finish line for the people of Michigan in 2023. With the support of our partners and the hard-fought, data-backed advocacy of our League staff, we saw many League priorities go from recommendation to reality. **Here are some of the wins we celebrated in 2023:**



An increase of Michigan's Earned Income Tax Credit from 6% to 30% of the federal credit—a major milestone and historic win for working families with low incomes.



Elimination of the state's asset test as an eligibility requirement for food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.



Two monumental steps forward in eradicating lead poisoning in Michigan's kids through the expansion of lead testing to all toddlers and the passage of the Filter First legislation, requiring schools and child care centers to ensure safe drinking water in their facilities.



Elimination of the five-year waiting period for lawfully residing children and pregnant people to access Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program through the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act option.



Improved access to healthy foods, including universal breakfast and lunch for school-aged children and an increase in funding for Double Up Food Bucks.



More alignment of school funding with the needs of Michigan students, including more funding to support students from low-income backgrounds, English-language learners and students with disabilities.



Strides in healthcare, including state codification of provisions in the Affordable Care Act and a funding increase for Essential Local Public Health Services to ensure Michiganders receive the preventive care they need.



Legislation to ensure equal language access at state agencies, so community members who don't speak English as their first language are better equipped to keep their families safe, healthy and informed.



Amendments to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to reaffirm legal protections for sexual orientation and extend these protections to gender identity and expression.



Reforms to the juvenile justice system as recommended by the Michigan Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform. The League continues to advocate for critical legislation that addresses the constitutional right to counsel for children in delinquency proceedings.

Major Wins for Education

As long-time advocates for improving the well-being of Michigan's kids, the League and our partners celebrated some major advancements in education in 2023, including many wins in the state's K-12 budget for the 2023-2024 school year, which totaled \$21.5 billion – a 9.4% increase from the previous year. **Here are just a few of the K-12 budget wins we celebrated:**



An increased focus on equitable school funding. In addition to more per-pupil spending, the budget included increased funding for students learning English and students with disabilities as well as a significant increase—\$204.5 million—for students that come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The budget also made history as Michigan became one of the first 10 states to enact an Opportunity Index for schools with different concentrations of poverty.



Academic interventions and support to ensure students are reading at grade level. To improve literacy instructional practices, the budget included \$140 million for grants based on PreK-5 pupil counts. The budget also included increased funding for literacy coaches and maintained funding for additional literacy instruction time, ISD provision of regional literacy coaches for teachers, Michigan Education Corps reading programs and teacher training for children with dyslexia.



Wrap-around support to help address learning loss. The budget included \$225 million in funding to provide wrap-around support for students and teachers to address learning loss that was exacerbated by the pandemic.



Increased access to nutritious food for school-aged children. Michigan became the seventh state in the nation to authorize universal school meals for all public school students with a budget investment of \$160 million. Funding was also maintained for the Ten Cents a Meal program, which supports schools and child care centers in purchasing Michigan-grown produce.



Investments in student mental health and school safety. Among several other important investments, the budget included \$328 million for discretionary per-pupil payments for mental health and school safety improvements and an increase of \$24.4 million to support ISD mental health operations.



Our Priorities

Incorporate racial equity within all of our goals and activities.

Make sure all Michiganders can meet basic needs.



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

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.

Ensure that all Michiganders have access to healthcare.

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

Make Michigan a welcoming state for immigrants.

Strength in Numbers

With your support, we've been able to continue to work toward our policy priorities, while also building on our engagement with invaluable partners and stakeholders from across the state. **Here are a few of our organizational highlights and engagement numbers from 2023:**



A total of **82** advocates from around the state participated in **two** Advocacy Boot Camps and our Fall Learning Partnership in 2023. Campers learned communications tools and gained legislative knowledge to advocate for policies that matter most to them and their communities. They also learned how to use data and how school budgets work, and heard from legislators and even a special guest from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

In addition to Advocacy Boot Camps, the League held **one** focus group, attended **213** meetings with partners across the state, and held **30** presentations and **21** trainings to help partner organizations understand the budget, advocate for their priorities and help the League identify priorities to help Michigan families thrive.



A total of **221** participants joined one of the monthly cohorts of the League's revamped 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge from April, when the challenge debuted, to December 2023. The webpage featuring the daily lessons also received **13,180** visits.

The League held its first Champions for Kids event in 2023, which brought together **350** child advocates and state leaders for the official release of the *2023 Kids Count in Michigan Data Book & Profiles*. The event also featured Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who received the inaugural Champion for Kids Award for her work to improve outcomes for Michigan's kids.



63

Policy Recommendations

33

Reports, Fact Sheets and Briefs

94

Blog Posts and Columns

137K

Website Visitors

21.4K

Social Media Followers

1.2K

News Media Hits

Voices for Transformation

As the League continues to advocate for policy changes that improve the lives of all Michiganders, we've partnered with community members and advocates from across the state who share in our values and vision for Michigan. **Together, we are stronger.**

"The Boot Camp exceeded my expectations. I found the presentations to be well structured and informative, the pace of the day to be manageable, and the activities to enhance our learning. I thought most folks in the room would be early in their careers and I was so encouraged to see a wide diversity of participants. MLPP staff were welcoming, engaging and clearly experts." -2023 Advocacy Boot Camp Participant



ADVOCACY BOOT CAMPS

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



CHAMPIONS FOR KIDS

The inaugural Champions for Kids event served as the official launch of the *2023 Kids Count in Michigan Data Book & Profiles*. It also provided a space to discuss the latest data and trends relating to child and young adult well-being in Michigan and ways to address some of their most pressing needs.



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.



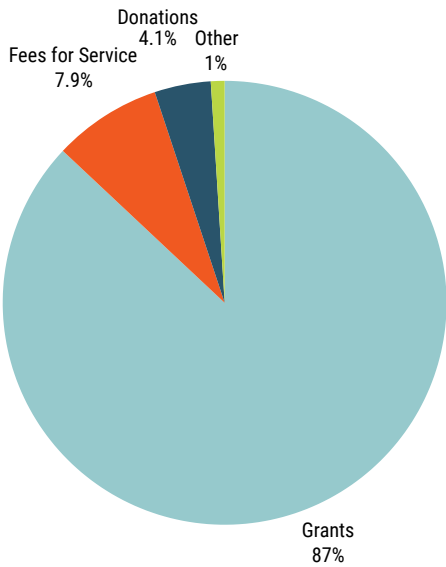
EARLY CHILDHOOD CAPITOL DAY

Early Childhood Capitol Day brings together parents, early childhood professionals, advocates and community members to urge legislators to prioritize early childhood in Michigan. The League was proud to be a part of the 2023 event, which was co-hosted by Think Babies Michigan and the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children.

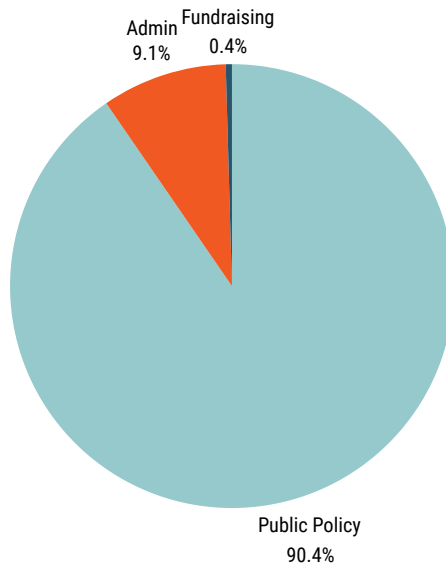
2023 Financials



SOURCES OF FUNDS



EXPENDITURES



Net Assets - Beginning of the Year
\$6,913,237

Net Assets - End of the Year
\$8,233,040

Change in Net Assets
\$1,319,803



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