

# Fiscal Year 2024 Executive Budget Recommendation

Children's Services Administration

February 22, 2023

**Lewis Roubal**, Senior Chief Deputy Director  
for Opportunity

**Demetrius Starling**, Senior Deputy Director,  
Children's Services Administration

**Amy Epkey**, Senior Deputy Director, Financial  
Operations Administration



*Putting people first, with the goal of helping all  
Michiganders lead healthier and more  
productive lives, no matter their stage in life.*

# Children's Services Administration Priorities



# Children's Services Administration

## State-Administered Child Welfare System

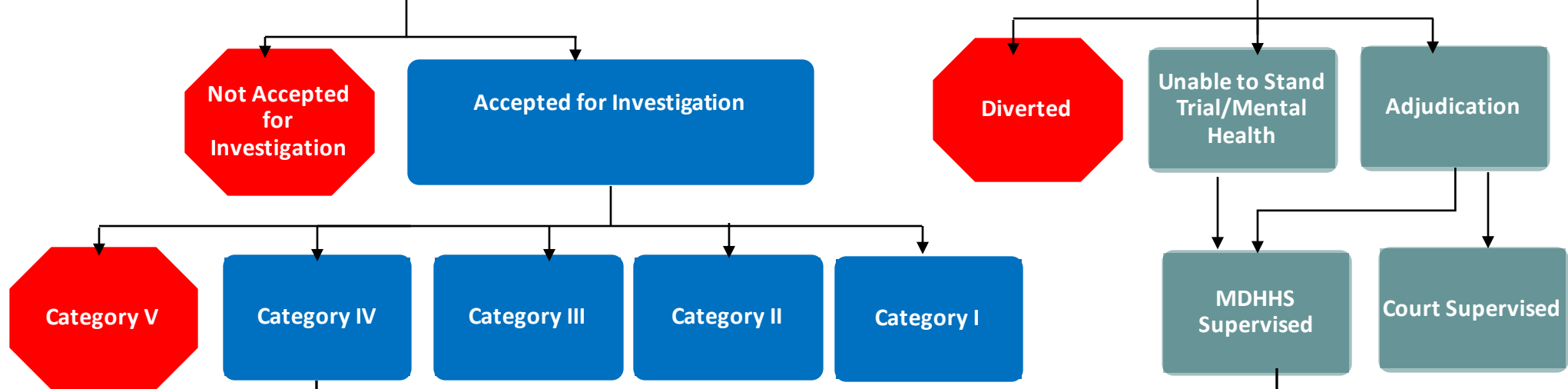
- **83** counties.
- **5** Business Service Center (BSC) regions.
- **3,614** local county and central office staff.
- Contracts with **58** agencies to provide family preservation, foster care, licensing, and adoption services.

Children's Protective Services	Foster Care	Prevention	Adoption	Juvenile Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abuse-Neglect referrals: <b>174,325</b></li><li>• Abuse-Neglect investigated: <b>68,739</b></li><li>• Confirmed case of Abuse-Neglect: <b>15,256</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>10,107</b> youth in care</li><li>• <b>9,408</b> youth in out-of-home care</li><li>• <b>361</b> youth placed in a Child Caring Institution (CCI)</li><li>• Children entered foster care: <b>4,247</b></li><li>• Children exited foster care: <b>5,122</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prevention cases: <b>1,139</b></li><li>• Title IV-E Prevention cases: <b>746</b></li><li>• Youth served by prevention services: <b>2,216</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1,683</b> completed adoptions</li><li>• <b>97%</b> of youth adopted received adoption subsidy, medical subsidy or both</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>405</b> youth supervised by MDHHS</li><li>• <b>174</b> Dual wards.</li><li>• <b>106</b> youth placed in a Child Caring Institution (CCI)</li></ul>

**System Entry Pathway**



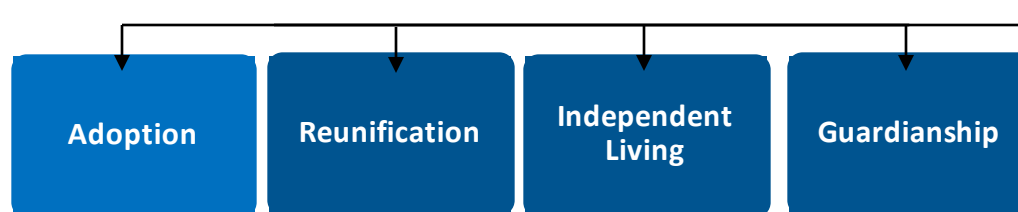
**Intake**



**Disposition**



**System Exit**



# Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)

## Background:

Federal mandate to implement CCWIS.

- Final rule issued on June 2, 2016, changed the rules from SACWIS regulations to the new CCWIS regulations.
- Must be compliant with CCWIS regulations to receive federal funding for child welfare information technology.
- CCWIS receives approximately 50% in federal funding.
- Regulations include automated functions, data sharing, modular design, agile projects, cost allocation and data quality.

## Status:

CCWIS is a multi-year project with an estimated completion date of 2026.

- October 31, 2022, was the implementation of the first module: Child Welfare Licensing Module.
- Michigan Foster Care Portal centralized location for Prospective Foster Parents to share their interest in fostering.

## Next Steps:

Request for proposal (RFP) includes solutions to cover the remaining modules. The contract is estimated to be effective October 16, 2023.

# Juvenile Justice Reform

## Michigan Taskforce Recommendations

To align system policies and practices across diverse locales with what research shows works to improve community safety, reduce juvenile recidivism, and reduce system disparities.

## Objectives

- Safely **reduce placement** in **detention** and residential placement and increase community placements.
- **Increase** the **safety** and **well-being** of youth impacted by the juvenile justice system.
- **Reduce** racial and ethnic **disparities** among youth impacted by the juvenile justice system.
- **Improve** the **efficiency** and **effectiveness** of the juvenile justice systems.
- **Increase accountability** and **transparency** within the juvenile justice system.
- Better **align practices** with **research** and constitutional mandates.

## Investments

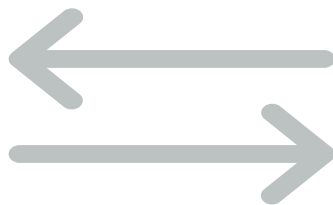
- Community-Based Diversion Services
- Case Practice Model
- Risk Assessment Screening
- Capital Improvements
- Increased Staffing
- Technology and Data Reporting

# Placement Array Development

- Critical **shortage** of **available placements nationwide** fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Children's **needs** are **greater** than ever.
  - Recruiting new foster families has been difficult, in part because of the **low rates paid** to foster families.
- Efforts to address the **placement crisis** is an **ongoing priority**.



Therapeutic Short-Term Treatment



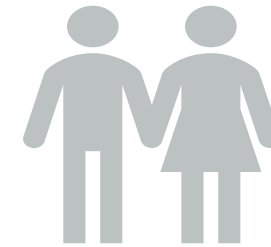
Transitional Placement Program (TPP) Expansion



Community Reintegration Homes



Enhanced Treatment Foster Care



Expanding Relative and Kinship Efforts



Child Caring Institution Investments

# Workforce Challenges

- 431 **vacancies**.
- Starting **pay** - \$23.47.
- Increased acuity of cases.
- **Emotionally** demanding.
- Burnout.
- **Unpredictable** hours.





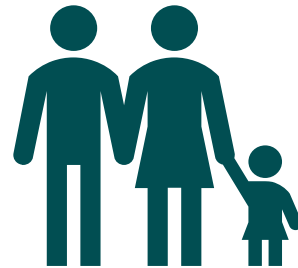
A photograph of a man with a beard and a young girl with a pink bow in her hair, both smiling and touching noses. The man is wearing a grey t-shirt and the girl is wearing a colorful patterned t-shirt. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

# Supporting Children and Families

# MDHHS Budget Investments Fiscal Year 2024



**Child Welfare Information  
System**



**Foster Family Support**



**Juvenile Justice  
Reform**

# Increasing Foster Family Support

## Background

---

- Michigan's foster care system relies on the **volunteerism** of individual families to provide children with out-of-home care.
- The **standard rate** foster parents receive is **\$20-\$25 per day**.
- Nearly **75%** of foster parents who closed their license indicated they **closed due** to needing more **financial support** and **respite** care.
- Michigan needs to **maintain/increase** the number of foster care homes.

## Proposed Response

---

- \$19.3 million gross (\$7.8 million GF)** to provide an **8% rate increase** to foster, relative, guardian, and adoptive families to support inflationary costs.
- \$15.1 million gross/GF** to establish a **respite care support program**. Funding will be used to identify both licensed and closed foster homes to participate in a network of caregivers who provide short-term respite care. Caregivers will receive a daily rate for this service.

## Expected Impact

---

- Increase the financial capacity** of foster parents and relative caregivers.
- Support foster parents and caregivers and **improve placement stability** for youth in care.
- Placement stability directly impacts **safety, well-being,** and **permanency** outcomes.

# Investing in Juvenile Justice

## Background

---

- The **Michigan Taskforce on Juvenile Justice Reform** was formed to provide recommendations to Michigan's juvenile justice system.
- **Raise the Age** legislation enacted in 2019 increased the age to 18 for juvenile court jurisdiction.
- **Bay Pines Center and Shawono Center** are secure facilities serving over 70 youth with complex trauma and the need for emotional/behavioral stabilization.
- The **Child Care Fund (CCF)**—the primary statewide juvenile justice funding structure— does not provide **financial incentive** for youth **to remain in the community** given that community-based and residential placements are reimbursed at the same rate (50%).

## Proposed Response

---

This proposal includes two recommendations for investments from the Michigan Taskforce on Juvenile Justice Reform:

- **\$1.3 million gross** (\$643,000 GF) for **12 FTEs** for **Bay Pines Center** and **Shawono Center** to align staffing ratios and expand capacity.
- **\$31.5 million gross/GF** increase in state support for community-based services and alternatives to residential detention.

## Expected Impact

---

- Reduction in the use of seclusion and restraints and improvement in **behavioral management skills** for facility staff through the modification of current staffing ratios.
- Ensure all youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system have **access to** a continuum of **evidence-based services**.
- Provide **rehabilitation opportunities** in a safe, supportive, and respectful environment that honors the youth and family voice.

# Modernizing the Child Welfare Information System

## Background

---

- The Michigan Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (MiSACWIS) is being replaced with the the **Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)**.
- Over **7,000 public and private staff** use the software for children's protective services, foster care, and adoption case management.
- CCWIS is a **state-of-the-art, cloud-based** system that will **better support** child welfare staff and families.

## Proposed Response

---

- **\$12.6 million gross (\$7.5 million GF)** to continue the work of replacing MISACWIS by supporting the **planning, development, and implementation** of the next phase of CCWIS modules.

## Expected Impact

---

- **Improved outcomes** for kids and families and **caseworker satisfaction and retention**.
- **Improved data collection**, data-driven decision making, and assessment of program performance.
- **Compliance with federal regulations**.

# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

## MDHHS Contact Information

Chardaé Burton  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
517-243-3221  
[BurtonC5@michigan.gov](mailto:BurtonC5@michigan.gov)