

Annual Report to the Membership • September 2023



FULL MEMBERS

ACTS II Ministry for Teens
Adoption Option, Inc.
Bethany Christian Services
D.A. Blodgett–St. John’s
Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee & Hillsdale Counties
Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties
Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan
Catholic Charities West Michigan
Catholic Social Services of the Upper Peninsula
Child & Family Charities
Child & Family Services of Northeast Michigan
Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan
Child & Family Services of the Upper Peninsula
The Children’s Center
Christ Child House
CNS Healthcare
Development Centers, Inc.
Eagle Village
Family & Children Services
Family Outreach Center

Family Service & Children’s Aid
Federation of Youth Services
Forever Families
Fostering Futures
Fostering Solutions
Great Lakes Recovery Centers
The Guidance Center
Guiding Harbor
Hands Across the Water
Highfields, Inc.
Holy Cross Services
Homes for Black Children
Hope Network Behavioral Health Services
House of Providence
Insight Youth & Family Connections
Judson Center
Livingston County Catholic Charities
MCHS Family of Services

The New Foster Care
New Light Child & Family Institute
St. Vincent Catholic Charities
Samaritas
Services to Enhance Potential (STEP)
Southwest Solutions
Spaulding for Children
Starfish Family Services
Starr Commonwealth
Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan
U.P. KIDS
Upper Peninsula Family Solutions
Vista Maria
Wedgwood Christian Services
Wellspring Lutheran Services
West Michigan Partnership for Children
Whaley Children’s Center
Youth Guidance Foster Care & Adoption



AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Children’s Advocacy Centers of Michigan
Fostering Forward Michigan
Michigan CASA, Inc.
Michigan State University School of Social Work

The Federation achieves results through collaboration, partnership, advocacy, and action



Throughout its more than 50-year history, the Michigan Federation for Children and Families has evolved and adapted to numerous challenges facing the nonprofit sector in the wake of ever-changing political and economic environments. The Federation has provided a collective and expert voice on behalf of its members to influence federal, state, and local public policy decisions—both legislative and administrative. The Federation is at the forefront of advocacy efforts and action toward system reform in Michigan. Our input and feedback to leadership of the Whitmer Administration, members of the Michigan Legislature, officials within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and Michigan courts has been sought out, respected, and acted upon. Our common connection is shared responsibility for our communities, and member involvement is vital to our progress and achievements. Highlights of the membership's past year's efforts include:

Collaboration and Partnership

- Partnered with MDHHS leadership to identify and define **key provider contract requirements** in order to support the most successful outcomes for children and their families throughout the state.
- Convened **Independent Living Plus (ILP)** providers to identify solutions and make informed recommendations to advocate for improved resources specifically for ILP programs.
- Participated in **Adoption Contract Workgroup** meetings, advocating for a more frequent cadence to ensure issues and solutions are addressed promptly.
- Participated in the **Michigan Child Welfare Judicial Workgroup** to ensure the voice of private partners is included in high-level discussions and decisions relating to issues of mutual interest to the courts and other child welfare stakeholders.
- Participated in the **Foster Care Review Board Advisory Committee** to contribute to discussions and work relating to system trends and concerns, based on the work of the Foster Care Review Board.
- Participated in the **Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) Children's Issues Committee**, focusing on opportunities to partner on mental health issues and services impacting children.
- Communicated regularly with the **Michigan Monitoring Team** appointed by the federal court judge and **Children's Rights** to discuss challenges of and recommend changes necessary to meet requirements of the Implementation, Sustainability and Exit Plan (ISEP).
- Partnered with the **MDHHS Regional Placement Unit (RPU)** and county offices to discuss current practice of consultations and conferences at the onset of a placement need and determine a plan of action and support.
- Continued implementation of a \$60,000 planning grant from **The Kresge Foundation** to integrate a two-generation (2Gen), brain science-informed, whole-family approach into a family preservation frame that supports Michigan's child welfare-involved families to realize increased social and economic mobility.
- Sponsored a **Lived Experience Panel at the 2023 Michigan Teen Conference**, where alumni of foster care shared their lived experiences and shared information with youth currently engaged in the child welfare system about how to plan for college and discover tools that will help them thrive in an academic environment.
- At the invitation of the Governor's Office, continued to serve on the **Advisory Council of the Michigan Child Welfare Improvement Task Force** to address racial disparities in Michigan's child welfare system, with the goal to support MDHHS to improve the child protection system to provide safe, fair, and equitable treatment of all Michigan's children and families.
- Built upon a member-led **Race Equity Data Workgroup**, tracking and measuring the extent to which inequities in family preservation services exist to bring attention to this area, create awareness in each agency about how workers are interacting with youth and families, and implement strategies to promote equitable services to families based on the findings.
- Participated in the **RCTAU Workgroup to improve safety and strengthen best practice** in Michigan child caring institutions, partnering with MDHHS and community stakeholders to develop recommendations to reduce restraints in residential care, improve caseworker-child visits in this setting, more widely utilize debriefing strategies with youth, hear from youth with lived experience, and improve financial, licensing, and data reporting functions.
- In partnership with **The New Foster Care**, seven member agency representatives delivered **Protective Factors Framework Training** to over 250 Federation member professionals in a Michigan-focused curriculum for workers and supervisors to support family preservation programming.

- In partnership with the **MDHHS**, the Federation engaged four additional trainers who will become certified and further adapt the **Protective Factors Framework curriculum** for the benefit of adoption and foster care workers and supervisors, bringing to 11 the number of trainers delivering this dynamic curriculum to professionals throughout Michigan.
- In partnership with the **MDHHS**, led the **2Gen Core Workgroup** in discussion and planning toward becoming a preservation system that more flexibly responds to the needs of families and their well-being, whether in crisis or planning for reunification.
- Served on the Executive and Steering Committees for the **Pre-Service Institute Re-design project**, hosting focus groups and gaining insight to guide the work in year one of the project to prepare the workforce for their jobs and meet the needs of agencies hiring and onboarding qualified staff.

Advocacy

- Strongly advocated for **one-time pandemic relief payments for residential treatment providers**, distributed in November 2022.
- Coordinated Federation members' **testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services**, urging legislators to support critical areas within the governor's proposed FY 2024 State Budget related to supporting the health care and child welfare workforce and an 8% increase for foster and adoptive families and juvenile guardians.
- Coordinated **powerful testimony** of numerous member representatives before the **House Health Policy Subcommittee on Behavioral Health**, urging continued support and expansion of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model, sharing the positive impacts of the availability and accessibility of services, care coordination, and the scope of services offered. They advocated to expand the existing demonstration pilot sites, formally incorporating them into Michigan's behavioral health service delivery system through statute and the appropriations process.
- Coordinated **powerful testimony** of multiple member representatives before the **House Health Policy Subcommittee on Behavioral Health**, focused on specific areas of need within the behavioral health system.
- Organized a meeting with **Federation behavioral health leaders and Rep. Felicia Brabec** to discuss behavioral health priorities including CCBHC demonstration expansion, access to telehealth, fully funding the cost of providing care, and improving administrative burden issues.
- Issued numerous **action alerts** to Federation membership using the advocacy tool "Muster," allowing membership to easily engage with local, state, and federal elected officials regarding issues impacting the community-based organizations serving children and families.

Action

- Hosted 40+ Federation member agency leaders in Lansing for visits with elected state legislators to advocate for the Federation's **2023 Advocacy & Policy Priorities** and **FY 2024 Budget Priorities**.
- Promoted the **MFCF Legal Trust Fund** as a resource to member agencies to provide legal counsel and training on matters with statewide impact and hosted and recorded special trainings now available to member agencies on the website.
- Launched an **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion webpage** and a **Court Resources webpage**, both of which were developed through member agency input and feature numerous references and resources for the benefit of member agencies' professionals.
- Launched the **2Gen Michigan webpage** accessible at michfed.org, providing ready access to resources to advance 2Gen approaches to build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives together.
- Joined over 500 partners nationally in the **Ascend Network**, created to spur shifts in child and family well-being systems and influence 2Gen policy and practice changes.
- Hosted the **11th Annual Residential Treatment Conference**, featuring nationally acclaimed speaker Lisette Burton, a session offering an experiential approach to staff development, and closing with the insights and experience of a former foster youth who stressed the importance of creating lifelong connections and supporting youths' transition to independence.
- Hosted the **4th Annual Family Preservation Conference**, also opened by national expert Lisette Burton, followed by sessions addressing overrepresentation of children of color in Michigan's child welfare system, strategies for incorporating motivational interviewing into all child welfare practices and family preservation programs, and strategies for building relationships with and supporting workers in the early stages of their careers and deepening their connection to the work.
- Hosted the **Annual Spring HR Training Seminar, "Reconnecting with Your Workforce,"** providing dynamic presentations: Embedding DEI into the DNA of Your Organization, HR Legal Updates and Hot Topics, Engaging 5 Generations at Work, and Leadership: Going Beyond What's Needed.
- Hosted an in-person **Executive Legal Summit, "Sidestepping Pitfalls in the Workplace: How to Avoid Litigation and Reduce Claims,"** led by Miller Johnson Attorneys Richard Hillary and Michael Stroster, who covered in-depth the most common issues underlying employee claims and how to avoid them, avoiding workplace harassment claims, how to avoid litigation, and cybersecurity awareness.
- Hosted the in-person **2023 Senior Management Conference**, featuring keynote presenter Amelia Franck Meyer and engaging members in dynamic and forward-thinking sessions designed to inspire creativity and provide tools and techniques to enhance the valuable services agencies provide to children, youth, and families.
- Served as a conduit for **daily troubleshooting** for difficulties that agencies experience with navigating and implementing state policies, training requirements, data reporting, and payment systems.

The **mission** of the Michigan Federation for Children and Families is to influence public policy and practice in support of the highest quality services to children and families.

The Michigan Federation **envisions** communities where all children, youth, and families thrive.

Core values provide focus, drive decisions, and are embraced by all member agencies:

- All children deserve excellence in service and our best efforts to ensure they grow up in strong families and supportive communities.
- Strategic advocacy is critical to assuring sound public policy and sufficient resources for quality services.
- Partnerships and collaboration are essential to providing effective services and achieving successful outcomes.
- Equity, diversity, and inclusiveness are vital elements in the full continuum of human services.

Each year, Federation member agencies generate **human and economic impact and community investment.**

The Michigan Federation for Children and Families brings together the best in human services and public health organizations, academic institutions, philanthropic entities, the business sector and loyal volunteers to advance the best outcomes for children and families. Collectively, Federation member agencies:

- ◆ Serve the critical needs of over **88,000** children and **130,000** adults throughout the state
- ◆ Provide over **\$681 million** worth of services to Michigan's children and families
- ◆ Generate over **\$41 million** in private donations to help offset operating costs
- ◆ Utilize over **\$288 million** in equipment, land and buildings to serve vulnerable children and families
- ◆ Employ over **9,000** individuals across the state and pay salaries totaling over **\$384 million**
- ◆ Generate over **\$29 million** in payroll taxes and pay nearly **\$69 million** in fringe benefits
- ◆ Engage over **700** community and business leaders as members of agency boards of directors
- ◆ Activate nearly **8,100** volunteers, who generously devote over **324,000** hours of donated service to children and families

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2023

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