

Office of Postsecondary Financial Planning (OPFP)





OPFP Bureau Director
Robin Lott





Introduction to OPFP

The Office of Postsecondary Financial Planning, located within the Michigan Department of Treasury, encourages students to pursue postsecondary education by providing equality of access to student financial resources and information.

- Michigan Education Trust (MET), Executive Director Diane Brewer
 - Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP)
 - MI529 Advisor (MAP)
 - Charitable Tuition Program
 - Fostering Futures Scholarship Trust Fund
- Student Scholarships, Grants and Outreach Division, Executive Director Diann Cosme
 - MI Student Aid - State of Michigan Scholarship and Grant Programs
- Student Loan Repayment Division, Executive Director R. Scott de Varona
 - Student Loan Repayment (Federal Family Education Loan Program - FFELP)
 - Student Loan Repayment (MI-LOAN)
 - MI ABLE
- Financial Literacy



MET Executive Director
Diane Brewer





Michigan Education Trust

- First 529 Prepaid Tuition Program implemented in 1988
- Tax advantaged prepaid college tuition
 - Schedule A deduction for annual contributions on Michigan income tax
 - Federally, earnings grow tax free if used for qualified higher education expenses
- Over \$1.1 billion in assets & 128,304 contracts
- State of Michigan Actuarial Review & Annual Audit
- Portfolio managed by Bureau of Investments
- Provides in-state tuition & mandatory fees for number of credit hours purchased
- Refundable if attending Michigan private or out-of-state college (to institution or refund designee)
- Refundable if attending trade or certificate programs (to refund designee)
- Refundable if beneficiary does not enroll in college
- Transferable to immediate family members
 - <https://youtu.be/VvwVycl-d5k>





Michigan Education Savings Program

- 529 Direct-sold College Savings Program started in 2000
- Tax advantaged investment-based 529 college saving program
 - Schedule A deduction for annual contributions on Michigan income tax
 - Limit per year*, \$5,000 per for single filer
 - Or \$10,000 for joint filers
 - Federally, earnings grow tax free if used for qualified higher education expenses
- Over \$7.1 billion in assets & 303,775 MESP accounts
- State of Michigan Treasury Review & Annual Audit
- Program Manager: TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc. (TFI)
- Investment based account with 22 investment options
- Account balance can be used for qualified higher education expenses
- Transferable to immediate family members

*Combined limit for MESP and the Michigan 529 Advisor Plan (MAP)





MI 529 Advisor

- 529 Advisor-sold College Savings Plan started in 2009
- Tax advantaged investment-based 529 college saving program
 - Schedule A deduction for annual contributions on Michigan income tax
 - Limit per year*, \$5,000 per for single filer
 - Or \$10,000 for joint filers
- Over \$995 million in assets & 55,409 accounts
- State of Michigan Treasury Review & Annual Audit
- Advisor Sold program
- Account balance can be used for qualified higher education expenses
- Transferable to immediate family members

*Combined limit for MESP and the Michigan 529 Advisor Plan (MAP)

MI529advisor





Charitable Tuition Program

- 2008, MET Charitable Contracts introduced at a reduced cost for:
 - Businesses
 - 501 (c) Organizations
 - Community Foundations
- Intended to be used as scholarships
- Purchase in one-year increments by lump sum or monthly payments
- Year-round enrollment
- Utilized to award Gear-Up scholarships
- Additional participants include Carrollton Schools



Fostering Futures Scholarship Trust Fund

- 2012, Partnership between Treasury and the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
- Awards up to \$3,000 to youth formerly in Michigan's foster care system, now enrolled in Michigan colleges and universities
- Over 1,400 individual recipients awarded
- Applicants may apply each academic year they are enrolled
- MET fundraising events have raised and disbursed over \$1.3M
- TANF funds through MDHHS and Legislative appropriation disbursed as scholarships
- SSGO oversees the application and awards processes
- MDHHS verifies eligibility as a foster care participant
- SSGO notifies recipients college/university of funds and disburses directly to the higher education when invoiced
- 17 Designated Campus Support Programs provide awareness of this, and other, scholarships in addition to 24/7 coach availability, mentoring, housing and transportation assistance and more
- Additional programs offering various levels of support bring the total to 32 campuses offering support programs to students with experience in foster care





SSGO Executive Director
Diann Cosme





MI Student Aid Overview

- Our goal is to enhance the customer service experience and to expand outreach resources to help Michigan students afford college.
 - We work together with high school counselors and financial aid professionals to encourage students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
 - We continue to raise awareness about 12 State financial aid scholarship and grant programs with an emphasis on the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) and newly created Michigan Achievement Scholarship.
 - We provide financial aid awareness and support through a robust communications strategy including our customer call center, publications, e-mail messaging, social media, website and outreach team.



Scholarship & Grant Programs

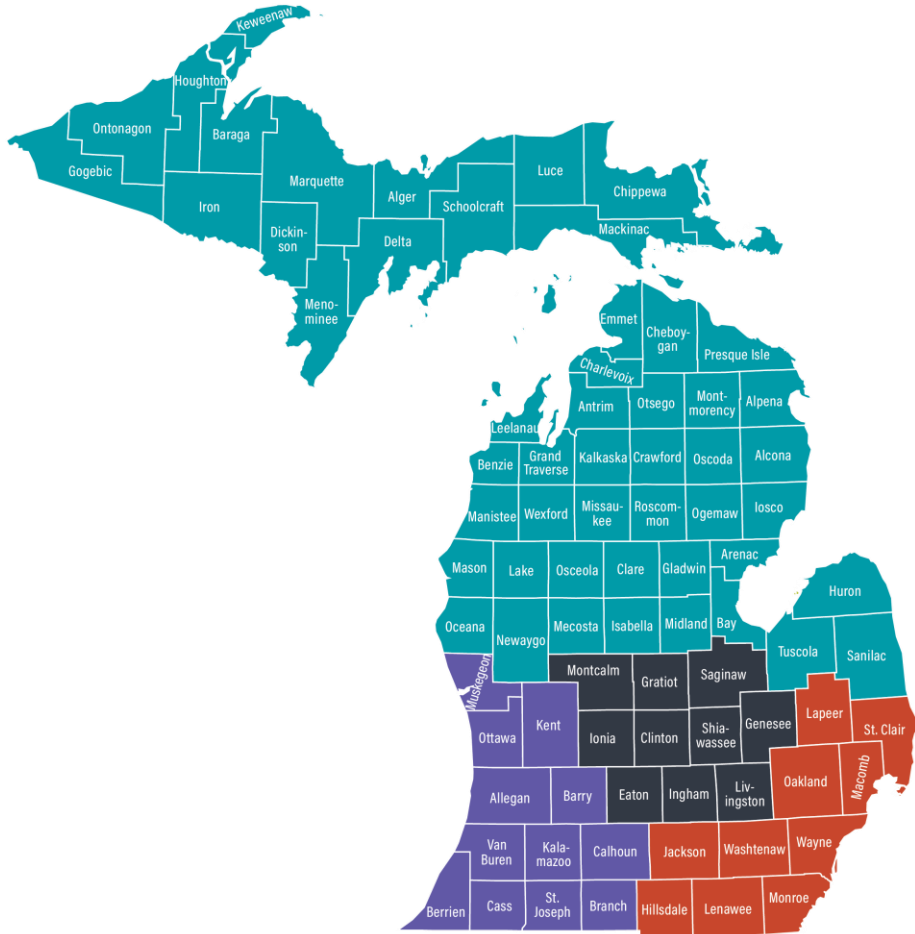
Programs Administered by SSGO

- Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
- Dual Enrollment
- Fostering Futures Scholarship
- GEAR UP Scholarship
- Michigan Achievement Scholarship
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship
- MI Future Educator Fellowship
- MI Future Educator Stipend
- Michigan Tuition Grant
- Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant
- Tuition Incentive Program

Programs Administered in Partnership with LEO Sixty by 30

- Future for Frontliners/Path 2
- Michigan Achievement Skills Scholarship
- Michigan Reconnect Scholarship/Skills Scholarship

Four Regions, One State



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MI Student Aid

- SSGO awarded over \$150 million to students across Michigan during the 2021-22 school year. SSGO is on track to award over \$475 million to students across Michigan during the 2022-23 school year.
- During the 2022-23 school year, there has been an increase in utilization of all scholarship programs and grants, including some of the smaller programs such as Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG) and Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant (STG).
- Our reach has expanded during the 2022-23 school year, with a total reach over 2.3 million through website visitors, social media impressions, outreach events, e-mail messages and phone calls to our customer call center.
 - Sample of Michigan Achievement Scholarship promo: <https://vimeo.com/797381034/ad6742aa3e>



SLRD Executive Director
R. Scott de Varona



SLRD - Michigan Guaranty Agency

(Family Education Loan Program - FFELP)

- COVID Relief Payment Pause (March 2020 -June 2023?)
 - Stopped all Administrative Wage Garnishments
 - Returned all IRS Offset payments
 - Waived all missed payments
 - Continue to Encourage Voluntary Payments at 0.0% Interest
- Awaiting Official Restart of Repayment/Fresh Start & Decision on Federal Loan Forgiveness
- Assist Delinquent and Defaulted Borrowers
- \$800 million remains outstanding
- Ended 2010 – no new loans issued
- Loan Resource Webpage with Schools and Financial Aid offices



MICHIGAN
Guaranty Agency



SLRD - Student Loan Program (MI-LOAN)

- Student Loan Programs established 1975
- Staff Assists Delinquent and Defaulted MI-LOAN Borrowers w/repayment options
- Average monthly recoveries \$100,000
- \$35 million remains outstanding
- Ended 2008 – no new loans issued





MiABLE Disability Savings Program

- Established in 2016
- Over 4,500 accounts & \$42 million in assets
- Allows Savings/Investment without jeopardizing eligibility for federal & state programs
- Must be disabled before age 26 (Age increases to 46 in 2026)
- Contributions eligible for Michigan income tax deduction
- Funds must be used for Qualified Disability Expenses (QDE)

Housing

Education

Transportation

Health & Wellness

Legal Fees

Professional Assistance

Employment Training

Assistive Technology

Personal Support Services



SAVE • INVEST • SPEND



MI Financial Literacy

- Financial empowerment curriculum to students & families by SSGO, MET & MESP outreach
- Collaboration of state agencies, educators, community partners & non-profits
- Forums w/regional Community Colleges
- Roundtable discussions & support of three subcommittees: Sharepoint, Public Outreach & Policy Roadmap
 - DIFS, MDE, LARA, MSHDA, Treasury
- [Financial Literacy \(michigan.gov\)](http://michigan.gov)

Action Items

- Include program information in newsletters to constituents
- Tape a segment with our staff to use on TV or social media
- Invite our Outreach team to a District event/Townhall
- Add information to social media channels
- Schedule meeting for additional information or discussion