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FULL MEMBERS

ACTS II Ministry for Teens
Adoption Option, Inc.
Bethany Christian Services
D.A. Blodgett–St. John's
Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton Counties
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 Northwestern Michigan
Child & Family Services of the Upper Peninsula
The Children's Center
Christ Child House
CNS Healthcare
Eagle Village
Family & Children Services
Family Outreach Center
Family Service & Children's Aid
Federation of Youth Services
Forever Families
Fostering Futures
Fostering Solutions
Genacross Family & Youth Services
The Guidance Center
Guiding Harbor
Hands Across the Water
Heart for Home
Hegira Health, Inc.
Highfields, Inc.
Holy Cross Services
Homes for Black Children
Hope Network Behavioral Health Services
House of Providence
Judson Center
MCHS Family of Services
MiSide
The New Foster Care
New Light Child & Family Institute
Northeast Michigan Family Resource Center
Orchards Children's Services
Samaritas
Services to Enhance Potential (STEP)
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

Bridgeway Services, Inc.
Michigan CASA, Inc.
Michigan State University School of Social Work

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services Testimony of March 3, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair Roth and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Janet Reynolds Snyder, and I serve as President and CEO of the Michigan Federation for Children and Families. The Federation is a statewide membership association representing 60 private, nonprofit, community-based organizations that contract and work in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to deliver a full network of child welfare and behavioral health services across all 83 counties in Michigan.

Since 1969, the Federation has served as a trusted partner to state and legislative leaders, advancing public policy and practice that supports high-quality services for children and families. Our member organizations are mission-driven organizations dedicated to the best in family well-being outcomes in their local communities. Because of their deep connections in their local communities, they are uniquely positioned to coordinate support and services that meet the specific needs of families. Nearly 100% of all family preservation, adoption, and residential treatment services statewide are provided by community-based organizations, as are more than 55% of foster care and a significant percentage of juvenile justice services. Federation members also provide home visiting, counseling, and behavioral health services throughout the state. Community-based organizations provide the backbone to Michigan's systems of services for children and families.

Budget decisions directly shape the stability and effectiveness of Michigan's continuum of care and the opportunity for child and family engagement. Strategic investment strengthens quality of services, preserves community-based infrastructure, and supports the nonprofit workforce across the state.

The Federation's FY27 budget priorities are designed to close critical funding gaps and reinforce system stability. We support the Governor's Executive boilerplate recommendation in section 546(2) to ensure appropriate funding for youth served in Independent Living Plus (ILP) programs and maintain structured placement for older youth with higher needs.

We also are requesting your support for closing the foster care funding gap by increasing the administrative per diem to \$70 to reflect actual operating costs and support placement stability; fully funding adoption services with an additional \$4.9 million appropriation; investing an additional \$8 million in family preservation services to expand access and serve approximately 25 percent more eligible families; strengthening recruitment and retention in Michigan's publicly funded behavioral health system by adding \$1.5 million to the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program for nonprofit providers; and providing a one-time \$2 million appropriation to help providers develop new services and infrastructure to increase placement capacity for youth with complex and acute behavioral health needs when a higher level of care is needed.

You will hear shortly from Federation member leaders Rachel Sykes from Samaritas, Ursula Ahart from the Federation of Youth Services, and Dr. Dan Gowdy from Wedgwood Christian Services, who will provide direct examples of how these investments translate into measurable outcomes for children and families in your communities.

We are grateful for the Committee's leadership and for your continued commitment to a high-quality, equitable continuum of care. The Federation looks forward to our partnership with you to ensure that every child and every family in Michigan has equitable access to the services and supports they need, ensuring a family well-being system that thrives across generations.

Thank you for your consideration.