



FISCAL YEAR 2026 EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

April 24, 2025

About LARA

- Established in 1965 as the Department of Commerce and the Department of Licensing and Regulation
- Reorganized and renamed LARA in 2011
- License and regulate nearly 2 million individuals and entities
- 1,600 total employees
- Our work is vital to ensuring a great quality of life for all Michiganders



About LARA

Mission

We protect people and promote business in Michigan through transparent and accessible regulatory solutions.

Vision

To be national leaders that partner with people and businesses to improve the lives of Michigan residents through an engaged and inclusive workforce.

Values

PUBLIC SERVICE
LARA WORKFORCE
TRANSPARENCY
ACCESSIBILITY
RESPONSIBILITY

Strategic Goals

**Reduce barriers to
licensure**

**Improve regulatory
compliance through
education and consultation**

Strategic Goals

**Provide efficient, effective,
and timely services**

**Enhance the customer
experience**

Our Organization

Central Services

Communications
 Finance & Administrative Services
 Human Resources
 LARA Director's Office
 Legal Affairs Office
 Policy & Legislative Affairs
 Regulatory Effectiveness Office

Independent Agencies

Administrative Hearings and Rules
 Cannabis Regulatory Agency
 Indigent Defense Commission
 Liquor Control Commission
 Public Service Commission
 Tax Tribunal
 Unarmed Combat Commission

Regulatory Bureaus

Community & Health Systems
 Construction Codes
 Corps., Securities & Commercial Licensing
 Fire Services
 Professional Licensing
 Survey and Certification

Authorized FTEs: 1,821.0; Actual FTEs: 1,626.2

Faces of LARA – Bureau of Construction Codes

“I really enjoy working in the field of the elevator industry for the State of Michigan. I take protecting people seriously by working closely with our customers to properly service and maintain elevators throughout southwest Michigan.”



William Akers
Elevator Inspector
Bureau of Construction Codes

Faces of LARA – Bureau of Fire Services

“Daily, I am able to assist fellow firefighters with training and certification needs, to ensure that they are safe on the fireground. In the fire service, we always ‘have each other’s backs’ at a fire. I’m glad I can still have fellow firefighters’ backs while working at the Bureau of Fire Services.”



Aileen Pettinger
Region 2 Training Chief
Bureau of Fire Services

Faces of LARA – Bureau of Community Health Systems

“My motivation to come to work daily is the support our team has from management, the ability to connect and build rapport with licensees, and doing a job that ensures the safety and well-being of vulnerable Adult Foster Care residents. When you work within an organization where you consistently have more good days, than bad, and a great work-life balance, it certainly makes work more enjoyable.”



Anthony Mullins, MSW
AFC Licensing Consultant
Bureau of Community and
Health Systems

Faces of LARA – Bureau of Professional Licensing

“I like my work within the Bureau and take it very seriously. I am guided by the Department’s values of public service and responsibility, as well as the Bureau’s mission to protect, preserve and improve the health, safety and welfare of the public. I also enjoy the challenges of my position.”



Laury Brown

Senior Analyst, Compliance Section,
Enforcement Division
Bureau of Professional Licensing

2024 Accomplishments



Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC)

BCC increased the number of annual elevator inspections by 22% in 2024. Since 2021, elevator inspections have gone up by 57%.



Bureau of Community and Health Systems (BCHS)

BCHS implemented the new Michigan Nurse Aid, Training, and Enforcement System (MI-NATES). This registry is a management information system for certification of nurse and medication aides, as well as permitting for nurse and medication aide trainers and training programs.



Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)

MPSC worked to implement the new clean energy laws. These laws include a new clean energy standard, increased renewable energy goals, a new energy storage target, and changes to public participation, rate case processes, and siting for large energy projects.



Bureau of Fire Services (BFS)

MI Prevention, a statewide community risk reduction program, reached a milestone of installing over 100,000 smoke alarms in Michigan homes since the start of the program in 2019.



Michigan Indigent Defense Commission

MIDC implemented Standard 8, Attorney Compensation. This standard ensures all attorneys providing indigent defense services are adequately compensated for their time and incentivized to provide quality work.

2024 Accomplishments



Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL)

BPL issued over 63,000 new licenses and processed over 249,000 license renewals for Public Health Code and Occupational Code professions.



Bureau of Survey and Certification (BSC)

BSC improved the process of filing complaints by revamping its webpage and online complaint forms.



Corporations, Securities, and Commercial Licensing (CSCL)

CSCL launched the Michigan Business Roadmap website which represents a collaboration between LARA and the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO).



Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA)

CRA transitioned to unannounced semi-annual inspections at all licensed marijuana businesses to better identify bad actors that negatively impact the industry.

FY 2025 Investments

Strengthening protections for vulnerable residents by improving nursing home inspections and investigations

Implementing enacted legislation for clean energy and a medication aide training and registration program

Expanding access to qualified interpreters for Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing individuals

Improving services to applicants and licensees within Michigan's growing Cannabis industry

Investing in our workforce and providing efficient, effective, and timely services

Enhancing educational outreach and consultive services throughout LARA

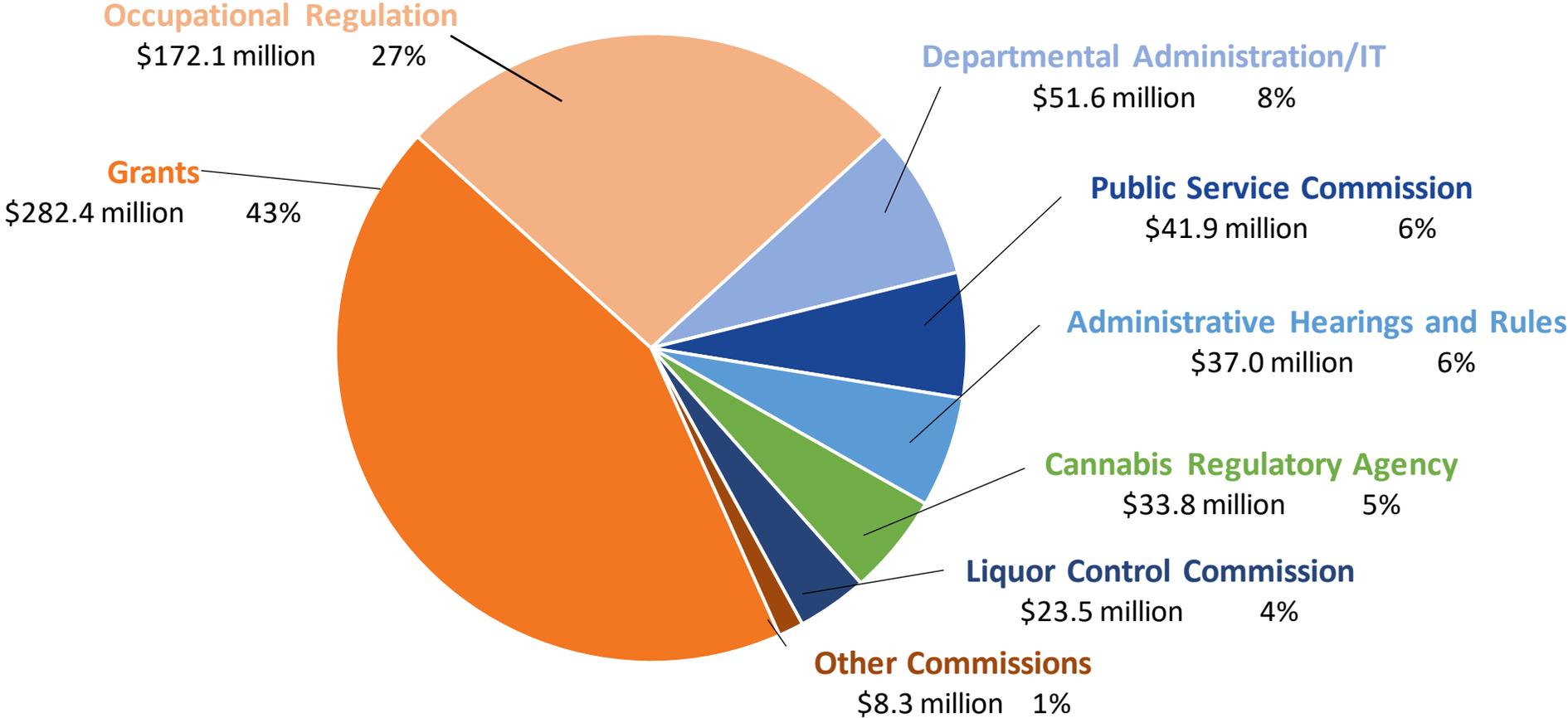
Ensuring appropriate implementation of MIDC Act mandates

The FY 2026 Budget

- Since taking office, Governor Whitmer has worked to lower costs for Michiganders on higher education, skills training, home repairs, childcare, housing, health care, and more, while remaining fiscally responsible resulting in a budget surplus.
- The Governor's FY 2026 budget continues to deliver on lowering costs and growing Michigan's economy.
- The FY 2026 budget cuts red tape, supports public safety, improves and powers economic development across Michigan, helping make state and local governments work more effectively so they can better serve Michiganders.
- LARA's FY 2026 budget request enhances quality health care by strengthening oversight of long-term care facilities and acute and continuing care provider types.

LARA FY 2026 Budget

\$650.6 million Gross

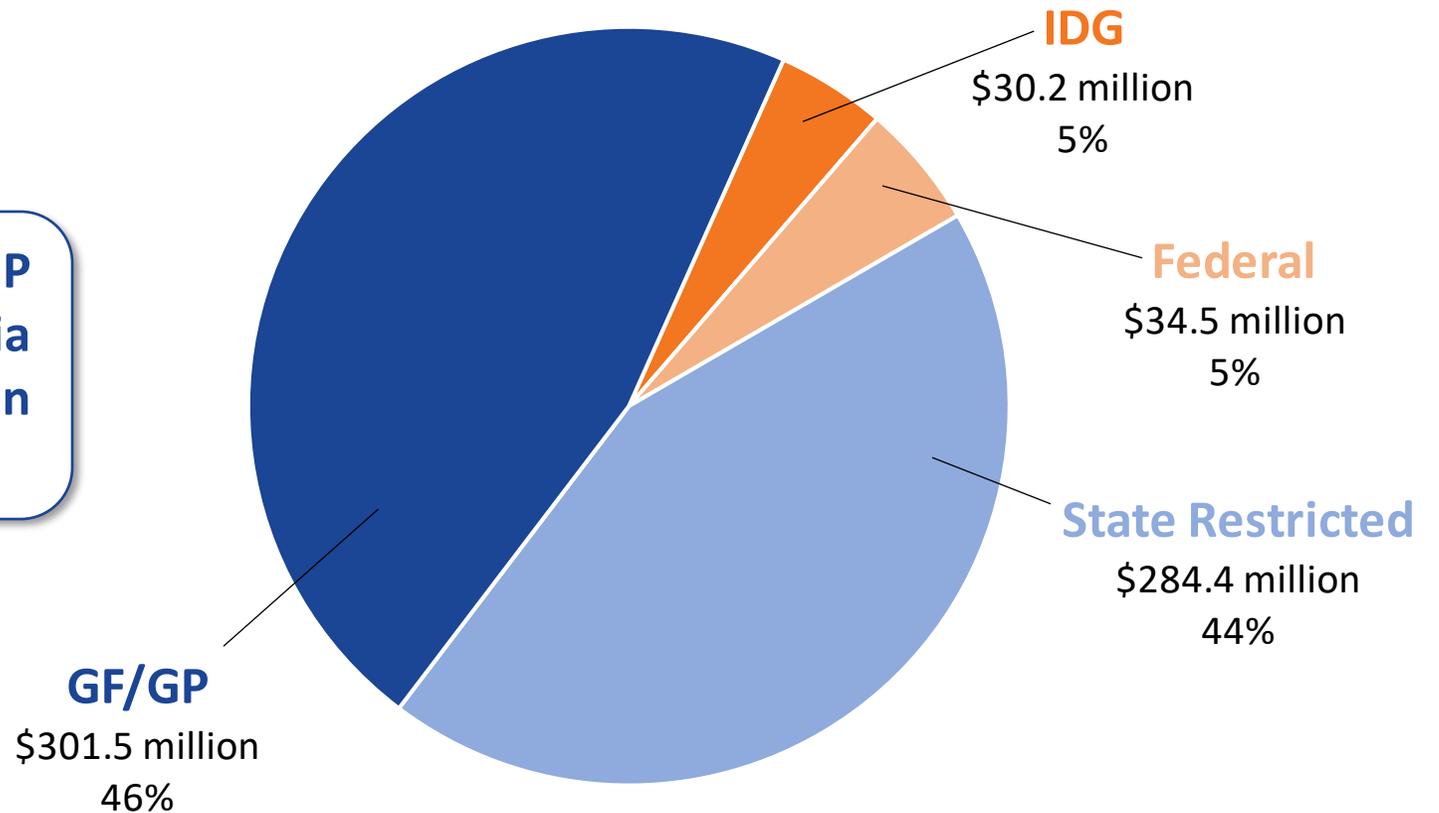


LARA FY 2026 Recommended Budget

\$650.6 million Gross

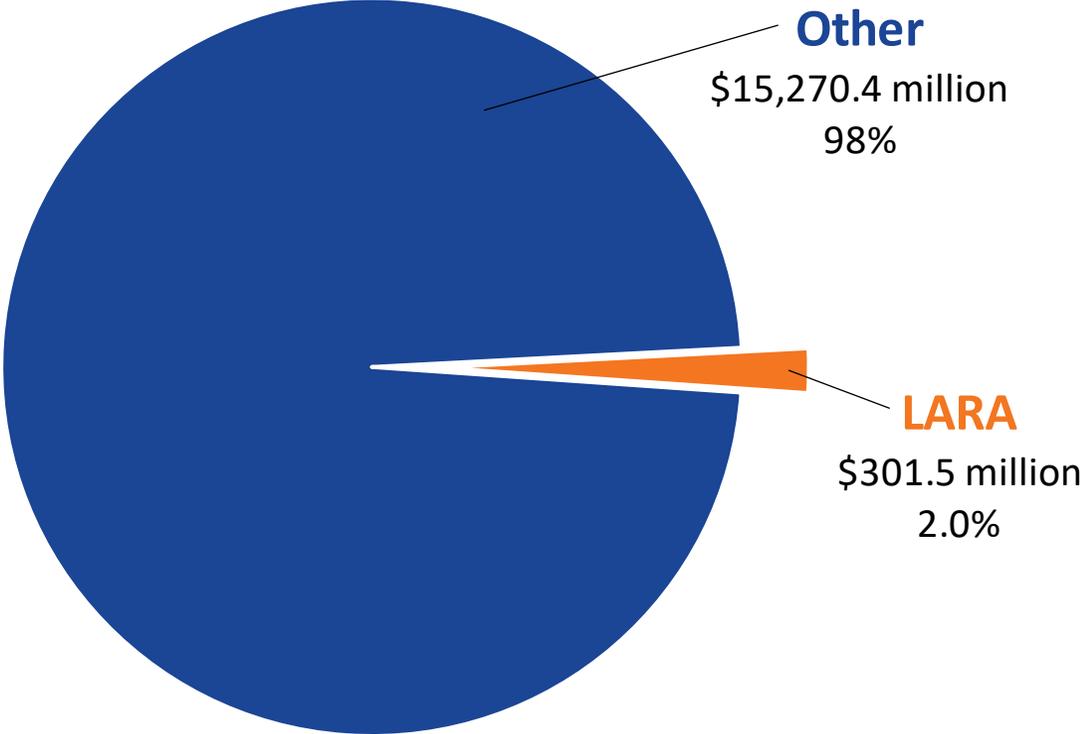
\$301.5 million GF/GP

▶ \$258.3 million (86%) of LARA's GF/GP goes back to local government via Michigan Indigent Defense Commission grants



LARA FY 2026 Recommended Budget

The LARA budget represents about 2% of the statewide general fund budget



Improve Oversight of LTC Facilities and ACC Provider Types

\$2.7 million GF/GP to hire 18 new health care surveyors and two complaint intake unit staff, supporting:

- Inspection of 424 Long-Term Care Facilities and over 20 Acute and Continuing Care provider types
- Investigation of roughly 7,000 complaints annually

Investigations started within the CMS-required timeframe (FY 2024)*

Long Term Care Immediate Jeopardy	71%
Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act Non-Immediate Jeopardy High Priority	49%

Strengthen Regulation of Homes for the Aged

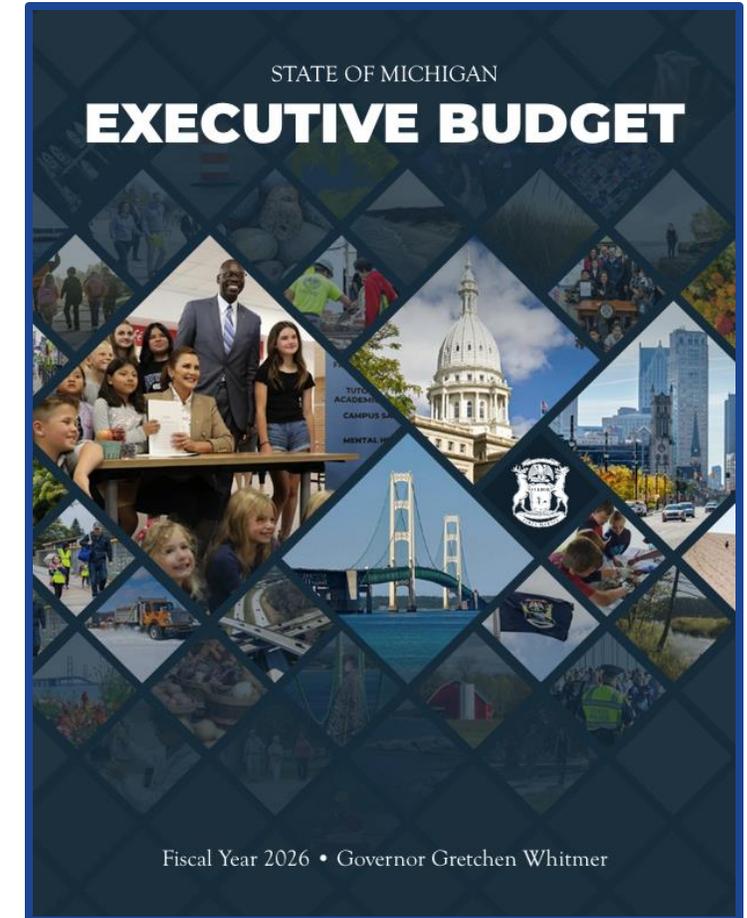
\$700,000 GF/GP and 3.0 FTEs to support:

- Timely issuances of new licenses and renewals
- Accurate Routine inspections of 348 Homes for the Aged
- Investigation of 748 complaints in FY 2024



LARA FY 2026 Budget Highlights

- Implementing new federal grant awards for updating the statewide energy code and energy benchmarking
- Improving oversight of long-term care facilities and Homes for the Aged to strengthen protections for vulnerable residents
- Upholding public health and safety in death care services
- Investing in our workforce and providing efficient, effective, and timely services
- Increasing transparency for indigent defense standards





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