



Child and Family Charities

Strengthening Families. Transforming Lives.

Lansing, Michigan | www.childandfamily.org

In Partnership with Unity Health Center



TESTIMONY TO

Labor and Economic Opportunity Subcommittee

PRESENTED BY

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Child and Family Charities

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Unity Health Center

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding our funding request.

Background

Child and Family Charities is a nonprofit organization based right here in Lansing, serving the community since 1911. While our roots are in foster care and adoption, we've grown into a comprehensive agency offering over 30 programs—addressing everything from youth homelessness to mental health support, counseling, prevention services, basic needs assistance, and more. Each year, we reach and support over 50,000 children, youth, and families across the region. CFC emphasizes community partnerships, recently creating a Non-profit HUB on our campus that houses 17 non-profit groups to increase our collective impact and ease access to critical services. At the heart of our work is a clear mission: to strengthen families and transform lives. Unity Health Center, a nonprofit organization operating in partnership with Child

and Family Charities, was established to address persistent gaps in access to culturally responsive, equitable health care. To establish a sustainable, welcoming, and inclusive place for healing and growth of the people of the Tri-County area through medical care, mental healthcare and support groups, so that our community can prosper by giving every child and adult a chance to thrive.

Need

- 43.6% of Ingham households are classified as ALICE. (Michigan League for Public Policy, Kids Count Data Center)
- 16.7% of Ingham County children birth to 17-year-olds live below the federal poverty line. (Michigan League for Public Policy, Kids Count Data Center)
- Nearly 25% of Ingham County is on Medicaid.
- 6.2% of adults 18-64 in the City of Lansing are without insurance, compared to the county 4.9%, tri-county 4.4%, and state 5%. (2024 Community Health Needs Assessment for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties).
- Over 30% of Ingham adolescents did not receive an annual preventative checkup. (Michigan Association for Local Public Health).
- As of 2021, the population to primary care provider ratio was 866:1 in Ingham County. (2024 Community Health Needs Assessment for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties)
- Many residents in the region, particularly those who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid-insured, or facing economic hardship, experience significant barriers to accessing high-quality primary and preventive care.

Proposal

Child and Family Charities is requesting \$300,000 in funding support for a comprehensive renovation of approximately 4,000 square feet of medical clinical space within the Nonprofit Hub on Child and Family Charities' campus, as well as provide essential start-up funding for the Unity Health Center. This investment will transform existing space into a fully functional, patient-centered medical clinic designed to meet the needs of underserved children, individuals and families in the Greater Lansing area.

The clinic will be strategically located within Child and Family Charities' Nonprofit Hub, a coordinated corridor of care that includes seventeen additional nonprofit organizations providing complementary services. By embedding primary and preventive health care within this collaborative environment, Unity Health Center will enhance care coordination, reduce barriers to access, and create seamless referral pathways that address the social determinants of health alongside medical needs.

Funding will support facility renovations necessary to meet clinical standards, purchase

essential medical equipment, and cover start-up operational costs during the initial phase of service delivery. Once operational, Unity Health Center will provide comprehensive primary care and preventive services to patients of all ages, reducing health disparities and improving health outcomes across the community.

By expanding access to consistent, high-quality care in a trusted community-based setting, this project will improve individual and family well-being, reduce avoidable health crises, and strengthen the overall health infrastructure of the Greater Lansing region. This investment represents a sustainable, long-term strategy to ensure that vulnerable residents receive the care they need.

Timeline

The proposed renovations are expected to be completed within approximately 3 months. During this same timeframe, start-up equipment will be procured, the electronic medical records system will be implemented, and staff will undergo comprehensive training to support a successful launch of services. Financial proformas and long-term sustainability plans have been developed, including a strong commitment to serving underserved populations. The clinic aims for 70% of patients to be children, youth, families and individuals covered by Medicaid or those who are uninsured.