



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Family Assistance



## NRFC State Profile: Michigan October 2016

This profile describes state and federally funded programs and policies that aim to strengthen families. These programs and policies support parenting and father involvement, promote strong family relationships, enhance fathers' economic stability, and provide support during incarceration and reentry. The profile lists phone numbers and websites for the programs. This information was correct when the profile was written (in 2016) but may change over time.

### Programs to Support Responsible Fatherhood and Strengthen Families

Responsible fatherhood programs focus on issues such as enhancing parenting and relationship skills, keeping fathers involved with their children, improving their economic stability, helping them pay child support, and generally helping to strengthen families.

The following state and federally funded programs are available in the state:

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
<b>Bethany Christian Services</b>	Healthy Relationships Economic Stability	Bethany Christian Services was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 for the <i>Center for Youth Transformation</i> project, which provides healthy relationship, job readiness, and support services for youth, ages 14-24.	Grand Rapids  <a href="#">Website</a>  (616) 224-7550
<b>Job Corps</b>	Economic Stability	<i>Job Corps</i> is a federally funded job training program to help low-income men and women ages 16 to 24 with educational and career goals.	Centers are located in Detroit, Flint, and Grand Rapids.  <a href="#">Website</a>  Detroit: (313) 852-0300  Flint: (810) 232-9102  Grand Rapids: (616) 243-6877

Take Time to Be a Dad Today

Toll-free: 877-4DAD411 (877-432-3411) | Fax: 703-934-3740 | [info@fatherhood.gov](mailto:info@fatherhood.gov) | [www.fatherhood.gov](http://www.fatherhood.gov)

[facebook.com/fatherhoodgov](https://facebook.com/fatherhoodgov)

[@fatherhoodgov](https://twitter.com/fatherhoodgov)

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
<b>Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence</b>	Domestic Violence	The state and federally funded Michigan Coalition to End Domestic Violence provides a number of resources and support services for domestic and sexual violence survivors, as well as their friends and family. Individuals can find a local domestic violence shelter using the website’s help tool. The website also offers free eBooks about gender issues and domestic violence.	Serves the entire state.  <a href="#">Website</a>  <a href="#">Domestic violence shelters by zip code</a>  National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-SAFE (7233)
<b>The Michigan Department of Corrections</b>	Incarceration/Reentry	The Michigan Department of Corrections’ <i>Prison Build Program</i> trains and employs inmates in housing construction and horticulture programs. Inmates who successfully complete the training apply for jobs in the prison program and complete construction or horticulture tasks while incarcerated.	Serves Michigan correctional facilities.  <a href="#">Website</a>  (517) 335-1388
<b>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)</b>	Fatherhood/Parenting Domestic Violence Healthy Relationships	The MDHHS’s <i>Family Preservation Program</i> provides several programs for families at risk of domestic violence or foster-care placement. 1) <i>Families First of Michigan</i> provides in-home crisis intervention and family education services for four to six weeks. Workers assist families by teaching, modeling, and reinforcing good parenting. 2) <i>Families Together/Building Solutions</i> provides in-home clinical counseling and solution-focused group treatment to help improve family functioning, parenting, household management, communication, and conflict resolution skills. 3) The <i>Family Reunification Program</i> provides four to six months of services aimed at working with families in which one or more children has been placed in foster care. Worker teams provide a therapeutic/skill-based intervention regimen to all family members.	Serves qualifying families throughout the state.  <a href="#">Website</a>  (517) 373-3740

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
<b>Michigan Workforce Development Agency</b>	Economic Stability	The Michigan Workforce Development Agency provides employment assistance for job seekers through a number of programs and services. The agency offers programs and services such as the <i>Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH)</i> program, which helps families receiving TANF cash assistance with employment and self-sufficiency, and <i>Michigan Works!</i> Which provides one-stop career centers to assist with job search process.	Serves the entire state.  <a href="#">Website</a>  (517) 335-5858
<b>Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA)</b>	Parenting Economic Stability	OLHSA provides a range of state and federally funded services for parents and grandparents raising children. Services include early childhood education and parenting classes. The organization also provides emergency shelter, food assistance, and other services for people experiencing economic hardship.	Oakland and Livingston counties  <a href="#">Website</a>  Oakland: (248) 209-2600  Livingston: (517) 546-8500

## Policies to Promote Responsible Fatherhood

### Paternity Establishment

Establishing paternity gives a child born outside of marriage the same legal rights and privileges as a child born to married parents. Children gain access to family medical history and rights to inheritance, fathers’ medical and life insurance benefits, social security and veterans’ benefits, and child support. In addition, Native American children gain tribal enrollment rights.

**In Michigan, paternity can be voluntarily asserted by the father by signing an Affidavit of Parentage form.<sup>i</sup> This can be signed at the hospital free of charge, or at a later date for a fee. Paternity may also be established through a court order, which may require genetic testing to determine the child’s biological father. The mother or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services may bring a paternity suit.<sup>ii</sup>**

### Child Custody

If unmarried or divorced parents cannot reach agreement concerning child custody or visitation, a legal order can be made through the court system. Either parent may be granted custody of the child, or both may share equally in physical custody and/or decision-making responsibilities. There is no legal connection between payment or non-payment of child support and rights to visitation.

**In Michigan, parents are encouraged to reach an agreement on child custody. They may receive mediation with the help of the Friend of the Court Office. The Friend will investigate all relevant facts and make a written recommendation of custody for the judge. The judge then makes a decision based on the best interests of the child, weighing several factors such as moral fitness and ability of the parents, the child’s preferences, and possible instances of domestic violence.<sup>iii</sup>**

## Child Support

The Federal Child Support Enforcement Program was established in 1975 as Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to locate noncustodial parents, establish paternity and establish and enforce child support orders. General services available in all states and territories include voluntary in-hospital paternity acknowledgement, genetic testing, explanation of state guidelines for determining child support orders, and review of child support orders at least every three years at the request of either parent. State child support offices are responsible for the collection and distribution of child support payments and can modify orders when appropriate. If a parent is behind in their payments, the office may use enforcement tools such as license revocation (including drivers, professional, recreational or occupational licenses), seizure of assets, property liens, passport denial, and federal and state tax refund offsets.<sup>iv</sup>

**Michigan's child support services oversee child support payments, finding parents, paternity establishment, modifying an order, and health care coverage. Services are delivered through the Department of Human Services' Office of Child Support, county Prosecuting Attorney offices, county Friend of the Court offices, and the State Court Administrative Office. For more information about paying and receiving child support, visit the Office of Child Support [website](#) or call (866) 540-0008.**

## The Family and Medical Leave Act

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) protects employees who have worked with the same organization for at least 12 months and worked at least 1,250 hours within the past year. It contains provisions for both fathers and mothers to take time off after the birth or adoption of a child, or during a serious illness, without fear of losing their jobs. Employees in companies with 50 or more employees are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave, over a one-year period, to care for a new child, recuperate from a serious illness, care for a seriously ill family member, or handle issues arising from a family member's call to active military duty. The FMLA also gives employees the right to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a family member who is seriously injured or becomes ill while on active military duty.<sup>v</sup>

**Michigan has no additional state provisions for paid or unpaid leave.**

## Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded school readiness program for young children from low-income families. The program, currently delivered by about 1,700 local organizations – public and private, non-profit and for-profit – provides preschoolers with comprehensive services, such as education and health screenings, with the goal of building their skills across five school readiness domains: language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical development and health, and social and emotional development. Head Start encourages the role of parents (both mothers and fathers) as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Early Head Start, also managed by the federal Office of Head Start, is directed toward children up to the age of three and their parents. While the program is federally funded and managed, local agencies make decisions regarding service delivery based on the specific needs of their communities; for example, some may opt to include home-based services for families in their programs. Most states have multiple Head Start programs providing services for fathers.

**To find information on Head Start programs in Michigan, go to: <http://michheadstart.org/locator>.**

## Policies to Promote Economic Stability

### Child Care Assistance

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) works with states to provide support for children and their low-income families. Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers), grants, or contracts with providers. Fathers and mothers may select a child care provider that satisfies applicable state and local requirements, including basic health and safety requirements.<sup>vi</sup>

**Michigan's Child Development and Care (CDC) Program provides child care assistance to families who cannot afford care. To qualify, the parent(s) must be engaged in 1) employment; 2) high school completion; 3) family preservation; or 4) another approved activity. For most families, the program pays less than the full cost of child care. Families are expected to pay the difference between the subsidy payment and the provider's actual charge.<sup>vii</sup>**

### Rental Assistance

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides rental assistance to low-income families and individuals through a number of methods. HUD subsidizes privately owned apartments, allowing low-income tenants to rent them at reduced rates. In the Public Housing program, local housing agencies manage rental housing for low-income tenants, while HUD provides professional and technical assistance in their planning, development, and management. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, better known as Section 8, provides eligible families and individuals with vouchers that they can use to pay for all or part of the rent at housing units of their choice. Generally, eligibility for the HUD rental assistance programs is based on annual gross income, assets, family size, and other considerations such as elderly or disabled status. Local housing agencies generally set the fixed eligibility rules for their regions, determine assistance amounts, and manage waiting lists for assistance.<sup>viii</sup>

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp program, provides low-income individuals (both men and women) and families with funds delivered in an electronic benefit transfer card, or EBT card that can be used to purchase food. SNAP is administered within the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services and is federally funded, but applications, delivery, and outreach are handled at the state or local level. In general, individuals and households are eligible to receive SNAP if they have less than \$2,250 in countable resources and earn less than 130 percent of the poverty line in gross monthly income. However, characteristics of recipients (for example, age or disabled status) can affect eligibility requirements, and states have flexibility in determining eligibility, particularly with regard to what is considered a countable resource. In many states, individuals over the age of 18 and under the age of 50 are limited to three months of SNAP benefits every three years unless they are working or in a work or training program 20 hours a week. Some states have waivers to this rule for all or part of the state – for detailed state eligibility requirements, consult the [state SNAP agency](#).

### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program grants federal funds to states for developing and implementing their own welfare programs that provide assistance and work opportunities to needy families.

**The Family Independence Program (FIP) is Michigan's version of TANF. To qualify for FIP in Michigan, families must have children under 18 (or 18 years old and attending high school) and meet additional income and cash asset requirements.<sup>ix</sup> FIP recipients may be assigned to the Partnership Accountability Training Hope (PATH) program for assistance finding a job or developing job skills.<sup>x</sup>**

## Other Helpful Resources

### The Michigan Fatherhood Coalition

This nonprofit agency hosts an annual state conference and serves as a resource for responsible fatherhood activities around Michigan. More information can be found on their [Facebook page](#).

## References

- <sup>i</sup> For Michigan's Affidavit of Parentage form, see [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Parentage\\_10872\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Parentage_10872_7.pdf).
- <sup>ii</sup> For more information on paternity establishment in Michigan, see [http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5528\\_61204\\_41278---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5528_61204_41278---,00.html).
- <sup>iii</sup> For more information on child custody in Michigan, see <http://courts.mi.gov/administration/scao/resources/documents/publications/manuals/focb/custodyguideline.pdf>.
- <sup>iv</sup> For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css).
- <sup>v</sup> For more information on the Family and Medical Leave Act, see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>.
- <sup>vi</sup> For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>.
- <sup>vii</sup> For more information Michigan's Child Development and Care subsidy program, see [http://michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-63533\\_63534---,00.html](http://michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-63533_63534---,00.html).
- <sup>viii</sup> For more information on Rental Assistance, see [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental\\_assistance](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance).
- <sup>ix</sup> For more information about TANF in Michigan, see <http://www.tanf.us/michigan.html>.
- <sup>x</sup> For more information about FIP in Michigan, see <http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1220>.