



# Michigan League FOR Human Services

Annual Report 2007

*Using data-driven advocacy to improve the lives of low-income citizens*

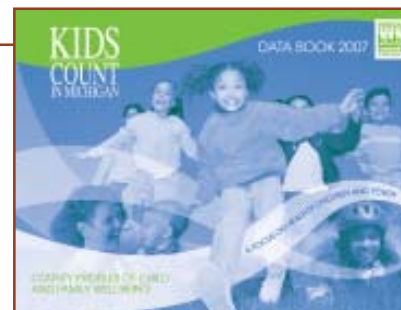
## A year of challenges behind us and many more ahead in 2008

As Michigan's economy continued to slide in 2007, the Michigan League for Human Services used its expertise to provide leadership to deal with the mounting issues facing low-income citizens. Next year promises to hold even more challenges. Among the accomplishments, the League:

- Helped avert a cuts-only solution to the 2007 state budget crisis by bringing together dozens of groups for the "Move Michigan Forward" and "Countdown to Chaos: Michigan's Race to the Bottom" campaigns to maintain Michigan's quality of life
- Brought the "Leaky Pipeline" problem of adult education to statewide attention with a widely read report and conference that's pulling together different stakeholders to address the problem
- Helped save the state Earned Income Tax Credit that was threatened with repeal due to budget shortfalls
- Restored Medicaid eligibility to families sanctioned in the cash assistance program
- Saw years of advocacy come to fruition with more training for unemployed and underemployed workers through the statewide expansion of Jobs, Education and Training project and creation of the No Worker Left Behind program
- Continued to document in understandable ways the dramatic slide in Michigan's income as more people slip into poverty
- Supported hundreds of communities and organizations with information in their efforts to advocate for vulnerable working families and individuals



Sharon Parks, vice president for policy, told a Washington D.C. audience at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities fall conference how the League and other groups rallied to oppose cuts-only solutions to Michigan's budget.



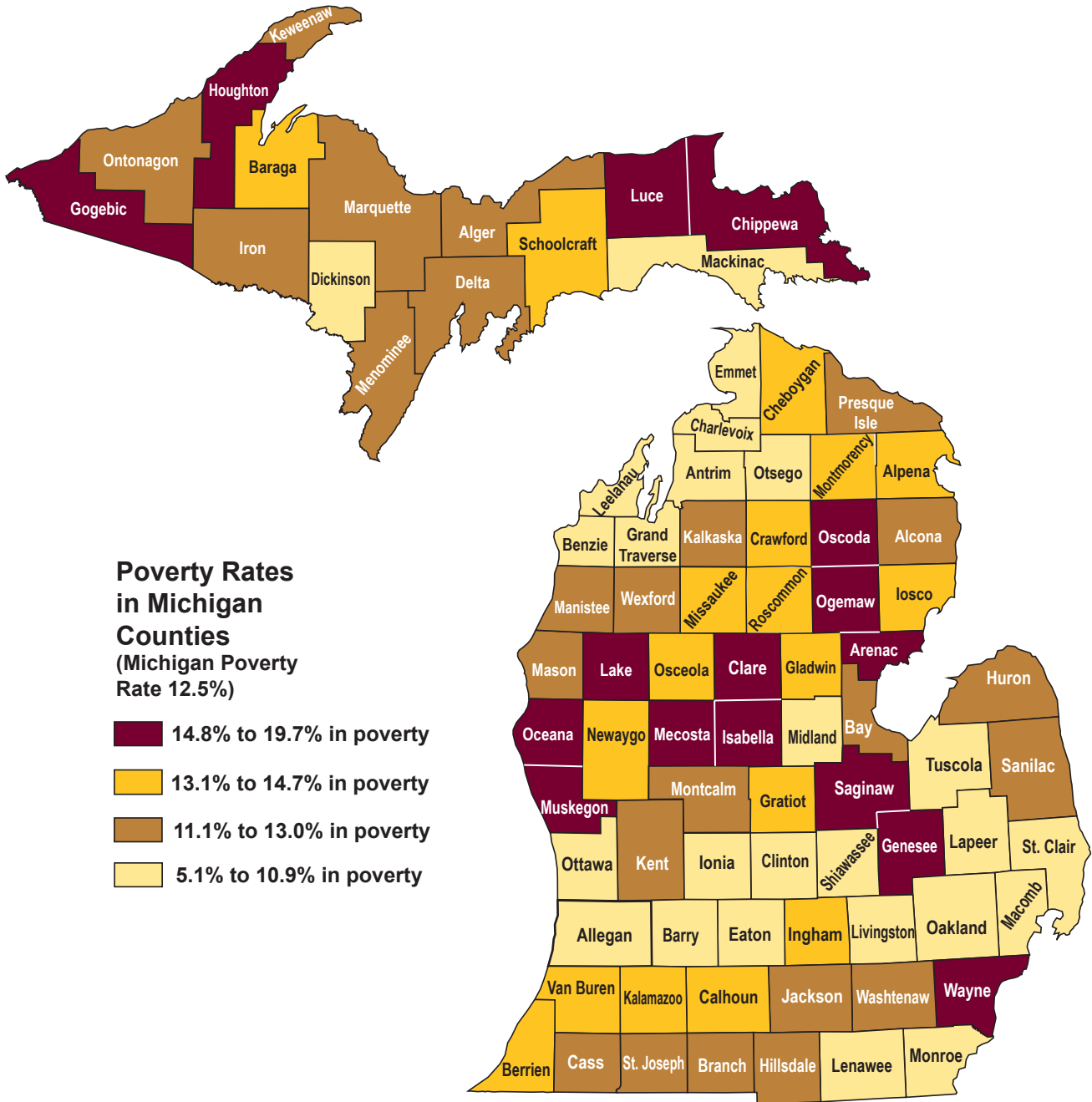
## PUBLICATIONS

The Michigan League for Human Services in 2007 released more than 100 reports, updates and public comments, including:

- Kids Count in Michigan Data Book
- Tax Dollars at Work 2007
- Labor Day Report: Many Workers Lag Behind in New Economy
- Economic Self-Sufficiency in Michigan
- Fixing the Leaky Pipeline: Why Adult Education and Skills Training Matters for Michigan's Future
- Working for a Living in Michigan; More Economic Distress for Working Families
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Fact Sheet, Talking Points and Brief
- Michigan Child Care Assistance Policies
- Money Back in Michigan
- The Medicaid Fact Sheet and Perspective
- Poverty in Michigan's Counties, Cities and Townships
- Why the Public Must Understand the Role of Government
- Plus numerous, timely pieces on the Michigan budget, economy and legislation



[www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org)



Source: Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) 2004

— 2008 —

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## A challenging year indeed

You hear the word “challenge” too often these days in Michigan.

For low-income people, “challenge” doesn’t begin to describe the struggles they face as living expenses go up and good-paying jobs elude many workers. Nonprofit groups report bigger challenges than ever trying to fill unmet needs. Lawmakers struggle with ever-growing budget challenges.

At the League, it has been a challenge to stay on top of these trends, but I believe our research and advocacy has been effective in making sure the voices of the vulnerable in Michigan are heard, loud and clear. I am proud of the work the League has done in rising to that challenge in 2007, and we are well positioned to take on even more challenges in 2008.

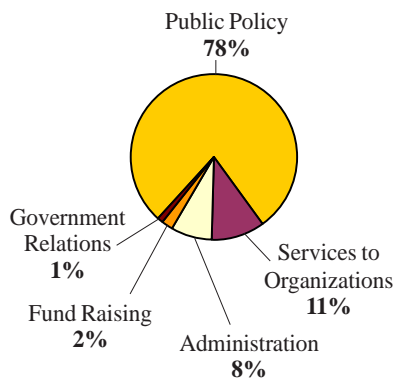
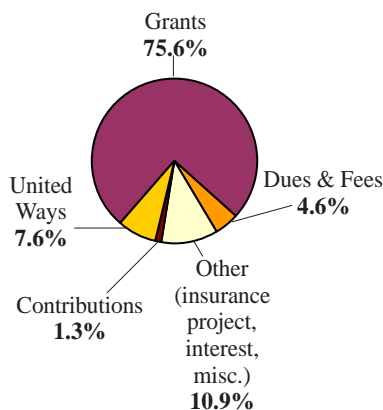


**Ann Marston**  
President and CEO

### Sources of Funds and Expenditures—FY 2006-2007 (unaudited)

Sources of Funds – \$1,203,561.49

Expenditures – \$1,158,856.18



**OUR MISSION**—To help low-income people achieve economic security.

**OUR WORK**—The League is a nonpartisan, nonprofit statewide policy group that uses data-driven advocacy to improve the lives of low-income citizens. It has more than 1,500 individual and organizational members from business, labor, human service professionals, faith-based organizations and concerned citizens.

**OUR HISTORY**—The League began in 1912 as an “independent association of citizens interested in the health and welfare of Michigan.”

**OUR SUPPORTERS**—The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Council of Michigan Foundations, the Economic Policy Institute, The Ford Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, the McGregor Fund, the Michigan Poverty Law Program, the Skillman Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

## League Staff

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**Mary Logan**, Secretary III  
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**Judy Putnam**, Communications Coordinator  
**Peter Ruark**, Planning/Research Associate  
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**Lawrence Wells**, Executive Assistant to the President  
**Jane Zehnder-Merrell**, Senior Research Associate & Director, Kids Count in Michigan

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\*member of the Executive Committee

### HOW TO HELP

**Tax-deductible donations may be made to the Michigan League for Human Services. Mail to 1115 S. Pennsylvania Suite 202, Lansing MI 48912-1658. For information on membership, go to [www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org).**

## Affiliations

The League is affiliated with the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, the Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN), and Kids Count: A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

