



Don't think you use public services? Think again!

Each day in homes across Michigan, the state's residents wake to a routine that depends upon the utilization of important public services. While many people do not identify themselves as depending upon public services, the fact is that the vast majority of us rely on a range of services in order to live our lives.

- We start our day with a shower, we shave, we make coffee—all of which are made possible by a municipal water system that provides a constant supply of clean water;
 - We flush our toilets thanks to reliable municipal sewage, septic and drainage systems;
 - We leave for work and school driving on roads and streets built and maintained by state, county and municipal road systems;
 - Many of us ride to school and work on municipal bus systems that get us to our destinations;
 - We take our children to day care centers and other day care providers who are licensed by the state of Michigan as being qualified to provide care;
 - A large majority of our children attend public schools or state universities or colleges;
 - We eat in restaurants that are regularly inspected by local public health departments to ensure that these establishments comply with public health codes;
 - Many of us have elderly parents who receive in-home services or reside in nursing homes that are licensed and inspected by the state of Michigan; often our parents' care is paid through the state's Medicaid program;
 - Local police, sheriff and fire departments keep us safe in our homes and in our neighborhoods;
 - As we travel on the state's highways, we are protected by State Police patrols; rest stops along the way are maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation;
 - Our family members, friends and neighbors suffering from mental health illnesses receive needed services; those with disabilities are helped to live independently in their homes and communities;
 - Local public library systems enhance the learning opportunities available to our children and provide access to books and literature for everyone in the community;
 - Senior citizens benefit from the services and activities provided through local senior centers, including inexpensive meals; many other seniors receive meals at home through Meals on Wheels;
 - We fill our gas tanks from pumps that are inspected for quality and accuracy by the state of Michigan; and
 - Local and state parks provide recreational opportunities for Michigan's children and families.
- While this list could be much longer, it helps to underscore the many ways in which public services touch the lives of Michigan residents. All of us use public services every day. However, without the revenues to maintain these important services, they will diminish, and some services will disappear.