

Tax Dollars at Work

Public Spending in FY2007 for Selected Health and Social Programs in Michigan

Profile

Van Buren County

Introduction:

Michigan's ongoing economic woes, coupled with skyrocketing energy and food costs, underscore the importance of funding public social and health programs to provide a safety net for low-income persons. The citizens served by the programs in this report range from the young through the elderly, and from families to individuals. Children are key beneficiaries either through direct services such as medical assistance, school food programs, or child care; or indirectly through payments to their families through such programs as the Family Independence Program, Energy Assistance Program, or Food Assistance Program. Many programs included in this report experienced increases in both the dollar value of the expenditures, and the number of people served compared to FY2006. The energy assistance program expenditures, however, declined, not because of reduced need, but because of a shortfall in federal funding. On a statewide basis, the Food Assistance Program, the Energy Assistance Program, and the Medicaid Program each continued to serve well over one million persons during FY2007. The number of persons eligible for Medicaid continued to increase, with many rural and a few urban counties experiencing more than 25 percent of their population eligible for Medicaid. It is also important to note that nearly every program included in this analysis brings federal dollars to the local community, providing a return of the tax dollars paid to the federal government.

The following county profile includes public spending totals for specific categories of social and health programs, defined below, and recipients for selected programs within the categories.

Definitions and Spending Categories Included in the Profile:

Recipients are those persons who actually received a service or benefit from a program; **eligibles** are those persons who were eligible, but may or may not have received a benefit. For example, a person can be eligible for Medicaid, but may or may not have a claim paid on their behalf during the fiscal year. Recipients have not been totaled for the Income Assistance Total, Work Support Total or the Grand Total due to the likelihood of duplication between and among programs.

Nutrition Services include Food Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamp Program), School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, Summer Food Program, and the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program.

Emergency Services include State Emergency Relief, including Burials, and Energy Assistance Programs, including Heat, Electric and Energy-Related Home Repairs, and Home Heating Tax Credit for tax year 2005.

Health Care Services include regular Medicaid payments, Disproportionate Share Hospital Payments, Title XIX funded mental health payments, the Title XIX component of Children's Special Health Care Services, Home Help and Personal Care Services payments, Adult Benefits Waiver Program payments, and MICHild Program payments.

Children's Services include Child Care Fund total expenditures (federal, state, and local) and Foster Care (Title IV-E funded and State Ward Board and Care).

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Van Buren County

	<u>Expenditures*</u>	<u>Monthly Avg. Recipients/ Eligibles</u>
Income Assistance – Total	\$ 14,164,600	N/A
▶ Family Independence Program	2,785,300	1,515
▶ State Disability Assistance	342,700	92
▶ Supplemental Security Income	11,036,600	1,899 ¹
Nutrition Services	16,361,600	11,120²
Emergency Services	1,541,400	13,019³
Work Support – Total	3,100,600	N/A
▶ Child Day Care	2,473,300	755
▶ Work First and Welfare to Work	627,300	584 ⁴
Health Care Services	82,372,900	21,421¹
Children's Services	2,783,500	65⁵
TOTAL SPENDING FOR SELECTED PROGRAMS	<u>\$120,324,600</u>	N/A

*Expenditures are rounded to nearest hundred; may not total due to rounding.

¹ Reflects persons eligible.

² Due to the likely duplication among nutrition programs, only the Food Assistance Program recipients are included in this table.

³ Due to the possible duplication among emergency services programs, only the recipients of energy assistance are included in this table.

⁴ Work First participants.

⁵ Includes Foster Care (Title IV-E and State Ward Board and Care) recipients only.