

Local Community Uses

Tax Dollars at Work

Public Spending for Selected Health and Social Programs in Michigan

By County, FY2005

1. Create fact sheets (see www.MiLHS.org for county profiles) for your community and share with state legislators, local officials, community leaders, nonprofit service organizations, and neighbors and friends to educate them on the importance and impact of the included programs on the citizens in the community and on the local economy. Make sure these officials understand how many people rely on Medicaid for their health care coverage, the value of SSI program payments to the recipients and to the local economy, that over one million people participated in the Food Assistance Program, and that over one million persons received energy assistance.
2. Assess the potential impact of state level reduction proposals on your community in terms of the loss of needed services for citizens, loss of economic activity in the community, and the impact on community resources to attempt to fill gaps.
3. Be aware of the impact on the community when critical state programs experience reduced spending, such as Work First/Welfare to Work (\$9.4 million), Child Day Care (\$24.7 million), Home Help Services (\$8.7 million), and Foster Care (\$12.6 million).
4. Be aware of major social or economic changes in your community that will result in increased or reduced need for public programs. For example, one county's Medicaid enrollees increased by over 100 percent; in another county, Medicaid enrollees declined by 13 percent.
5. Incorporate the data for your county in letters to the editor or op-ed pieces.
6. Meet with local newspaper editorial boards and share information on the number of people assisted, the value of the services to those assisted and to the local economy.
7. Incorporate county information from the report into agency newsletters and publications.
8. Use data from this report to formulate questions for political candidates.
9. Share information with your Board of Directors.



Michigan League FOR Human Services