

# **MDHHS: FY21 Budget Executive Recommendation**

## **Economic Stability Administration**

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# Economic Stability Administration

**Pursuant to the mission and vision of the Department, the Economic Stability Administration (ESA) oversees the local MDHHS offices that provide:**

- Food Assistance, Medical Assistance, childcare, cash benefits, etc. for families and individuals in need
- Supportive Services such as employment and training

**ESA is also responsible for the oversight of the following Central Office Units:**

- Disability Determination Services, which is responsible for determining disability eligibility for state and federal programs
- Office of Child Support, which is responsible for Child Support enforcement

# Pathways to Potential

- Targets five outcome areas: attendance, education, health, safety & self-sufficiency
- MDHHS caseworkers assigned directly to schools to connect families with resources at **304 schools in 42 counties**
- In August 2018, MDHHS released Pathways to Potential report: [www.michigan.gov/pathwaystopotential](http://www.michigan.gov/pathwaystopotential)
- Statistics for the 2017-2018 school year:
  - **90,815 students served** by Pathways to Potential success coaches
  - **142,846 total student and family interventions** with 67,248 of the student interventions related to student attendance
  - **19.3%** of Pathways to Potential schools **decreased chronic absenteeism** in the 2017-18 school year from the school's corresponding baseline year
  - **13.2%** of Pathways to Potential schools **decreased the rate of chronic absenteeism by 10% or more**



# Family Independence Program

- TANF-funded program
- Helps families achieve self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on public assistance
- Provides a monthly cash assistance grant for one- and two-parent families, which assists with the costs of:
  - Housing
  - Heat and other utilities
  - Food
  - Personal needs costs (clothing, household items, etc.)
- Families must meet income and asset requirements as well as other eligibility standards, including:
  - Time on assistance
  - Work participation requirements
  - School attendance and child support requirements

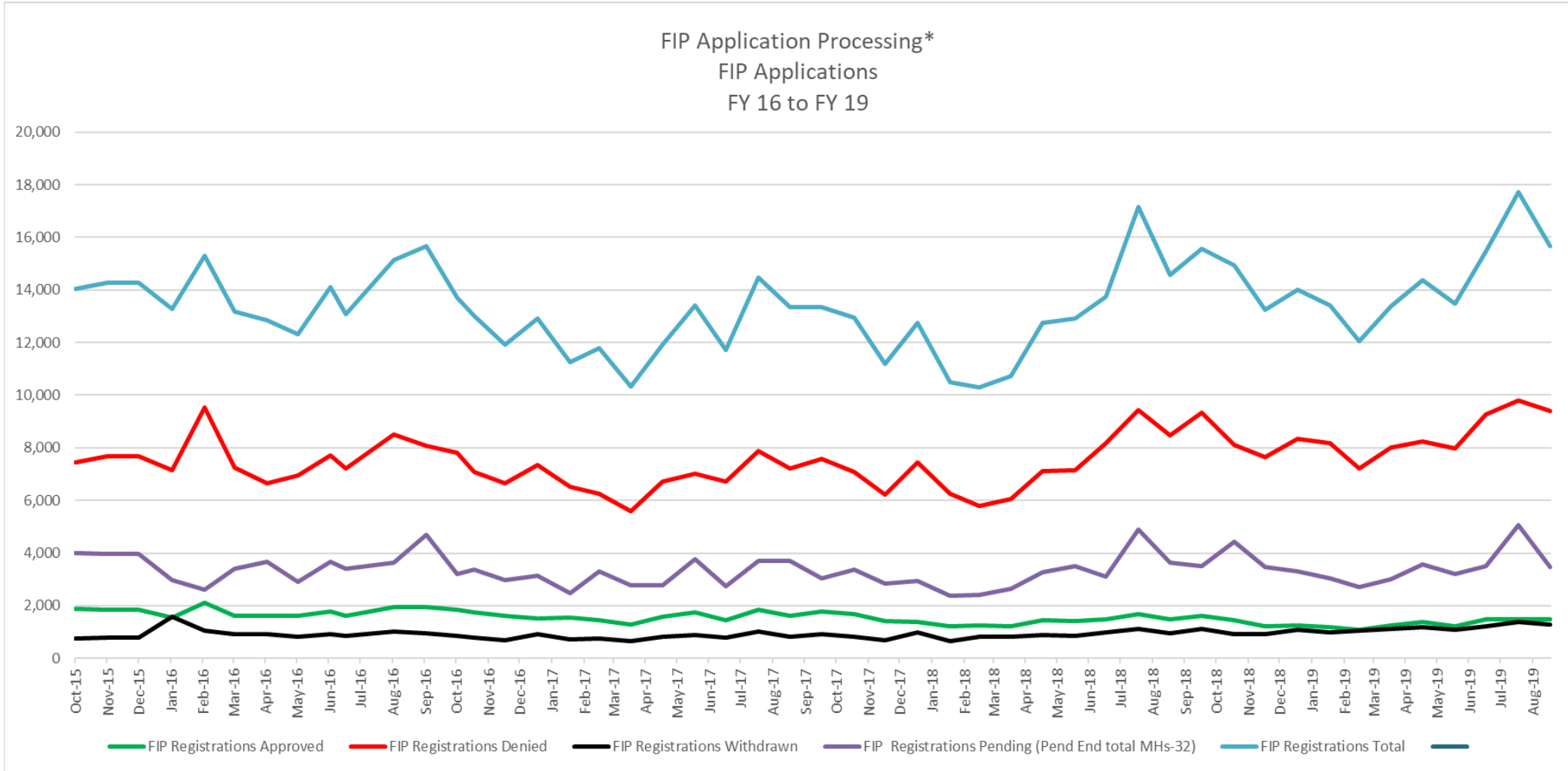
## Fiscal Year 2019\* Statistics

Average Monthly Payment Per Case:	<b>\$379</b>
Average Monthly Recipients:	<b>36,584</b>
Average Monthly Total Payments:	<b>\$5,946,014</b>

## Fiscal Year 2020 Accomplishments

- The statewide Work Participation Rate (WPR) for FY19 as submitted to Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is 60.47% which far exceeds ACFs requirement of 50%
- Based on our statewide analysis, our WPR has exceeded 60% for 79 consecutive months, as of February 2020

# Family Independence Program



\*Source: Bridges MHS 32 Monthly Report

# Food Assistance Program

- Benefits are 100% federally funded with administrative costs shared equally between the state and the federal government
- FAP benefits raise the food purchasing power of low-income persons
- Households are eligible for FAP benefits based on criteria such as:
  - Assets
  - Net income
  - Household size
  - Certain expenses

## Fiscal Year 2019\* Statistics

Average Monthly Payments:	<b>\$140,636,229</b>
Average Monthly Family Payment:	<b>\$223 per Household; \$119 per Recipient</b>
Average Monthly Cases:	630,851
Average Monthly Recipients:	1,180,070
Average Monthly Recipients per case:	1.87
Average Monthly Child Recipients:	478,520
Average Monthly Adult Recipients:	701,550

# Heat & Eat

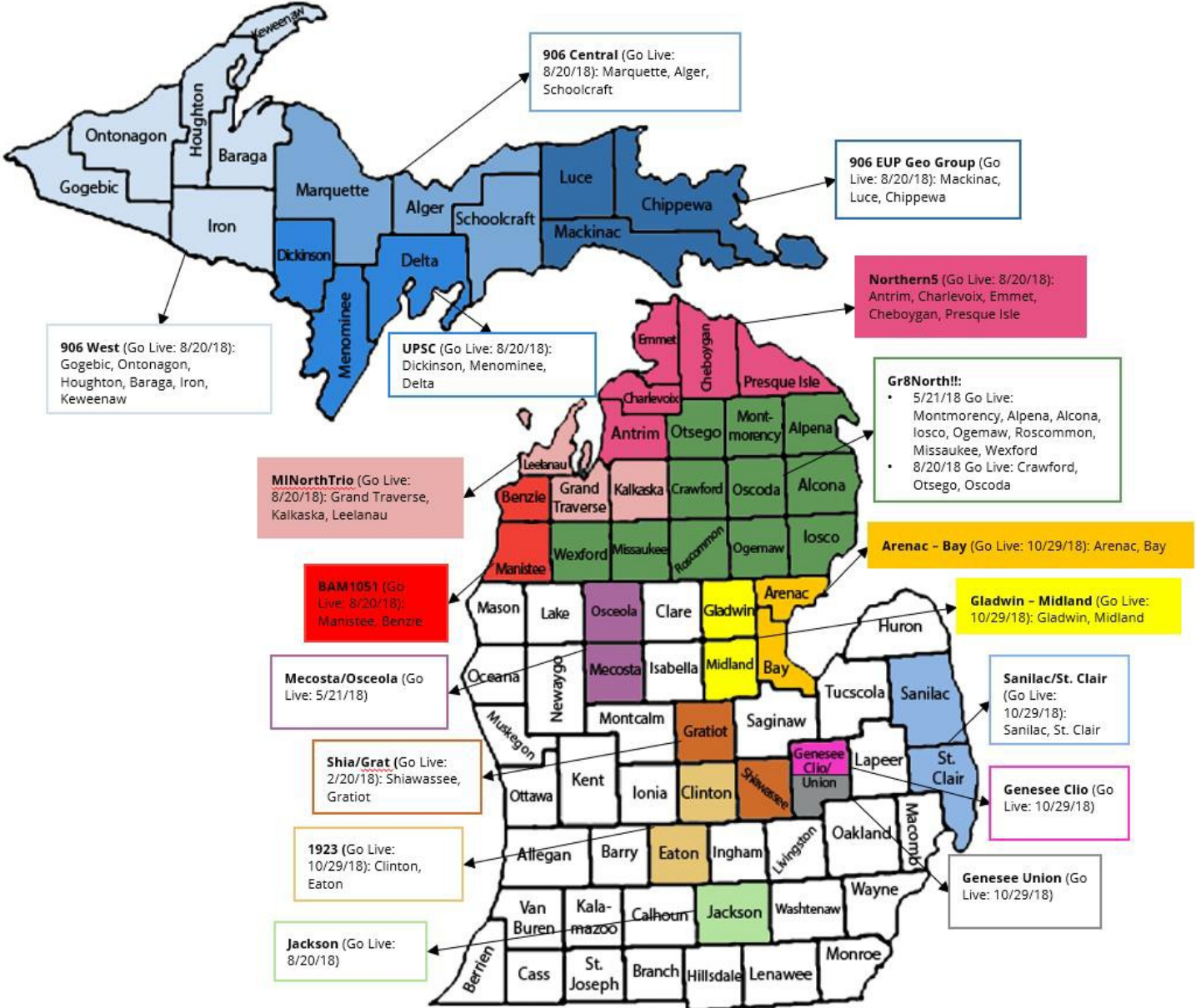
- Prior to the USDA Farm Bill of 2014, the state was able to provide Heat & Eat to all FAP cases
  - Each case received \$1 in LIHEAP
  - In 2014, LIHEAP cost was raised to over \$20 per case, making it difficult to continue the program
  - Rising costs also led to a decrease in benefits for many cases because residents were no longer allowed the full Standard Utility Allowance once they received \$1 LIHEAP
- In July 2017, a new initiative began to identify FAP recipients not receiving the full allowance because heat was included in the cost of rent
  - In July 2019, the initiative assisted **85,401** cases
  - The Fiscal Year 2020 allocation is **\$1.75 million** in LIHEAP funding for this ongoing initiative
  - Next payment will be distributed to the same population of FAP participants later this year

# Universal Caseload (UCL)

- UCL lets a group of caseworkers handle pooled cases and allows call center calls to be routed to an MDHHS employee nearby
- MDHHS halted the original UCL rollout plan and will not expand it beyond the initial 50 counties at this time
- This year, the department will:
  - Continue to improve the process based on caseworker feedback
  - Test a hybrid approach with a pilot in two locations, Jackson and Bay/Arenac, beginning in April 2020
  - Make changes to the UCL phone line to better direct callers
- The goal is to continue the progress of the past year



# Current UCL Counties



# Universal Caseload (UCL) Backlog 1/05/2019 to 1/25/2020 weekly



# State Emergency Relief (SER) Program

- Designed to assist low-income households that experience an unexpected emergency
- Some common services available through the SER program include:
  - Relocation Services
  - Home Ownership
  - Home Repairs
  - Utility Assistance
  - Burial Assistance

## **LIHEAP funded SER services for Fiscal Year 2019:**

- SER Heat: \$26.6M
- SER Electric: \$30.3M
- Furnace Repair/Replacement: \$2.3M

## **Non-Energy SER Services for Fiscal Year 2019:**

- SER Relocation: \$2.4M
- Water/Sewer: \$875,000
- Home Ownership: \$346,664
- Home Repairs: \$69,197
- Burials: \$3.1M

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