

Department of Health and Human Services



General Overview

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) was created on April 11, 2015, by Executive Order (E.O.) 2015-4. The E.O. effectively combined the Departments of Human Services (DHS) and Community Health (DCH) into the new DHHS. As part of the E.O., two new agencies were created within the DHHS, the Michigan Children's Services Agency and the Aging and Adult Services Agency. The latter Agency took over the responsibilities and functions of the Office of Services to the Aging, which was abolished. The E.O. also created an independent and autonomous Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General within the DHHS. The new DHHS received all programs and agencies from the DCH and DHS with the exception of the Office of Child and Adult Licensing and the Adult Foster Care Licensing Advisory Council, which transferred from the DHS to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). The DHHS budget is the largest State agency with a budget of \$25.1 billion and 15,443.0 FTEs.

Department of Health and Human Services - Community Health

Major Divisions and Programs

The DHHS - Community Health is responsible for the development of State health policy and management of the State's publicly funded mental health, public health, and medical services systems.

The former Department of Community Health (DCH) was created by Executive Order 1996-1, which consolidated the former Departments of Mental Health and Public Health, and the Medical Services Administration, or, as it is more commonly known, the Medicaid Program, into a single Department. In subsequent Executive Order reorganizations, the Office of Drug Control Policy, the Office of Services to the Aging, the Crime Victims Services Commission, and Rehabilitation Services were incorporated into the DCH.

Medical Services Administration. The State Medicaid agency provides medical care coverage for over 2.2 million residents who are eligible for Medicaid coverage under Federal guidelines.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. This component of the DCH provides community-based behavioral health services and services for persons with developmental disabilities principally through contracts with 46 Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs); operates 4 State psychiatric hospitals, operates, under contract with the Department of Corrections, the Center for Forensic Psychiatry and Huron Valley Center, a psychiatric hospital serving the inmate population; and provides substance abuse prevention, education, and treatment services.

Public Health. This component oversees the provision of basic public health services such as communicable disease control, health promotion, and disease prevention primarily through 45 local health departments. Other services include a variety of maternal and child health services; health planning; measuring and assuring access to health care; and State vital records and health statistics.

Aging and Adult Services Agency. This office contracts primarily with 16 regional area agencies on aging for services that promote independence and enhance the dignity of Michigan's older residents. Adult Protective Services investigates or remedies abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

Crime Victims Services Commission. The Commission administers the crime victims' rights fund, processes applications for crime victim compensation, and administers Federal Victim of Crime Act Grants.

Department of Health and Human Services - Human Services

Major Divisions and Programs

The DHHS - Human Services administers State assistance, such as State Disability Assistance, and child welfare programs, such as foster care. Human Services also administers Federal assistance programs, such as food assistance, rehabilitative services, low-income energy assistance, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The former Department of Human Services (DHS) was previously known as the Family Independence Agency (FIA) and also once part of the former Department of Social Services (DSS). The Department of Social Services was created by Public Act 280 of 1939, which incorporated the former Department of Social Welfare and the Michigan Commission on Aging, and abolished the Michigan Social Welfare Commission. In 1995, Public Act 223 created the FIA. Executive Order 1996-1 reorganized State government and transferred the Medical Assistance Program from FIA to the Department of Community Health. In 2005, the Department of Human Services was created by Executive Order 2004-38.

Michigan Children's Services Agency. The Michigan Children's Services Agency includes all programs pertaining to child welfare. Child Protective Services division investigates or remedies abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children. The Foster Care program provides protection for children through out-of-home placements in cases of abuse and neglect, and delinquency when ordered by the family court. The Adoption Subsidies program provides planning and supervision services in support of adoptive placements of permanent State wards or Department-supervised court wards. At the State level, Juvenile Justice services includes placements at two state-run detention facilities and financial support for all other services, which are operated through the Courts and local government.

Public Assistance. Assistance programs include State and Federally-funded benefits. The Food Assistance Program (FAP) provides assistance to individuals and families for food needs. Federal funding covers 100% of the benefits that are provided to participants. The Family Independence Program (FIP) is a cash assistance program for families with children. Federal funding is provided through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. The State Emergency Relief (SER) program provides assistance for services such as relocation, emergency home repairs, indigent burials, and utility and heating assistance.

Disability Determination. The Michigan Disability Determination Service (DDS) determines eligibility for disability benefits for Federal and State disability programs: 1) Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), 2) Supplemental Security Income (SSI), 3) Medicaid Assistance (MA), 4) State Disability Assistance (SDA), and 5) the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) disability retirement program.

Child Support. The Office of Child Support is authorized to administer the Federal Title IV-D child support program in the State, and to establish paternity, establish orders, and also enforce child support orders.