



Michigan Child Welfare Improvement Task Force Residential Facilities Recommendations

- Through training, modeling and mentoring, formalize a generational or 2Gen approach in our priorities for Michigan's children and families where this lens for all our work becomes an intentional and overarching theme in policy and practice. This approach is designed with whole-family involvement with explicit focus on racial equity in meeting family needs and laser focus on reducing the disproportionality of children of color engaged with our child welfare system.
- Expansion of and funding support for the state's use of Blind Removal to reduce the number of families experiencing the trauma of removal of a child and to ensure equitable access to prevention and preservation services.
- Expansion of and funding support for the state's use of Enhanced Foster Care (EFC) which has shown significant success in reducing the number of youth in residential treatment and reducing/eliminating recidivism by enhancing family and community-based options. EFC shows a significant increase of children of color receiving EFC services, thereby remaining with family/caregivers in the community, compared to their representation in the general foster care population.
- Earmark a new tier of funding designed to ensure equitable access to and assistance in navigating mental health services that are critical for families in providing stability for their children. This new tier of eligibility would create support for a family centered planning process that is both youth-guided and family driven and would bring alignment to availability of services, whether entering through Health and Human Services or Community Mental Health.
- Regular assessment of the Residential Placement Unit (RPU) and Maximus as the Independent Assessor to assure residential treatment, when appropriate, is engaged as a specialized opportunity to help with a specific set of needs and circumstances, and to regularly investigate levels of disproportionality in residential treatment settings. RPU has the ability to make placement decisions appropriate to the needs of the youth and to ensure that youth have equitable access to those treatment programs by addressing and decreasing barriers to equitable access.