

Dear Members of the Committee,

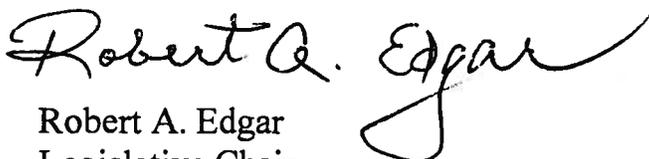
Please accept this document as written testimony on behalf of the Michigan Network for Youth and Families (MNYF), a 24 member association of runaway and homeless youth service providers throughout the State of Michigan.

Historically, Michigan had been a leading State in providing critical services to one of our most vulnerable populations, that being runaway, homeless and at-risk youth.

- In December 1973 the Michigan Legislature passed PA 154 calling for the Department of Social Services (now known as the Department of Human Services) to develop a comprehensive plan for providing runaway services in Michigan.
- The Department then entered into contracts with private non-profit service providers rather than providing the service themselves. This relationship has continued since that time and led to the formation of a statewide network of providers.
- Of the 24 agencies within the Michigan Network 23 currently have contracts with DHS.
- Services provided through these contracts include but are not limited to:
 - 24 hour crisis intervention
 - emergency shelter for runaway youth
 - individual, family and group counseling
 - information and referral
 - transitional living for homeless youth
 - life skills training
 - case management
- Sixteen (16) of the 24 agencies serve multiple counties in an effort to provide a safety net for youth across the entire state.
- Runaway and homeless youth service providers are typically seen as the stopgap measure in their respective communities since they are the only providers with 24 hour access and nearly all are collaborative partners in their local Continuum of Care as the only provider of services specific to this population.
- MNYF agencies are extremely successful in reuniting youth with their families, saving the state foster care, corrections, law enforcement and juvenile justice costs. They are also a highly effective prevention approach to reducing youth entering the Child Welfare System.

- The MNYF is recognized by the Federal Family and Youth Service Bureau of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families as one of the best statewide networks in the entire country due to its highly successful programs.
- Despite the success of our programs the issue of youth homelessness continues to increase. In 2012 the Michigan Department of Education reported a 37% increase in homeless students in Michigan public schools between 2009-10 and 2011-12 school years (31,193).
- In 2012 over 2,700 (2,718) youth entered runaway program services with over 1,600 (1,611) needing emergency shelter. Transitional living programs saw over 500 (504) youth in host homes or group facilities.
- MNYF agencies have now been asked to play an even more critical role for homeless youth aging out of the foster care system as DHS now requires transitional living providers to provide no less than 25% of their bed capacity to assist this population as part of their contract.
- A critical and ongoing concern has been the absence of any increase in funding to meet increased service demands and contract requirements. There has been no increase in funding from DHS since 2001 and funding was further reduced by 4.79% in 2010.
- It has become increasingly difficult for MNYF agencies to retain their most competent staff when wages can't reflect at least a cost of living adjustment.
- Therefore, on behalf of the Michigan Network for Youth and Families I am asking this Committee to recommend an increase of 10% specific to the Runaway and Homeless Youth service providers within the Youth in Transition line item of the Child Welfare Services portion of the DHS budget. This would amount to \$763,294.00.

Please help us maintain the safety net for our youth and families in crisis. After all, the citizens of this State deserve nothing less.



Robert A. Edgar
 Legislative Chair
 Michigan Network for Youth and Families
 810-233-8700
gcyc@intouchmi.com

STATE OF MICHIGAN RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PROVIDERS

PROGRAM NAME	CONTACT PERSON	ADDRESS	Website/E-Mail	PHONE NUMBER	COUNTY SERVICED
Alternatives for Girls	Cynthia Haberman and Amanda Good	903 W. Grand Blvd. Detroit, MI 48208-2365	www.alternativesforgirls.org chaberman@alternativesforgirls.org agood@alternativesforgirls.org	(313) 361-4000	Wayne County, Detroit, Highland Park, Hamtramck
Branch County Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Kim Henker	220 N. Michigan Ave. Kalamzoo, MI 49048	http://278safe.com/branch-county-coalition-against-domestic-violence/ Shelterhouse@cbpu.com	(269) 381-9800	Branch
Covenant House Michigan	Cynthia Adams	2959 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Detroit, MI 48208	www.covenanthousemi.org	(313) 463-2000	Detroit, Wayne County
Cory Place	Jheri McAfee	581 N. Scheumann Rd. Bay City, MI 48708	www.coryplaceinc.org jheri@coreyplace.org	(989) 895-5563	Bay, Arenac, and Gladwin
Arbor Circle	Susan Sheppard	1115 Ball Avenue NE. Grand Rapids, MI 49505	www.arborcircle.org Susan_sheppard@arborcircle.org	(616) 456-6571	Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, and Montcalm
Ozone House	Katie Doyle	1705 Washtenaw Ann Arbor, MI 48104	www.ozonehouse.org kdoyle@ozonehouse.org	(734) 662-2265	Washtenaw
Child & Family Services of Southwestern MI-The Link	Kelly Nightingale Taneisha Craig Joseph Goepfrich	Physical: 2450 M-139 Benton Harbor, MI 49022 Mailing: P.O. Box 8789 Benton Harbor, MI 49023	www.cfsswmi.org knightingale@cfsswmi.org taneishacraig@cfsswmi.org josephgoepfrich@cfsswmi.org	(269) 925-1725 (Kelly) (269) 925-1725 (Taneisha) (269) 925-1725 (Joseph)	Berrien, Cass, Van Buren

STATE OF MICHIGAN RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PROVIDERS

PROGRAM NAME	CONTACT PERSON	ADDRESS	Website/E-Mail	PHONE NUMBER	COUNTY SERVICED
Catholic Charities- The ARK	Fran Denny and Benjamin Moe	Mailing: 1819 Gull Rd. Kalamazoo, MI 48048 Site: 990 W. Kilgore Rd. Kalamazoo, MI 49008	www.ccdok.org frandenny@ccdok.org benjaminmoe@ccdok.org	(800) 873-8336	Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren
Common Ground	Jim Perlaki	1410 South Telegraph Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302	www.commongroundhelps.org jperlaki@commongroundhelps.org	(248) 456-8150	Oakland
Comprehensive Youth Services, Inc- Family Youth Interventions	Jeffrey Oldham and Jolyne Baarck	2 Crocker Blvd. Suite 103 Mt. Clemens, MI 48043	www.familyyouth.com jbaarck@familyyouth.com joldhamcys@yahoo.com	(586) 465-1212 (586) 463-7079	Macomb
Comprehensive Youth Services, Inc- The Harbor	Sallie Currie	929 Pine Street Port Huron, MI 48060	www.harboryouth.com harboryouth@hotmail.com	(810) 982-8584	St. Clair, Sanilac, and Huron
DO'CHAS II	Jane Myers	330 W. Michigan Jackson, MI 49201	kjmyers@gmail.com	(517) 788-4605	Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Monroe
Every Woman's Place, Inc.	Lori Rasmussen, Kathy Moore and Crystal France	Administration: 175 W. Apple Ave. Muskegon, MI 49440 Residential: 1221 W. Lakeon Ave. Muskegon MI 49441	www.everywomansplace.org lorir@everywomansplace.org crystal@everywomansplace.org kathym@everywomansplace.org	(231) 759-7909	Muskegon, Oceana, Newago, and N. Ottawa
Gateway Community Services	Barbara Morton Jennifer McMahon, Program Director	2875 Northwind Drive Suite 105 East Lansing, MI 48823	www.Gatewayservices.org bmorton@gatewayservices.org jimcmahon@gatewayservices.org	(517) 351-4000	Eaton, Ingham, and Clinton

STATE OF MICHIGAN RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PROVIDERS

PROGRAM NAME	CONTACT PERSON	ADDRESS	Website/E-Mail	PHONE NUMBER	COUNTY SERVICED
Genesee County Youth Corporation	Robert Edgar	914 Church Street Flint, MI 48502	www.reachthetraverseplace.org gcyc@intouchmi.com	(810) 233-8700	Genesee, Lapeer, Shawasssee
Listening Ear Crisis Center	Amanda Hart	107 E. Illinois P.O. Box 800 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804	www.listeninggear.com ahart@listenin-gear.com	(989) 773-6904 Ext. 233 (989) 772-2918	Clare, Isabella
Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.	Jenna Martin	1029 N. 3 rd Street Suite B Marquette, MI 49855	www.lsswis.org Jennifer.martin@lsswis.org	(906) 226-7410 ext. 17	Dickinson, Marquette, Alger, Schoolcraft, Delta, and Menominee (McKinney Vento Act with Houghton and Ontonagon)
Agency: Livingston Family Center Program: The Connection Youth Service	Vickie Smith	4736 East M-36 Pinckney, MI 48169	www.livingstonfamilycenter.org www.theconnectionyouthservices.org vsmith.tcys@gmail.com	(517) 552-3975	Livingston
Matrix Human Services, Off The Streets (MOTS)	Tanisha King and Celia Thomas	MOTS- 680 Virginia Park, Detroit, MI 48202 Administration- 120 Parsons Street. Detroit, MI 48201	www.matrixhumanservices.org tking@matrixhs.org cthomas@matrixhs.org	(313) 873-0678 (313) 831-1000	Eastern Wayne County, including: Detroit, Highland Park, Hamtramck, Harper Woods, and Grosse Pointe
Mecosta Osceola Youth Attention Center	Amy Eddinger	400 Elm Street Room 134 Big Rapids, MI 49307	www.co.mecosta.mi.us/youth aeddinge@co.mecosta.mi.us	(231) 592-0128	Mecosta and Osceola
Saginaw County Youth Protection Council	Mary Ellen Johnson, CEO Valeria Elmore, Division Director	1226 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602	www.yespreventionpays.org mejohanson@teenparentservices.com velmore@innerlinkservices.com	(989) 755-0937 (989) 753-3431	Saginaw, Gratiot, Tuscola, and Midland

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PROGRAM NAME	CONTACT PERSON	ADDRESS	Website/E-Mail	PHONE NUMBER	COUNTY SERVICED
Staircase Youth Services, Inc.	Cindy Arneson	5880 West US-10 Ludington, MI 49431	Http://staircaseyouthservices.org cynla82155@yahoo.com	(231) 843-3200	Lake, Mason, Wexford, Manistee, and Missaukee
Starfish Family Services	David Cardinal	30000 Hivoley Inkster, MI 48141	www.starfishonline.org dcardinal@sfish.org	(734) 728-3400	Wayne
Third Level Crisis Intervention Center, Inc.	Norvilla Bennett	1022 E. Front Street Traverse city, MI 49686	www.thirdlevel.org NIBennett@thirdlevel.org	(800) 442-7315 (231) 922-4800	Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency, Iosco Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Orsego, Presque Isle Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau
Child and Family Services of the Upper Peninsula-Project: HOPE	Michelle Gilbert	706 Chippewa Square Suite 200 Marquette, MI 49855	www.cfsup.org	(906) 630-8200 (231) 228-4050	Keweenaw, Baraga, Gogebic, Iron, Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac
Ruth Ellis Center	Michelle Anderson	77 Victor Street Highland Park, MI 48203	www.ruthelliscenter.org info@ruthelliscenter.org	(313) 252-1950	Wayne County