

# 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Young people who are Black, Indigenous youth, other youth of color (BIPOC) and/or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or gender expansive, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and two-spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) are overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness, foster care, and in our juvenile justice system due to historic and current systemic racism. We are committed to eliminating these disparities and addressing the impacts these broken systems have on young people. We advocate at the local, state, and federal level for policies and budgets that improve the lives of young people experiencing homelessness and other crises.

## → HEALTHCARE ACCESS FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

Young people under the age of 18 are often not able to access vital healthcare needs while they are being sheltered by service providers because parents do not give consent or cannot be located.

**Solution:** Allow homeless and runaway youth access to health care without parental consent

**Champion:** Representative O'Neal (HB-4087)

## → INCREASING SAFETY FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

Youth under 18 cannot consent to their own shelter. In cases where youth cannot return home to a safe and supportive environment and their parents do not give consent or cannot be located, youth may end up experiencing homelessness.

**Solution:** Create a 72 hour window (aligned with federal standards) for agencies get parental or guardian consent to shelter minors in their care

**Champion:** Representative Stone (HB-4085)

## → MORE TRANSITIONAL LIVING SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The current definitions of who can be housed by transitional living programs is too restrictive and often requires shelters to turn young people away at a time when they are in crisis.

**Solution:** Broaden the age ranges and definitions of who transitional living programs can house and support

**Champion:** Representative Roth (HB-4086)

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## → ENDING LGBTQ+ DISCRIMINATION IN MICHIGAN

In Michigan right now, it is legal for an employer to fire an employee and for a landlord to deny housing or evict someone if they even suspect that person identifies as LGBTQ+. There are currently zero protections against this discrimination for LGBTQ+ people, including our youth.

**Solution:** Guarantee civil rights protections to LGBTQ+ Michiganders through the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA)

**Champion:** Senator Moss (SB-04)

## → ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES

State funding for runaway and youth homeless services has barely increased since 2001. There are currently more than 22,000 high school age youth struggling with homeless in Michigan. Our state's shelters and youth programs are overburdened and underfunded and there are counties and communities that lack any youth homelessness services at all.

**Solution:** Increase funding for runaway and homeless youth services to \$10 Million

**Champion:** Needed

Funding for Runaway & Homeless Youth Services in Michigan Since 2001

