

MDHHS assistance during the COVID-19 State of Emergency

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will continue to provide support to Michigan Tribes and their citizens during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. General information and guidance regarding COVID-19 can be found on the MDHHS website at <https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus>.

Tribal Citizen Services

MDHHS will continue to process applications and provide services as quickly as possible. Local offices will be closed to foot traffic at this time. However, staff will be available by phone to assist Tribal citizens.

Tribal citizens may contact their caseworker at the telephone number listed on any paperwork that MDHHS has sent to the beneficiary. Tribal citizens that are in the Universal Case Load system can call 1-844-464-3447 and work through the prompts to request a call back so they don't have to wait on the line. If a callback is requested, they should pick up any incoming telephone call so they don't miss the chance to talk with a specialist.

Tribal citizens may apply for benefits online at www.michigan.gov/mibridges. Available assistance for those meeting eligibility criteria includes:

- Food Assistance Program (FAP) - FAP benefits will continue as normal. If a client reports a loss of work, their specialist will assist them in verification and process the change for potential increase in FAP benefits.
- Cash Assistance – Family Independence Program (FIP) and State Disability Relief - FIP applicants will be temporarily deferred for 45 days from having to meet the training and employment requirements with their Michigan Works Agency (MWA). Work requirements will be suspended until the beneficiary is able to attend the MWA programs again.
- State Emergency Relief
- Health Care Coverage
- Child Development & Care

The application and an information booklet can be accessed and downloaded at https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71547_5526_22957-69226--,00.html, For citizens that do not have computer access, paper applications will be available at each local office. Paper applications may be submitted by dropping them off at their local MDHHS office (drop boxes are provided) or by faxing the application to 517-346-9888.

Children's Services

Children's Services Agency recommends the following resources to assist tribal communities with service delivery and individual needs.

Client Resources:

Child or Adult Abuse/Neglect Hotline: If you suspect the abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact the anonymous hotline at 1-855-444-3911.

Kinship Care Navigator: Assisting family members caring for relatives in child welfare matters.

<http://kinship.msu.edu/> or 1-800-535-1218.

Foster Parent Navigator: Assisting foster parents and prospective foster parents with the application process and navigating child placements. www.fcnp.org or 1-855-MICKIDS (642-4543).

Post Adoption Resource Center (PARC): Support services and service referrals for adoptive families. <https://www.mare.org/For-Families/Post-Adoption-Information>.

Adoption Assistance: Services and funding for adoptive families.

https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7116_63826---,00.html.

Foster Youth in Transition: Services and funding for youth aging out of foster care.

<https://www.michigan.gov/fyit>.

Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI): Helping young people in foster care have successful outcomes in housing, education, employment, community engagement and health.

<https://www.michigan.gov/fyit/0,4585,7-240-44524-162619--,00.html>.

Indian Outreach Services (IOS): Various services and information/referrals for tribal children, families, adults, and elders seeking or involved in child welfare, medical, direct assistance, or other social service matters:

https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7209_7885---,00.html.

National Child Welfare Resources: Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau resources for child welfare staff, clients, and caregivers.

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/covid-19-resources?utm_campaign=covid19&utm_medium=email&utm_source=covid19031920.

Staff Resources:

MDHHS Children's Services Agency Policy (Includes Native American Affairs):

<http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/html/>.

MDHHS Children's Services Agency Forms (Includes Native American Affairs):

https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_7338---,00.html.

National Child Welfare Resources: Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau resources for child welfare staff, clients, and caregivers.

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/covid-19-resources?utm_campaign=covid19&utm_medium=email&utm_source=covid19031920.

Native American Affairs is an MDHHS administrative office in the Children's Services Agency providing statewide Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) monitoring, policy, federal reporting, training/technical assistance, and tribal liaison functions. Contact: 517-335-7782,

TadgersonS@michigan.gov, or www.michigan.gov/americanindians.

Older Tribal Citizen Resources

The following links will connect with entities that can triage and provide information and assistance to older Tribal citizens:

Area Agencies on Aging: <https://www.michigan.gov/osa/1,4635,7-234-64081-295815--,00.html> provide general local services to older citizens.

The Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAAP) can help older Tribal citizens with counseling regarding their health care benefits: <http://mmapinc.org/>.