

**Antrim County  
Department  
of  
Health and Human Services**



**2021 Annual Report**

*The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services strives to promote better health outcomes, reduce health risks, and support stable and safe families while encouraging self-sufficiency.*

# Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Assistance Programs

## Universal Caseload (UCL)

Antrim County DHHS continues to service public assistance cases through the Universal Caseload system. This task-based processing system allows a pool of caseworkers to handle pooled cases. A Contact Center receives phone calls and sends them to a caseworker located in the same geographic area as the client. Antrim County is in a 5 county GeoGroup consisting of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Cheboygan, and Presque Isle.

Statewide rollout of this project was paused during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The State remains committed to this process and continued county rollout will begin in FY22 with an estimated State-wide completion in FY24.

**Total Eligible Recipients by Program**

Month	Family Independence Program (FIP)	Food Assistance Program (FAP)	State Disability Assistance (SDA)	Child Development and Care (CDC)	Medicaid Eligible (MA)	Healthy Michigan Program (HMP)
Jan	16	2054	1	65	3996	2006
Feb	16	2112	2	55	4025	2050
March	21	2043	1	56	4024	2059
April	25	2024	2	58	4051	2085
May	27	1970	2	58	4063	2093
June	27	1973	2	62	4111	2112
July	27	1918	2	63	4133	2132
Aug	20	1887	1	66	4146	2139
Sept	18	1923	2	65	4189	2169
Oct	18	1897	2	65	4195	2208
Nov	14	1884	1	65	4221	2215
Dec	8	1951	3	63	4268	2239

In 2021 we saw the following regarding recipients enrolled in our various programs (compared to 2019):

- 16% decrease in the Family Independence Program (FIP)
- 19% increase in the Family Assistance Program (FAP)
- 16% decrease in State Disability Assistance (SDA)
- 14% decrease in the Child Development and Care Program (CDC)
- 13% increase in the Medicaid Program (MA)
- 19% increase in the Health Michigan Program (HMP)

Beginning in May 2020, Michigan was approved to issue emergency allotments in the Food Assistance Program to all eligible recipients. All recipients' benefits were brought to the maximum allotment or to meet the minimum \$95.00 increase monthly. This emergency allotment has remained in effect to date.

In March 2020, the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services directed MDHHS to temporarily suspend all Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Medicaid or Medicare Cost Savings Programs can only be closed if a client is deceased, moved out of State or client gives verbal or written permission to close their program. This directive remains in effect to date. MDHHS is preparing for the ending of this directive in the near future and anticipates having to complete approximately 1.7 million Medicaid redeterminations.

<b>Financial Assistance to Antrim County Residents through DHHS programs (FY '21)</b>
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FIP (cash assistance) <i>(10% decrease from FY19)</i>	\$40,656.00
Food Assistance <i>(153% increase from FY19)</i>	\$5,176,773.00
Child Day Care <i>(60% increase from FY19)</i>	\$234,993.00
State Emergency Relief <i>(41% decrease from FY19)</i>	\$138,895.00
State Disability <i>(33% decrease from FY19)</i>	\$5,998.00
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Total <i>(125% increase from FY19)</i>	\$5,597,315.00

The COVID-19 pandemic proved to be challenging for all. One of the most dynamic outcomes of the pandemic for MDHHS was that approximately 4000 employees began working remotely to ensure services and benefits to children, families and adults continued. Our Assistance Payments and General Office Assistance Units were quickly provided technology to allow them to work safely from home while still fulfilling the Department’s Mission and Vision. While once believed to be impossible, these units adapted quickly to changes in technology and their new work environment. Applications continued to be processed, clients received and maintained eligible benefits and emergency needs were met. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, face to face contact was suspended for all eligibility programs and eventually our lobbies closed. Initially, a skeleton crew consisting of one General Office Assistant and a Manager maintained office coverage to ensure mail was processed and phone calls were answered. As the pandemic continued and the office re-opened for client connect, an Assistance Payments worker came back to the office full time.

## **Child Welfare Initiatives**

The Child Welfare team also experienced challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. MDHHS worked diligently to try to prohibit the spread of the virus by decreasing the footprint of staff making home visits, while still ensuring children were safe in their homes. A “Field Team Worker” concept was developed in which one worker from each office was designated to make face to face contacts for all assigned Children’s Protective Services referrals and open cases. The other staff would perform all other aspects of the investigation/open case including making collateral contacts, using technology to have virtual interviews and home visits, and developing safety plans. The work at times was overwhelming, but the staff that volunteered did an amazing job of meeting requirements, ensuring safety, and providing support to families.

During the heart of the pandemic, MDHHS engaged in a prevention effort with families previously involved in the child welfare system. Child Welfare staff contacted families that had either a closed Children’s Protective Services or Foster Care case within a three-month period and inquired if they had any unmet needs due to the pandemic. 102 families were contacted, and assistance was provided to 72 of those families. Assistance ranged from referrals to needed services, financial assistance or simply listening to families talk about their concerns for their children and staff providing positive feedback and ideas on how to manage the stressors of everyday life.

DHHS remains committed to working on improving the child welfare system so that children and families are provided the best opportunities to remain together in safe, stable environments. Antrim County has 6 Children’s Protective Services workers, 2 Foster Care workers, 1 licensing worker and 3 Supervisors who work diligently to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and families in Antrim County.

## **Child Welfare Cases**

In 2021, Antrim County Children’s Protective Services staff completed 188 investigations of Child Abuse/Neglect. In 29 of those cases, a preponderance of evidence was found that child abuse and/or neglect had occurred, and services were provided to families.

2 Abuse/Neglect petitions were filed in Probate Court in 2021 resulting in 2 children coming under the jurisdiction of the Antrim County Probate Court. In January 2021 18 children were in out of home placement. In December 2021 10 children remained in out of home placement.

2 adoptions were finalized in Antrim County in 2019.

Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet Counties maintain a joint Child Placing license through the Department of Child and Welfare Licensing. In 2021, the tri-county had 17 licensed foster home, 4 of them located in Antrim County. Our licensing program continues to grow with staff attending numerous recruitment activities including school sporting events, presenting information to community groups and churches and other community events.

## Adult Programs

DHHS offers a variety of programs to protect, encourage independence and advocate for frail and vulnerable adults in Michigan. Our programs can assist with independent living (home help), adult foster care and homes for the aged, adult protective services and support for those dealing with HIV/AIDS.

In 2021, Antrim County received the following new Adult Protective Services referrals:

Adult Protective Services:	185 referrals
	63 investigations

We also served on average each month 70 adults through our Independent Living Program and Adult Community Placement Program. We have 1 Adult Worker for the County who stays very busy ensuring the safety and well-being of our vulnerable adult population. Similar to our Child Welfare program during COVID-19, one adult worker made all home visits for our tri-county for a significant period of time. Other contacts with our adult population were made via phone or other means of technology. This proved to be especially difficult as many of our older clients do not have access to technology such as video conferencing or text messaging. Workers did their best to meet with clients outside, through open windows, etc. to ensure their needs were met. Staff made extra phone calls and contacts to all clients to help diminish the affects of the isolation and loneliness many of them were feeling.

## Antrim County Social Welfare Fund

We were able to meet extra needs and provide additional services to children and families through the Social Welfare Fund as well as cover administrative costs for the Meadow Brook Governing Board/Antrim County Human Services Board.

The following is a breakdown of expenditures in FY19:

Board salaries FY20:	\$1,918.50
Board salaries FY21	4,443.28
MCSSA dues:	1,436.55
Foster parents/children:	<u>2,130.81</u>
	\$9,971.63