



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

May 21, 2018

Office of Great Start-Child Development and Care  
Michigan Dept. of Education  
PO Box 30008  
Lansing, MI 48909

To: Office of Great Start-Child Development and Care  
Re.: CCDF State Plan FY 19 - FY 21

The League of Women Voters US has long recognized that child-care programs are a key supportive service for ***all families, but the poor are disproportionately impacted.*** Families with both low and moderate wages are struggling to find affordable, quality child care in Michigan. As of 2017 Michigan's income eligibility threshold (% of income relative to the state's median income) ranked second lowest in the country (National Women's Law Center). It is this income threshold that determines a family's eligibility for child care assistance. High quality, affordable child care is a necessity for families to be self-sufficient.

The League of Women Voters US **Statement of Position on Child Care, as Adopted by the 1988 Convention, based on positions reached from 1969 – 1988** continues to be relevant today:

The League of Women Voters support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it, in order to increase access to employment and to prevent and reduce poverty.

The League of Women Voters Michigan also has a position on child care:

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH Adopted 1965, 1967, 1969; revised 1977, 1989, 1997**  
LWVMI supports policies and programs to provide preventive, protective and rehabilitative services for all children and their families. Such programs should be sustainably funded and sufficiently staffed by well-trained personnel.

These programs include, but are not limited to:

1. Daycare—flexible and varied licensed programs including before and after school care;

The current draft of Michigan's Child Development Fund State Plan provides a framework for improving Michigan's child care system. The LWVMI respectfully requests that the following additions be added to the draft plan. These changes would increase both the number of families receiving adequate child care assistance and the

supply of high-quality child care throughout Michigan. Each recommendation is paired with the section of the draft CCDF State Plan in which the topic is referenced.

- (1) Continue to increase Michigan's income eligibility threshold for child care with a goal of reaching 200% of poverty, ***working towards a tiered system of support, based on family income.*** (Section 3.3.1)
- (2) Continue to increase child care provider payment rates to ultimately reach at least 75% of market rate (Section 4.6)
- (3) Improve child care business practices by moving away from hourly rates to half-day or full-day on at least a weekly basis. (Section 4.2 – 4.5)
- (4) Provide social-emotional consultation services as requested for all child care providers in order to respond to children with high needs and prevent child care expulsions. (Section 2.5)
- (5) Ensure that child care providers receive assistance for the financial burden of complying with new health and safety requirements. (Section 5.2)

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Karandjeff  
President