

Catholic Advocacy Network Update July 2022¹ partial notes

The Legislature this week completed work on approving the state budget for Fiscal Year 2023, which begins in October. The total spending amounted to \$76 billion for the general state budget and \$19 billion in school funding, according to media reports. The budget bills now to go to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for her signature, although she can line-item veto certain spending provisions.

Lawmakers purposely left \$7 billion in available spending out of the budget with the idea that it may be included in a future deal on tax relief for Michigan residents, according to media reports.

The Michigan Catholic

Conference (MCC) is pushing for an increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to be included as part of that tax reform, and MCC joined a joint letter to lawmakers and the Governor urging them to make the EITC a top priority in tax relief decisions.

The following is a high-level summary of the state budget items of interest to the MCC that were included in the approved bills:

Providing for the Poor

- Maintains \$7.23 million for the annual clothing allowance.
- Maintains Heat and Eat program.
- Maintain at least \$19 per diem rate per bed night for emergency homeless shelter programs.
- \$50,000 for caseworkers to provide immediate assistance (food, clothing) to child trafficking survivors and children removed from dangerous environments.

Fighting Human Trafficking

- \$1 million to create a human trafficking victims services expansion pilot program.
- \$250,000 for county grants toward anti-human trafficking collaboratives.
- Provides an additional 3 months of food assistance for human trafficking/domestic violence victims.
- Maintain \$170,000 to fund the state's human trafficking commission and \$200,000 for human trafficking intervention services.

Supporting Pregnant Mothers in Need

- \$4.4 million for diaper assistance grants for diaper banks, maternity homes, and other nonprofit agencies that distribute diapers for free.
- \$4 million for grants for maternity homes to provide safe housing and comprehensive services to pregnant women.
- \$3 million for maternal navigator programs that promote childbirth and alternatives to abortion.
- \$1.5 million for pregnancy resource center grants.
- \$700,000 for the Pregnant and Parenting Support Services Program.

¹ [MCC Priorities in New Budget, and What's Next After Roe? | Michigan Catholic Conference \(micatholic.org\)](#)
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