



Allegan County

GREAT START COLLABORATIVE



MICHIGAN OFFICE OF
Great Start

The Michigan Office of Great Start, within Michigan Department of Education, established Great Start Collaboratives and Great Start (Parent) Family Coalitions in each county to build a stronger early childhood system.

MICHIGAN HAS FOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES

1

CHILDREN ARE BORN HEALTHY

2

CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY, THRIVING AND DEVELOPMENTALLY ON TRACK FROM BIRTH TO THIRD GRADE

3

CHILDREN ARE DEVELOPMENTALLY READY TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AT TIME OF SCHOOL ENTRY

4

CHILDREN ARE PREPARED TO SUCCEED IN FOURTH GRADE AND BEYOND BY READING PROFICIENTLY BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE



TALKING IS TEACHING COMMUNITIES



Multi-Agency Collaborative Council (MACC)-

share our Allegan County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Survey:

<https://bit.ly/3xUtj2X>. See flier on pg. 15

Allegan County Community Mental Health-

NEW myStrength website and app. See flier on pg. 14.

United Way- Needs help with delivering food boxes to residents in Allegan County who cannot get to the Goods Donation Center to pick up their boxes.

Open Applications:

- o **Early On-** children ages 0-3 years old with developmental delays.
- o **Help Me Grow Allegan-** families with children ages 0-5 years old
- o **Head Start:** pregnant moms and children ages 0-5 years old.
- o **Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)-** 4 year olds

January 2022- Work Group Meeting Minutes

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



Help Me Grow®
www.hmgallegan.org Allegan

NEXT VIRTUAL WHOLE GROUP GSC MEETING-
FEBRUARY 1ST (9-11AM)

<https://bit.ly/3gTNqOh>

WANTED:

TALKING IS TEACHING PARTNERS

If you are interested in sharing the importance of "Talking, Singing, and Reading" to children in our community and want to help reduce the WORD GAP, so ALL children are ready for kindergarten and reading proficiently by 3rd grade, please share our monthly posters and parenting tips with your families or sign up to be a Guest Reader for November.

TALKING IS TEACHING
CAMPAIGN POSTERS

GUEST READER:
SIGN UP

NEW

WANTED:

TALKING IS TEACHING PARTNERS

OUR LITERACY COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING AGENCY WISH LISTS FOR FUTURE "TALKING IS TEACHING" FUNDING, PLEASE FILL OUT OUR QUICK SURVEY BY MARCH 1ST, 2022.

TALKING IS TEACHING
WISH LIST SURVEY

GSC- FEBRUARY
RESOURCES

**Connecting
Parents**



**Parent
Education**

**Parent
Support
System**

Families Connected is a safe environment for parents, grandparents, caregivers, and guardians of children (prenatal - 12 years of age) in Allegan County to connect with other parents & caregivers, to talk about their struggles, and to get support and advice in a safe environment!

**Contact
Stormie Drake
(Parent Liaison)
for more
information at
(269) 512-7747**

\$25 MEIJER GIFT CARD & PRIZE GIVEAWAYS

At every GSFC gathering, we will raffle off one FREE \$25 Meijer gift card to a random attendee! FREE giveaway items for either parents or children will be raffled off at each event!

Virtual Coffee Chat:

Wednesday, February 9 at 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Topic: Mental Health Resources for Parents/Caregivers

Virtual, Join via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/allegancafe>



**REGISTER NOW for our FREE
2022 Great Start Family Connected Events**

[FAMILIES CONNECTED](https://familiesconnected.org) | [HelpMeGrowAllegan](https://helpmegrowallegan.org)



FAMILIES
CONNECTED

FAMILY EVENTS

ALLEGAN COUNTY

GREAT START FAMILIES CONNECTED

FREE

REGISTER NOW!

Great Start Families Connected (GSFC) events are being offered over the course of 2022 with **FREE** activities and admission for the whole family! Join us for fun, play, and learn about educational tools and activities for your kids! There will be giveaways, including two \$25 gift cards, at EVERY family event!

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE*

Register at: <https://bit.ly/joinGSFC>



TOT SPOT OPEN SWIM

Wednesday, March 9

10:30am - 12pm

Allegan Aquatic Center

"Let's Talk About Bath Time"
Open swim with fountains,
water slide, lazy river for ages
0-5

JOHN BALL ZOO

Friday, May 20th

11am - 2pm

John Ball Zoo

"Let's Talk About the Zoo"
Scavenger Hunt with prizes
and camel rides for ages
0-12

KZOO GROWLERS TAILGATE PARTY

TBD - July

Homer Stryker Field

"Let's Talk About Shapes"
Tailgate Party
2 hour party before game:
food, drinks, games, and
kidz zone for ages 0-12

CRANE'S ORCHARD

Friday, September 9

11am - 12:30pm

Crane's Orchard

"Let's Talk About the Farm"
U-Pick Apples and Corn
Maze scavenger hunt with
prizes for ages 0-12

COOKING CONNECTIONS FALL VIRTUAL SERIES ON ZOOM

Sign up for **3** family cooking sessions!

2nd Wednesdays, September-November at 5pm-6pm

Get information on healthy recipes, access to **FREE** cookware to **KEEP** and \$25 in groceries for **EACH** event! Cook as a family, eat as a family, and make healthy choices for ages 0-12

TALKING **IS** TEACHING



Allegan County's 2022 Play-and-Learn Calendar

Free **BOOK KITS** given away at each playgroup. For more Talking is Teaching tips and parent resources, please visit Help Me Grow- Allegan's

 **Help Me Grow**® Facebook page.
www.hmgallegan.org Allegan

Locations & Dates:

ALLEGAN (10:30 AM) *VIRTUAL
2/2, 3/2, 4/13, 5/4

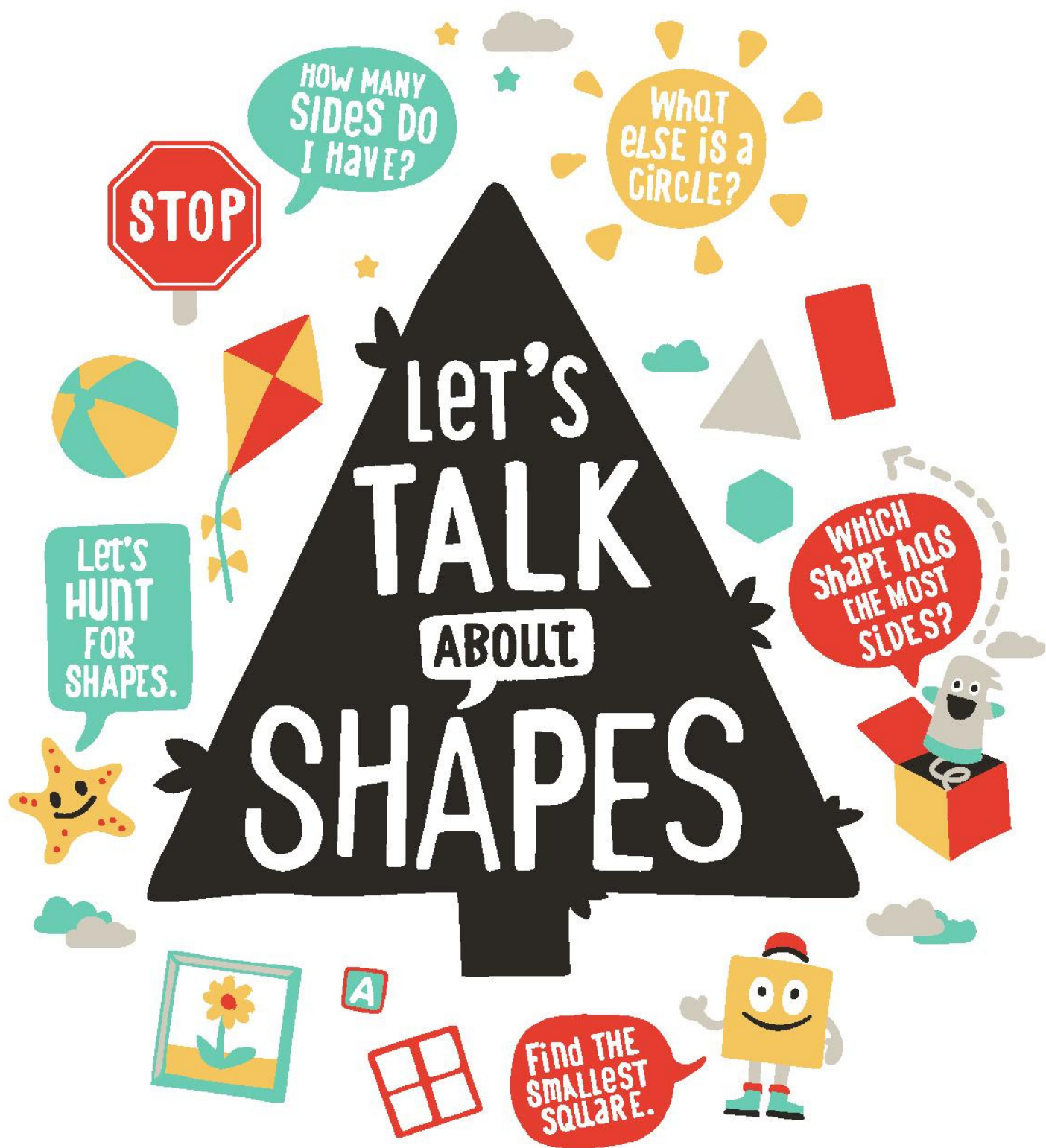
Facebook-
www.facebook.com/alleganlibrary
*Book Kit pick up location announced on Zoom meeting.

PLAINWELL (10AM) *IN PERSON
2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 5/19
LOCATION: RANSOM DISTRICT LIBRARY
(180 S Sherwood Ave, Plainwell, mi)

FENNVILLE (11:30AM) *IN PERSON
2/16, 3/16, 4/20, 5/18
LOCATION: FENNVILLE ELEMENTARY
(8 Memorial Dr, Fennville, MI)

WAYLAND (9:45 AM) *VIRTUAL
2/8, 3/8, 4/12, 5/10
Zoom- <https://bit.ly/31QkFxF>
*Book Kit pick up location announced on Zoom meeting.





TALKING IS TEACHING.ORG



Help Me Grow®
www.hmgallegen.org Allegen

TALKING IS
TEACHING.

TALK
READ
SING



HABLARENSEÑAR.ORG



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HABLAR ES
ENSEÑAR.

HABLA
LEE
CANTA



**EARLY
LITERACY**

Make any time learning time!



ALLEGAN COUNTY
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



TALK

Text And Learn for Kindergarten

Sign up today!

Text TALK to 75547

Get messages with fun
activities to help prepare your
little one for school success.

For more information visit texttolearn.com.



facebook.com/texttolearn



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services [LG-246434-OLS-20].



PARENT TRAININGS

PROVIDED BY
GSC PARTNERS

Community Action of Allegan County (Head Start)

Conscious Discipline Session- CONSEQUENCES - February 3rd, 7-8pm

MUM (Moms Uplifting Moms)- February 7th, 5-6pm

MUM (Moms Uplifting Moms)- February 21st, 10-11am

Register for online events at cschultz@communityactionallegan.org.

Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- Part II Webinar Series- January 28th, 10am-2pm

SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT GROUP (Hybrid or Zoom)- Every Wednesday, 6-7pm

Register for events at MaddieV@resiliencemi.org.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUP (Hybrid or Zoom)- Every Thursday, 6-7pm

Register for events at SuzanneK@resiliencemi.org.

RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP (Zoom)-February 16th, 12-1pm

Topic: Coping Skills

Register for events at JeannaP@resiliencemi.org.

Allegan County Community Mental Health Services

Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma- Zoom Series

Feb 2nd, Feb 9th, Feb 16th, Feb 23rd, 9:30 -11:30am

Register for event at EEvans@accmhs.org or (269) 615-6130



PARENT TRAININGS

PROVIDED BY
GSC PARTNERS

MSU Extensions:

ONLINE EXTENSION EXTRAS PARENTING HOUR- Outdoor Play

February 1st @ 8-9:30pm

ONLINE EXTENSION EXTRAS PARENTING HOUR- Purpose of Play

February 8th @ 8-9:30pm

ONLINE EXTENSION EXTRAS PARENTING HOUR- Co-Parenting

February 15th @ 8- 9:30 pm

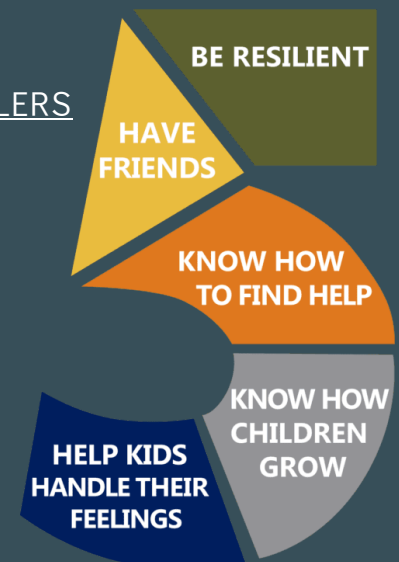
ONLINE EXTENSION EXTRAS PARENTING HOUR-

What Children Need to Know to Start School

February 22nd @ 11:30am-12:30pm

MINDFULLY FEEDING INFANTS & TODDLERS

February 23rd @ 12-1pm



5 PROTECTIVE FACTORS
FOR PREVENTING RISK OF CHILD ABUSE



Creating Positive Experiences for Your Child

The HOPE website contains a variety of resources to help parents and professionals to put HOPE into practice. HOPE National Resource Center Director, Dr. Robert Sege, developed a series of parent brochures on how to create positive experiences for children during the pandemic and beyond. You can find links to the brochures, broken down by age group, below.

[Creating Positive Experiences for Your Infant](#)

[Creating Positive Experiences for Toddlers & Preschool-Age Children](#)

[Creating Positive Experiences for School-Age Children](#)

[Creating Positive Experiences for Teens](#)

[2022 HOPE Virtual Summit - Building HOPE \(March 8, 2022\)](#)

The Summit will start with a keynote speech from Dr. Wendy Ellis! Dr. Ellis is the creator of the concept of Adverse Community Environments - the pair of ACEs. Her current work focuses on creating resilient communities, and she is now active in Building Community Resilience all across the country. Her talk will describe how communities and policies can make it easier for children to have the Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) they need. In addition to her keynote, her team will lead workshops introducing new community resilience-building tools.



Defining the Five Protective Factors

Families are supported to build:

Parental Resilience

The ability to recover from difficult life experiences, and often to be strengthened by and even transformed by those experiences.

Social Connections

The ability and opportunity to develop positive relationships that lessen stress and isolation and help to build a supportive network.

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

The ability to exercise effective parenting strategies to guide and know what to expect as children develop in multiple domains (physical, cognitive, language and social and emotional).

Concrete Support in Times of Need

Access to supports and services that reduce stress and help to make families stronger.

Social and Emotional Competence of Children

Family and child interactions that help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate their emotions and establish and maintain relationships.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY
OF SOCIAL POLICY'S

strengthening families™
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK

**CHILDREN'S
TRUST FUND
Alliance™**



Definiendo los Cinco Factores de Protección

Se apoya a las familias a construir:

Resiliencia Parental

La habilidad de recuperarse de experiencias de vida difíciles, y a menudo salir fortalecido y aun transformado por esas experiencias.

Conexiones Sociales

La habilidad y oportunidad de desarrollar relaciones positivas que reduzcan el estrés y ayuden a desarrollar redes de apoyo.

Conocimiento de Crianza y Desarrollo del Niño

La habilidad de poner en práctica estrategias efectivas de crianza para guiar y conocer las expectativas del desarrollo de los niños en múltiples ámbitos (físico, cognitivo, lenguaje y social y emocional).

Apoyo Real en Momentos de Necesidad

Tener acceso a apoyos y servicios que reduzcan el estrés y ayude a fortalecer a las familias.

Competencia Social y Emocional de Niños

Interacciones de niños y familias que ayudan a los niños a desarrollar las habilidades de comunicarse claramente, reconocer y regular sus emociones y establecer y mantener relaciones.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY
OF SOCIAL POLICY'S

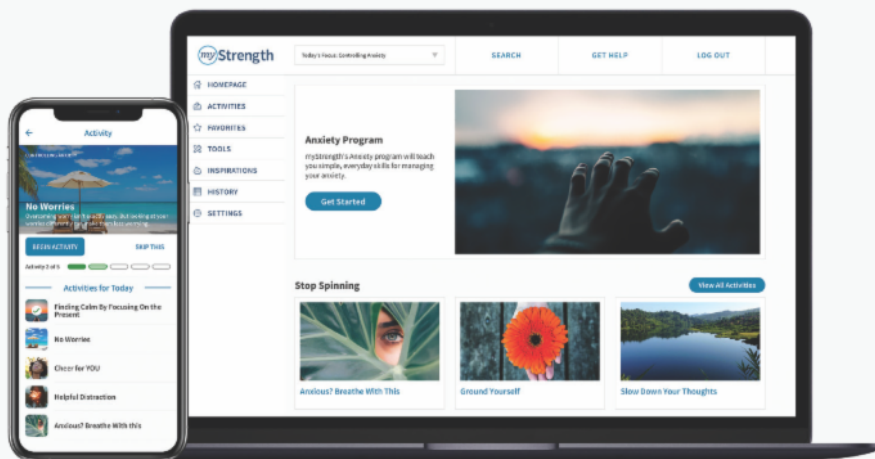
strengthening families™
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK

**CHILDREN'S
TRUST FUND
Alliance™**

PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR YOU

Recharge, Refresh and Improve Your Mood with myStrength

Now you can use myStrength's web and mobile tools to support your goals and well-being. Learning to use myStrength's tools can help you overcome the challenges you face and stay mentally strong. And it's all safe, secure and personalized – just for you.



**What myStrength
users are saying:**

"It's nice to have self-guided help that is so accessible."

"myStrength gives me back some of the 'light' I had lost."

SIGN UP TODAY

1. Visit www.mystrength.com and click on "Sign Up."
2. Enter the **Access Code** marked below.
3. Complete the myStrength sign-up process and personal profile.

☐ **ALLEGAN**

Go Mobile! Download the **myStrength** mobile app, log in, and get started today.

myStrength

is presented by

**ALLEGAN
COUNTY
COMMUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH**



ALLEGAN COUNTY

COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY

Your Voice Matters!

Please help us understand the community health needs in Allegan County by taking a brief survey. The information collected in this survey will help community organizations across Allegan County better serve the health needs in your community.

Find the survey through the link or QR code:

<https://bit.ly/3xUtj2X>

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to take the survey:



If you do not have internet access and need assistance filling out the survey, please call (269) 673-5411



LPB AGENCY LIST 12/2021

Below is the list of agencies that can help with any housing-related needs or issues. Please consider downloading the list to make it available to anyone you know who may need it.

- 1. Allegan AESA**
www.alleganaesa.org / 269-512-7700
- 2. Allegan County Offices**
www.allegancounty.org / 269-673-0205
- 3. Allegan County Community Mental Health**
www.alleganmentalhealth.org
24/7 crisis line: 1-888-354-0596
- 4. Allegan County United Way**
www.acuw.org / 269-673-6545
- 5. Allegan Friend of the Court**
www.allegancounty.org / 877-543-2660
- 6. Allegan Homeless Solutions**
www.alleganhomelessolutions.org / 269-686-4703
- 7. CARES Southwest Michigan**
www.caresswm.org / 269-381-2437
- 8. Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo**
www.ccdok.org / 269-381-9800
- 9. Christian Neighbors Plainwell**
www.christianneighbors.org / 269-685-4166
- 10. Community Action of Allegan County**
www.communityactionallegan.org / 269-673-5472
- 11. Gryphon Place 2-1-1**
www.gryphon.org / 269-381-1510
- 12. KENT ISD**
www.kentisd.org / 616-364-1333
- 13. Love In the Name of Christ (Hamilton)**
www.loveincnwa.org / 269-751-2533
- 14. People Helping People (Fennville, Pullman)**
www.phppullman.org / 269-236-2001
- 15. Project Hope (Dorr & NE Allegan Cty)**
www.projecthope-dorr.org / 616-681-4673
- 16. Martin Resource Center**
www.martinresource.org / 269-672-5605
- 17. Resilience (Allegan)**
www.resiliencemi.org / 24 hour help line:
English: 1-800-848-5991 / Spanish: 1-866-728-2131
- 18. Salvation Army (Plainwell)**
www.grandrapids.satruck.org / 888-868-9305
- 19. Sylvia's Place (Only DV shelter in AC)**
www.sylviasplace.com
24 hour crisis line: 269-673-8700 or 888-411-7837
- 20. Volunteers of America**
www.voami.org
- 21. West Michigan Works**
www.westmiworks.org / 269-686-5079
- 22. 70x7 Life Recovery**
www.70x7liferecovery.org / 616-796-0685



**Allegan County United Way
and Volunteer Center**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT KESSIE KARG AT 616.377.9364 OR KKARG@ACUW.ORG.



WIDATM Early Years

FREE WIDA

Family Engagement Training Video

What is WIDA Early Years?

WIDA Early Years offers professional learning opportunities for early care and education (ECE) professionals, coaches and program leaders that highlights multilingual children's language learning and development.

WIDA Early Years professional learning:

- Promotes a language-focused approach
- Provides tools and resources for providing equitable early learning opportunities for multilingual children

What is the WIDA Family Engagement Training?

The WIDA Family Engagement training is meant for anyone working with children ages 0-5 and their families from an English Language Learner (ELL) background.

This training is applicable for educators, child care providers, GSC directors, GSPC parent liaisons, and anyone working with this target group!

Watch our FREE WIDA Family Engagement video!

Learn strategies and tools to increase Family Engagement for ELL children and their families. Implement these ideas into your programming! Answer reflective questions as an organization to grow your inclusivity of ELL families!

Take our quick survey after you watch the training to get a free certificate of completion emailed to you!

For questions, sign up for an optional Q&A Coffee Chat with Stormie Drake via Zoom below!

Watch Training Video
<https://bit.ly/WIDAtrain>

Post-Training Survey
<https://bit.ly/WIDASurvey>

Q&A Coffee Chat Sign Up
<https://bit.ly/WIDAchat>

COVID-19

FREE TAKE-HOME TEST KITS



GET YOUR
FREE
COVID19
HOME TEST
KITS

[WWW.COVIDTESTS.GOV](https://www.covidtests.gov)

SIGN UP NOW



GET 4 KITS PER HOUSEHOLD



 **Help Me Grow[®]**
www.hmgallegan.org Allegan

2021-2022 Calendar:

Great Start Collaborative Group Meetings

*Come share or learn about
early childhood programming
in Allegan County.*

I'm getting
ready for
school...



MEETING DATES:
(9-11AM)

~~OCTOBER 5TH~~
~~DECEMBER 1ST~~
FEBRUARY 1ST
APRIL 12TH
JUNE 7TH
AUGUST 2ND



ZOOM MEETING LINK:
<https://bit.ly/3gTNqOh>

Meeting ID:
861 0946 8371
Passcode: 3DwnUb

2021-2022 Work Committee Meetings

COME AND JOIN US!

Please feel free to attend any of the Virtual "Work Committee" Meetings below. These Work Groups are meant to move our Great Start Collaborative Work Plans forward for the next, 2021-2022, Grant Year.



Perinatal

<https://bit.ly/3gTNqOh>



<https://bit.ly/3gTNqOh>



<https://bit.ly/3ctiGo7>



<https://bit.ly/3gTNqOh>

~~Wednesday, November 3rd @ 12-2pm~~

~~Wednesday, January 5th @ 12-2pm~~

Wednesday, March 2nd @ 12-2pm *

Wednesday, May 4th @ 12-2pm

~~Friday, November 12th @ 9-11am~~

~~Friday, January 14th @ 9-11am~~

Friday, March 11th @ 9-11am *

Friday, May 13th @ 9-11am

~~Tuesday, November 16th @ 9-11am~~

~~Tuesday, January 18th @ 9-11am~~

Tuesday, March 15th @ 9-11am *

Tuesday, May 17th @ 9-11am

~~Monday, November 8th @ 9-11am~~

~~Monday, January 10th @ 9-11am~~

Monday, March 14th @ 9-11am *

Monday, May 9th @ 9-11am



Rebecca Huberty
Great Start Collaborative Coordinator
(269) 694-1048
rebecca.huberty2@alleganaesa.org

Allegan Area Educational Service Agency
310 Thomas Street, Allegan, MI 49010
www.helpmegrowallegan.org





Help Me Grow[®]

www.hmgallegan.org

Allegan

DATA REPORT



TALKING IS TEACHING

MERCHANDISE PURCHASED FOR
ALLEGAN COUNTY AGENCIES TO
FURTHER THEIR CAMPAIGNS.

POP UP
DISPLAY

1

BOOKS

1,332

VOX BOOKS

19

LEARNING
STATIONS

22

ONESIES

115

BURP CLOTHES

50

TOTE BAGS

67

VINYL DECALS

418

BOOKMARKS

250

LITTLE FREE
LIBRARY

1

GUN LAKE TRIBE

115 BOOKS

NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE
EXTENSION PROJECT

HANDLE WITH CARE NOTIFICATIONS

1

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES:

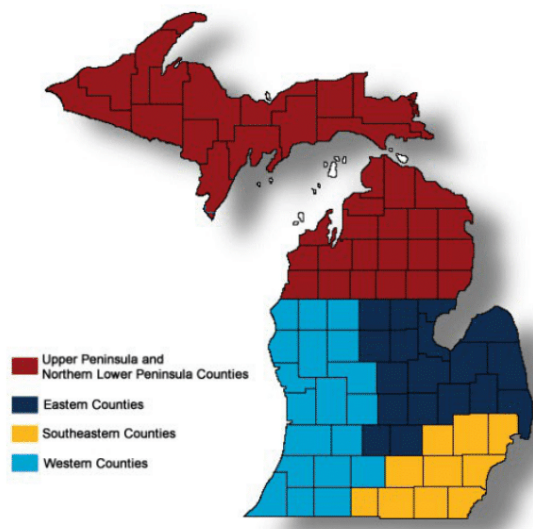
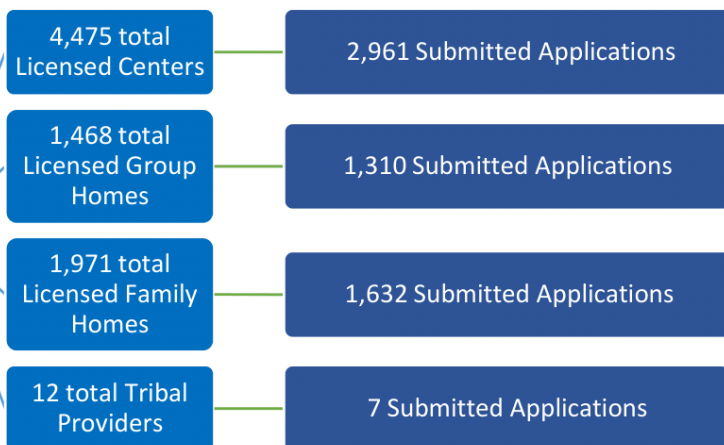
OTSEGO – 1 NOTIFICATION



Child Care Stabilization Grants for Michigan

In Michigan, there are 7,926 eligible child care providers which includes 12 federally recognized tribes. Of those providers, 5,910 programs submitted applications for the Child Care Stabilization Grant. We're happy to report that **5,890 programs were approved** and 20 were ineligible. In total, Michigan will distribute \$365,572,525 in grant funds.

5,910 Total Provider Stabilization Grant Applications

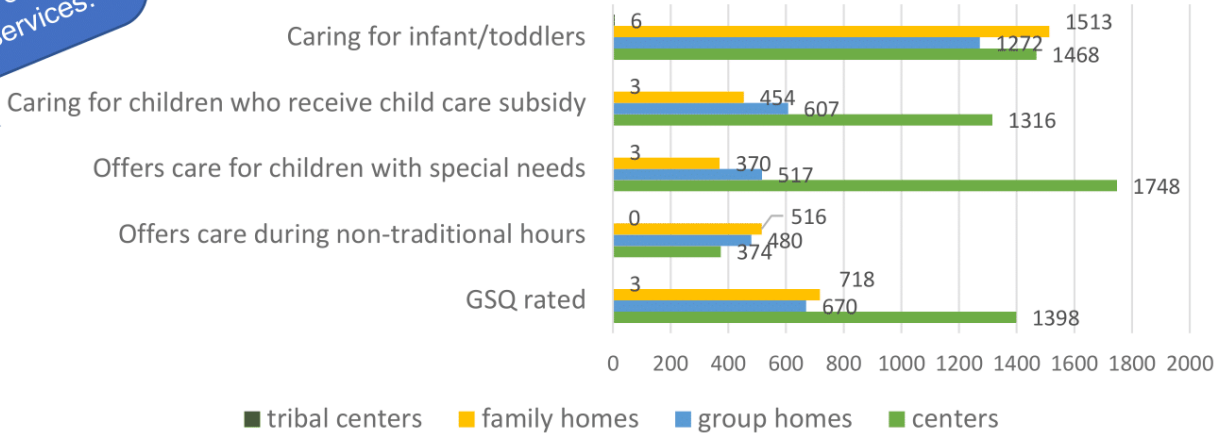


Of the approved applications, the following is a breakdown of applications by provider type and region.

	Licensed Centers	Group Homes	Family Homes	Tribal Centers
Total Applications	2,952	1,306	1,625	7
Northern Region	227	174	173	6
Eastern Region	531	337	330	0
Southeastern Region	1563	408	499	0
Western Region	629	387	623	1
Average Grant Amount	\$108,685	\$20,454	\$10,763	\$76,136

Michigan offered Stabilization Grant bonuses to child care providers who offered specialized services.

Bonuses for In Demand Care





Currently in Michigan there is almost a 20% vacancy rate for full-time child care providers as well as a 34% vacancy rate for part-time staff. The state appropriated an additional \$30 million to support an extra \$1,000 bonus pay for all professionals working in child care.

State Updates

Full time staff

- Currently 24,947
- with 4,762 Vacancies

Part time staff

- Currently 13,213
- with 4,473 Vacancies

Centers

- 1,539 providers reported wait lists
- 52% of total applications

Group Homes

- 718 providers reported wait lists
- 55% of total applications

Family Homes

- 717 providers reported wait lists
- 44% of total applications

Tribal Centers

- 5 providers reported wait lists
- 71% of total applications

In addition to high vacancy rates, providers are also reporting wait lists for their facilities.

The Office of Child Care has requested MDE report on the following “areas of highest need” within the state. This list shows total applications and specific data for each of those counties. In total, 58% of approved grant funds are being issued to these counties.

Areas of Highest Need

County	Total Providers	Total Applications	Licensed Centers	Group Homes	Family Homes	Total Award	Region
Clare County	29	20	9	9	2	\$1,079,338.75	Eastern
Genesee County	291	192	94	47	51	\$12,912,782.50	Eastern
Ingham County	243	194	102	46	46	\$12,302,956.25	Eastern
Isabella County	69	55	21	22	12	\$2,535,560.00	Eastern
Kent County	648	494	198	68	228	\$28,307,765.00	Western
Lake County	5	2	0	1	1	\$31,730.00	Western
Macomb County	478	383	222	64	97	\$28,772,675.00	Southeastern
Mecosta County	36	22	8	11	3	\$1,063,266.25	Western
Oakland County	836	695	489	92	114	\$66,348,888.75	Southeastern
Wayne County	1,103	784	518	106	160	\$56,912,013.75	Southeastern



Stabilization Grant Data by County

ALLEGAN COUNTY DATA:

**Number of Providers- 119
(who applied for grant)**

**Number of Grants Awarded- 74
Licensed Centers- 22
Licensed Family Homes- 36
Licensed Group Homes- 16**

**Total Amount of
Grant Funds Awarded-
\$ 3,185,872.50**

State
Updates

ASQ[®] in 2021

By the Numbers

1,271,689
questionnaires
completed



56%
questionnaires completed
through Family Access

812,542
new child profiles



32,504
new users

**50 states &
16 countries**
screening



**Florida, Michigan,
Kansas, California,
and Texas**
top screening states