

WELCOME TO

Early Childhood Capitol Day

March 12, 2025



#EarlyChildhoodCapitolDay



Early Childhood Capitol Day

Focused on two priorities

- (1) increased funding for early childhood education and higher, fairer compensation for the early childhood workforce and
- (2) prioritizing the health and well-being of mothers and babies in Michigan.



Download the App!

SEARCH: “Michigan AEYC” in the App Store

Early Childhood Capitol Day



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Early Childhood Capitol Day



Willie Bell

Family Assistance for Renaissance
Men (F.A.R.M.)



Trisha Dart

Little Ones Learning Early
Education



Dr. Lakeshia Grant

Community Doula



Angela Mentink

Early Impressions Preschool and
Childcare



Amy Zaagman

Michigan Council for Maternal
and Child Health

Michigan's Early Childhood Panel

March 12, 2025



Early Childhood Capitol Day





State Budget Basics

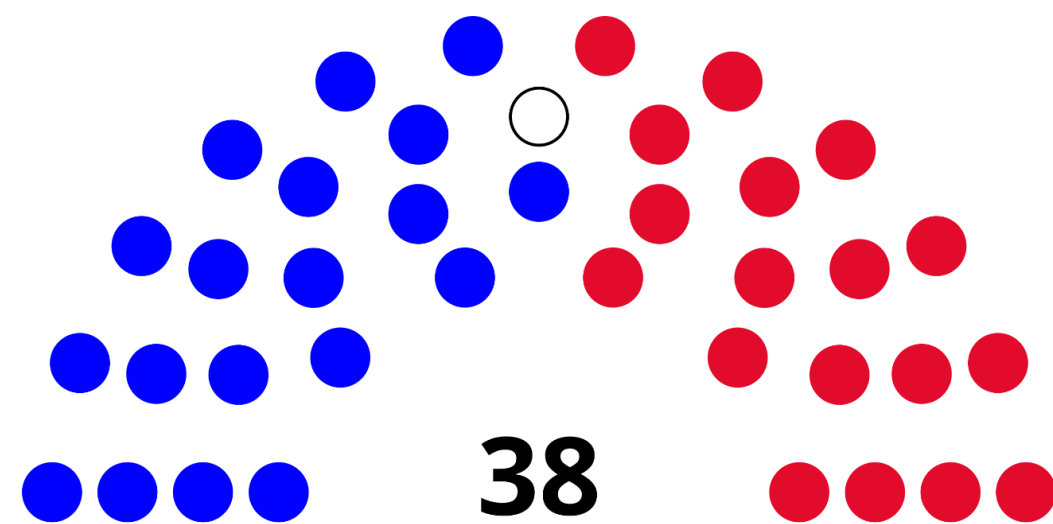
Monique Stanton, President and CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy

Matt Gillard, President and CEO of Michigan's Children

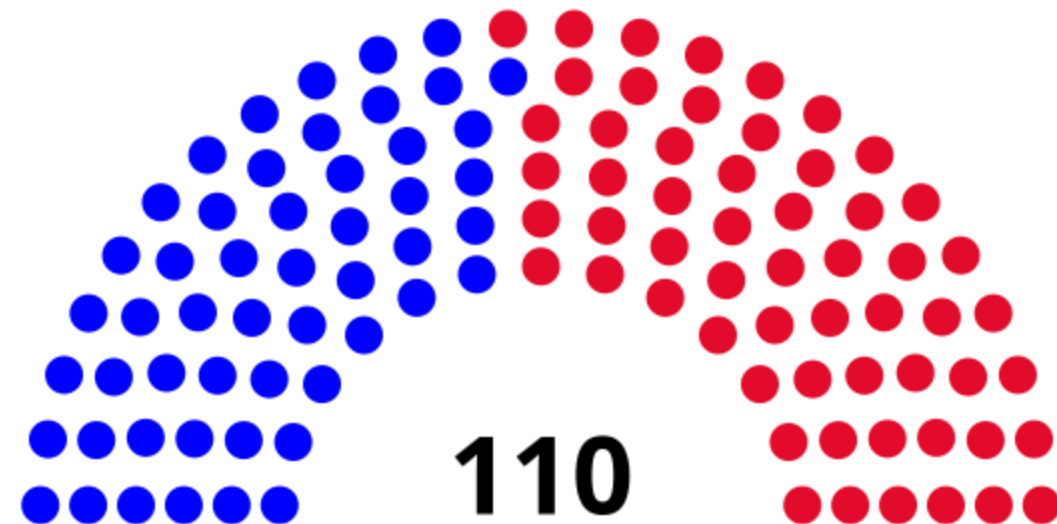
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Michigan's Political Landscape



Senate



House

The 103rd Legislature

- Republicans have taken back control of the House after the conclusion of the 2024 elections.
 - Republicans - 58 seats
 - Democrats - 52 seats.
- The Senate Democrats have lost one seat due to one of their members winning their Congressional race (Kristin MacDonald –Rivet). They now only have a 1 seat majority in the Senate.
 - Democrats -19 seats
 - Republicans -18 seats.
- Negotiating will play a large roll this year as both chambers work to get their priorities passed

Michigan's Budget Cycle: Where are we?



February - April

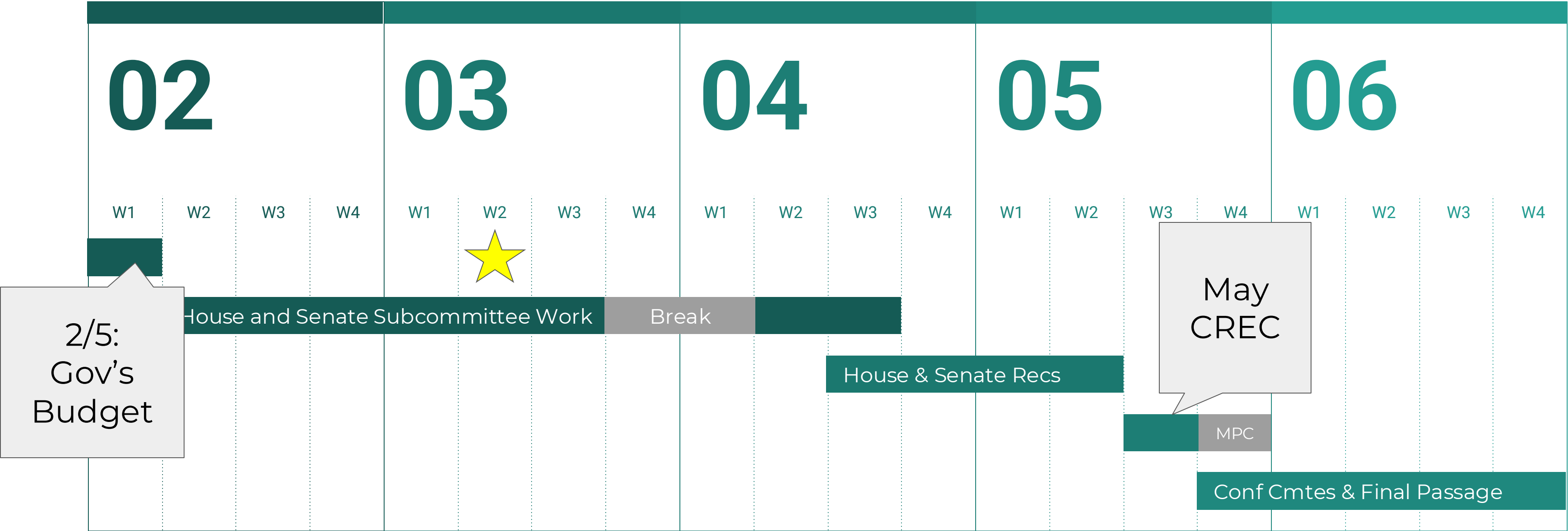
Appropriations subcommittees in the House and Senate meet to craft their own versions of the annual state spending plan.

What can you do?

- Find out who is on the subcommittees and when testimony is scheduled (check www.legislature.mi.gov for updates).
- This is the best time for public input, so provide testimony or communicate with subcommittee members and your own legislators.



Michigan's Traditional Budget Timeline





...is in flux.

[illegible]



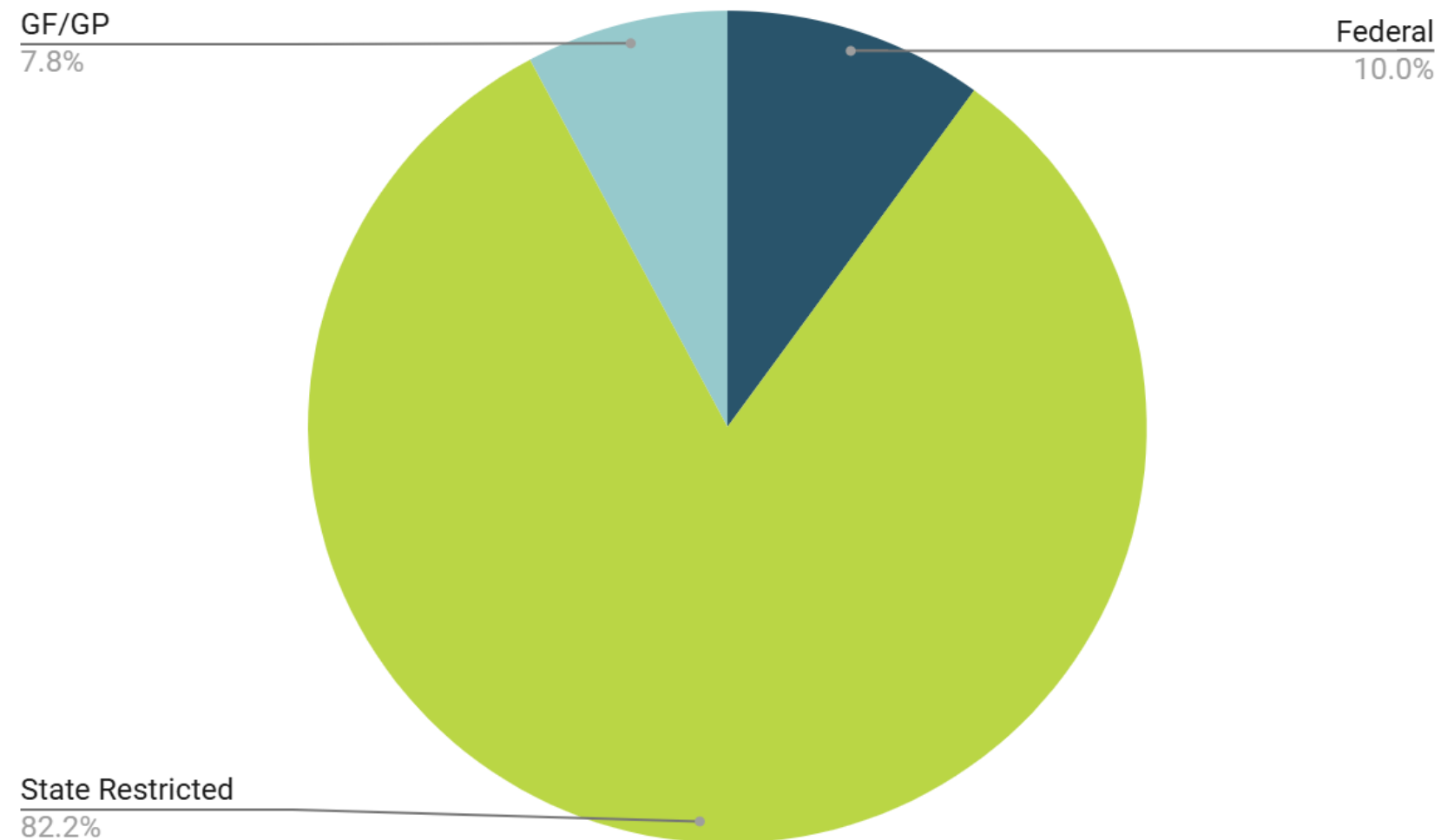
The Governor's 2025-26 Budget Proposal



2025-2026 Proposed Budget: \$83.5B Adjusted Gross

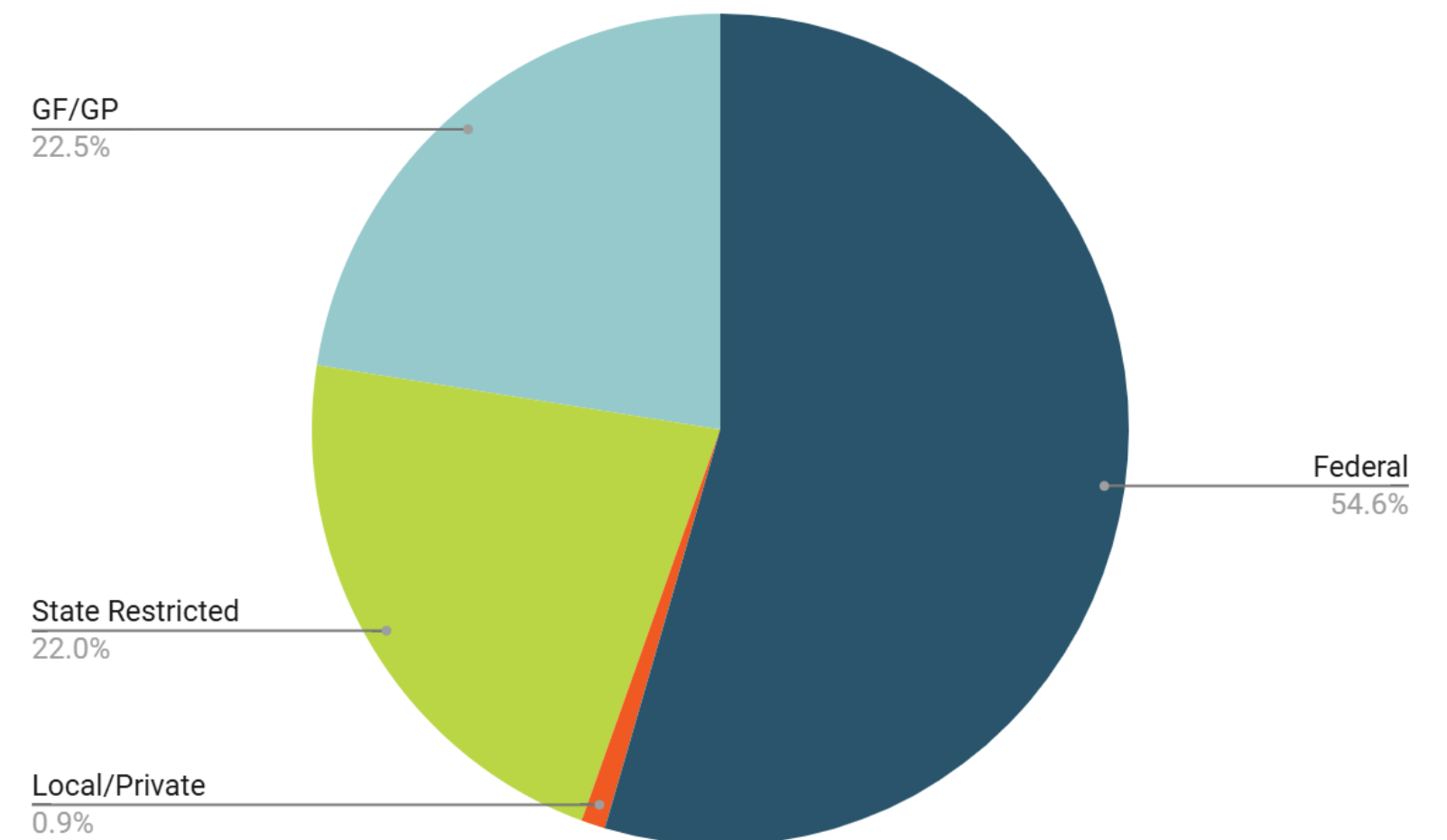
School Omnibus: \$24.1B

K-12, Higher Education, Financial Aid



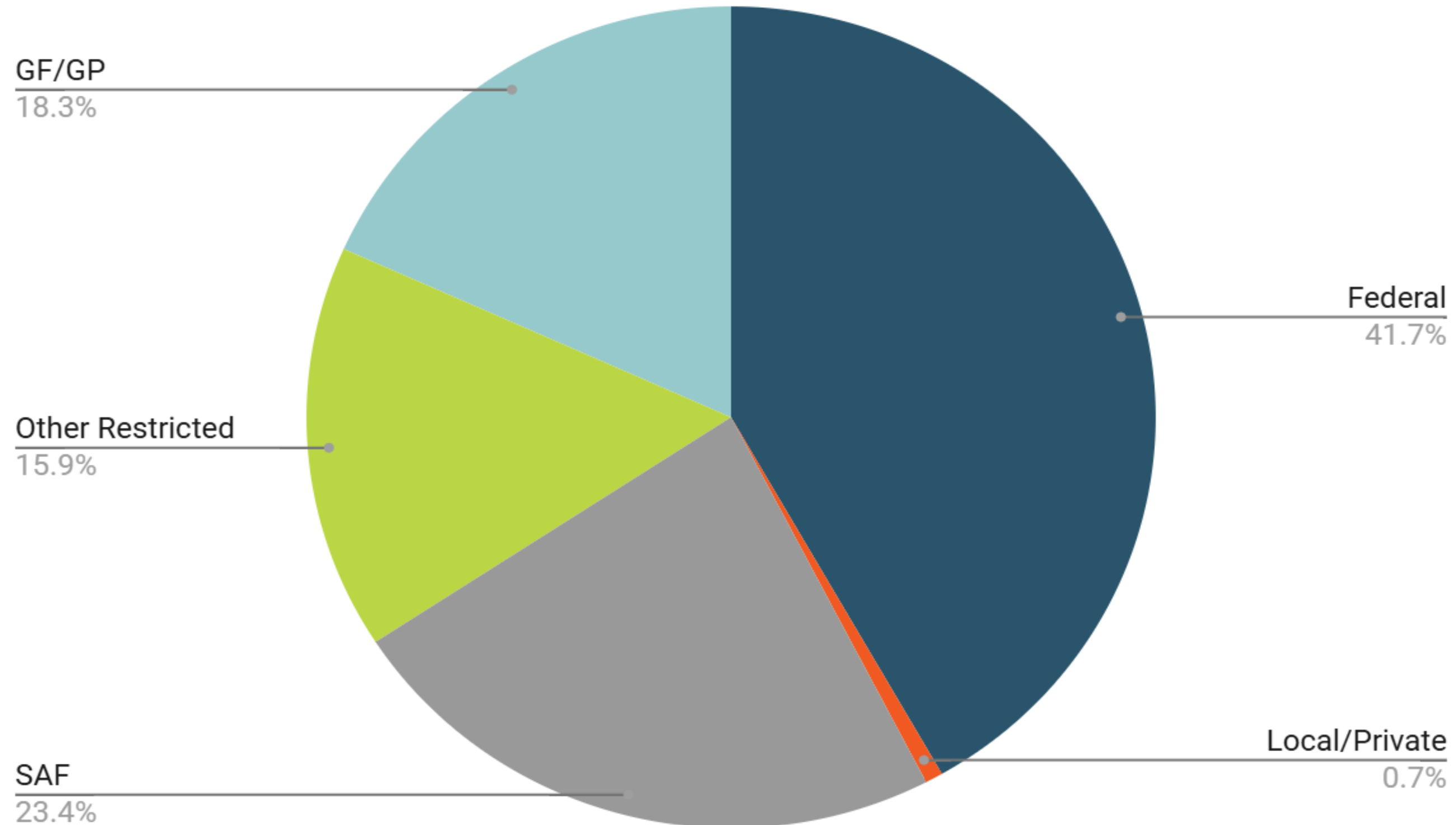
General Omnibus: \$59.5B

All other state departments

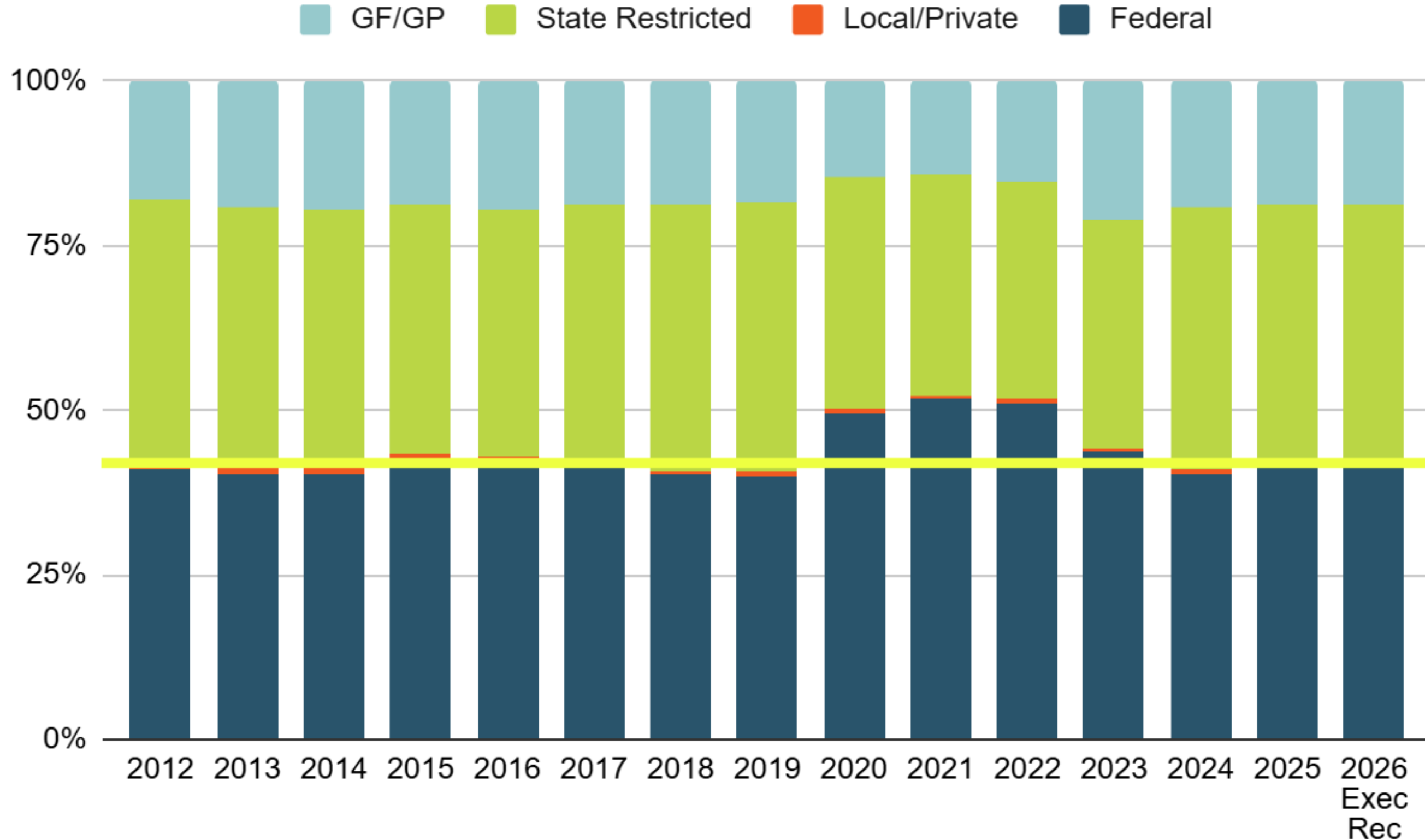




The risks are real—federal programs and funding are vital to our state budget



Governor's budget is not an outlier: budget blend remains on trend





Federal funds are a significant part of the state budget

Federal Funds as a Percent of the Dept. Budget			Rank	Amount of Federal Funds as a Percent of Total State Federal Funds		
DHHS	69.9%	\$27.27B	1	DHHS	\$27.37B	78.5%
MiLEAP	68.9%	\$506.43M	2	PreK-12	\$2.41B	6.9%
LEO	65.1%	\$1.23B	3	MDOT	\$2.33B	6.7%
DMVA	50.8%	\$148.84M	4	LEO	\$1.23B	3.5%
MDE	50.7%	\$83.58M	5	MiLEAP	\$506.43M	1.5%

Source: MLPP analysis of Exec. Rec.



Capitol Day Advocacy Priorities

To address the state's child care crisis, Michigan needs to significantly increase child care scholarship rates in the FY26 General Budget through the Child Development and Care program to reflect the true cost of providing high-quality and equitable care that adequately compensates the workforce.

Sustain and grow funding to support the full continuum of perinatal care, which includes Medicaid and private insurance reimbursement of birth centers, midwifery care, and lactation support services.



Capitol Day Advocacy Priorities

At a minimum, meet Governor Whitmer's recommendation to invest \$50 million to implement prospective payments and contracts - including infant-toddler contracts - to address the state's infant-toddler care supply crisis and bring the state into compliance with the new federal Child Care and Development Fund requirements.

Increase funding for home visiting programs, including rural home visiting, and increased system supports across all models and programs. Home visiting helps families maintain healthy pregnancies and children and supports parents in helping their children grow and develop in a safe and stimulating environment by providing in-home support and training.



EARLY CARE

Proposed Budget Highlights

- Child care subsidy: **NO INCREASES INCLUDED**
- \$50 million for prospective scholarship payments for infants, toddlers, children with disabilities and children living in areas with scarce child care supply.
- \$2.3 million to provide child care for families in Michigan's National Guard.

Advocacy Goals

- Increasing provider reimbursement rates to more closely align with the true cost of care; ensuring parity for infant and toddler care with recent investments for Pre-K.
- At a minimum, meet Governor Whitmer's recommendation to invest \$50 million to implement prospective payments and contracts - **including infant-toddler contracts** - to address the state's infant-toddler care supply crisis and bring the state into compliance with the new federal Child Care and Development Fund requirements.



PRE-K FOR ALL

Proposed Budget Highlights

- Elimination of income eligibility requirements: requires priority to children from low-income families
- Increased per-child allocations:
 - \$10,577 (full day)
 - \$5,288.50 (Head Start)
- Adds language to allow group home provider participation in GSRP.
- Funding for start-up and expansion grants
- Maintained funding for transportation costs



WORKFORCE + EARLY ON

Proposed Budget Highlights

- \$175 million for MI Future Educator
- Community College Guarantee to cover tuition toward associates or skilled certificate
- \$4.73 million increase for *Early On*

Advocacy Goals

- Establish dedicated funding for early childhood
- Cross-sector wage scales and EC career lattice to support improved professional development and pathways
- Increase funding to *Early On(R)* Michigan by \$24 million, which includes \$300,000 for a task force to examine the state's *Early On* system.



HOME VISITING + MATERNAL/INFANT HEALTH

Proposed Budget Highlights

- \$400,000 to study expanding Medicaid coverage to children under age 6.

Advocacy Goals

- Supporting Governor Whitmer's recommendation to study continuous Medicaid enrollment for children from birth to age six.
- Maintaining funding for home visiting services and providing a \$2.25 million increase for "rural" home visiting; better reflecting the true cost of care.
- Sustain the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies investments including doulas, CenteringPregnancy, and RX Kids.



How Think Babies is advocating for improvements to the Governor's proposals

- **Direct advocacy:** conversations with lawmakers in key committees
- Equipping Think Babies Michigan members with advocacy talking points and other resources
- Encouraging the early childhood community to reach out to their lawmakers about these critical issues



Things to watch

- Federal cuts and executive orders
- Road funding
- Economy and revenues can still change



Questions?

Monique Stanton

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Matt Gillard

Michigan's Children

matt@michiganschildren.org

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Talking with Lawmakers

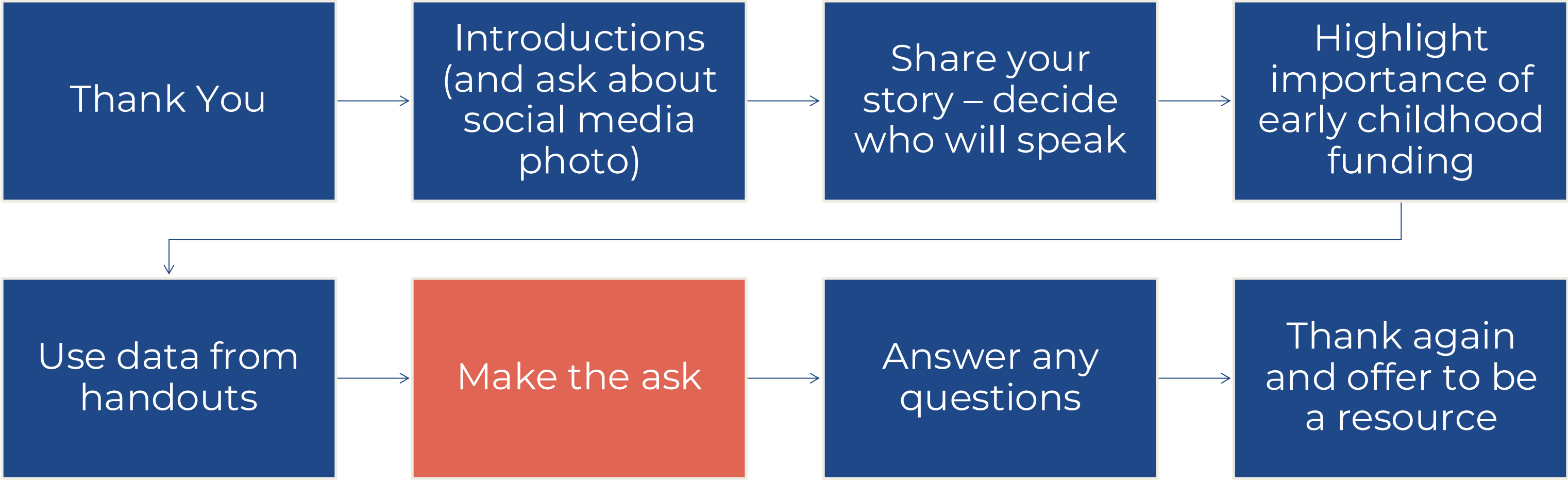
Kirsten Charnesky, Advocacy Committee Chair, Michigan AEYC

Annette Sobocinski, Advocacy Committee Member, Michigan AEYC

March 12, 2025



What to Expect in Your Meetings



What We Are Asking Lawmakers to Do About It

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Senate Teams



Make it Personal: Sharing Your Story

Share personal experiences:

Professionals' story:

Share how persistent underinvestment in the early childhood system has impacted your ability to remain in the field of early childhood.

How has low subsidy rates affected the number or types of families you are able to serve? For instance, do low subsidy rates prevent you from serving families using child care financial assistance?

How has the workforce crisis impacted you and your work?

Have you had difficulty retaining and recruiting staff?

How many professionals do you know who live in poverty or utilize public assistance for their own family due to low wages and/or poor benefits?

Parents' story:

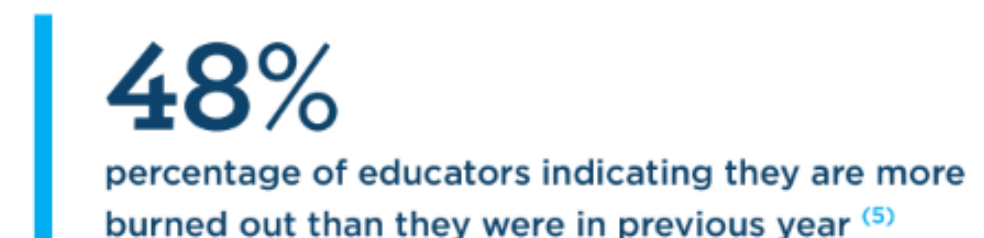
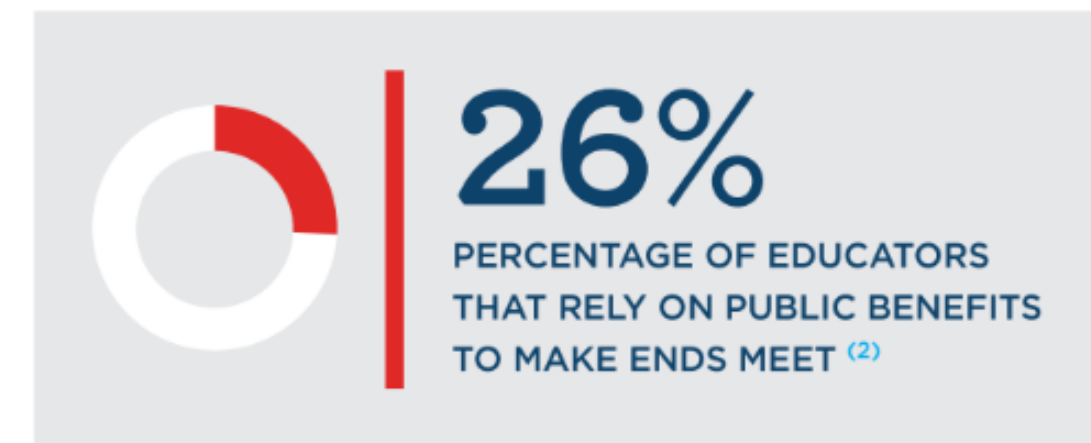
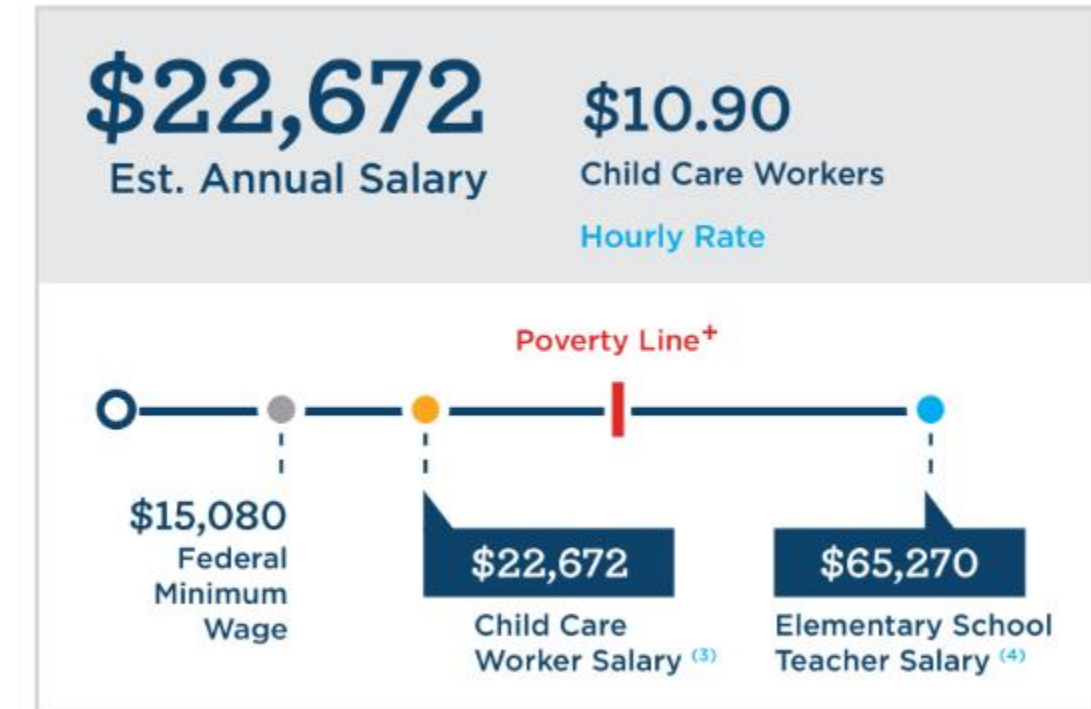
Share how low investment in early childhood programs have impacted your family.

How has this impacted the availability of services for your family, and the impact that it had on your family? (e.g. has it affected your ability to find or retain a job?)

What challenges have you experienced when trying to access early childhood services?

Early Childhood Education - Talking Points

- The state's early childhood education workforce shrank by 26.8% from 2001 to 2022, representing **29,000 fewer early educators across the state**. This stands in stark contrast to the modest growth (0.3%) seen nationwide.
- Reimbursement rates that reflect the true cost of providing early care and education stabilize existing child care programs to stay in business, supports paying early educators' a livable wage, improves program quality for young children, and keeps more parents and caregivers engaged in the workforce, ultimately supporting Michigan's economy.



Early Childhood Education - Talking Points

- Michigan has successfully piloted the implementation of contracts and prospective payments achieving the **retention of high-quality staff across the industry, reduced waitlists for families and providers, and stabilizing infant/toddler child care for scholarship-eligible families.**
- Too many families experience **long waiting lists for their babies to access child care.** As we move towards universal PreK, Michigan must equally support infant/toddler care and be responsive to the current crisis.



643,686

Number of children
birth through 5 ⁽¹⁾



69%

Percentage of children
with all available parents
in the workforce ⁽²⁾



12%

Average percentage
of family income
spent on child care ⁽³⁾



51%

Percentage of child care
programs reporting staffing
shortages that limit the number
of slots available for families ⁽⁴⁾



53%

Percentage of child care
programs reporting they
had to increase tuition to
keep their doors open ⁽⁵⁾

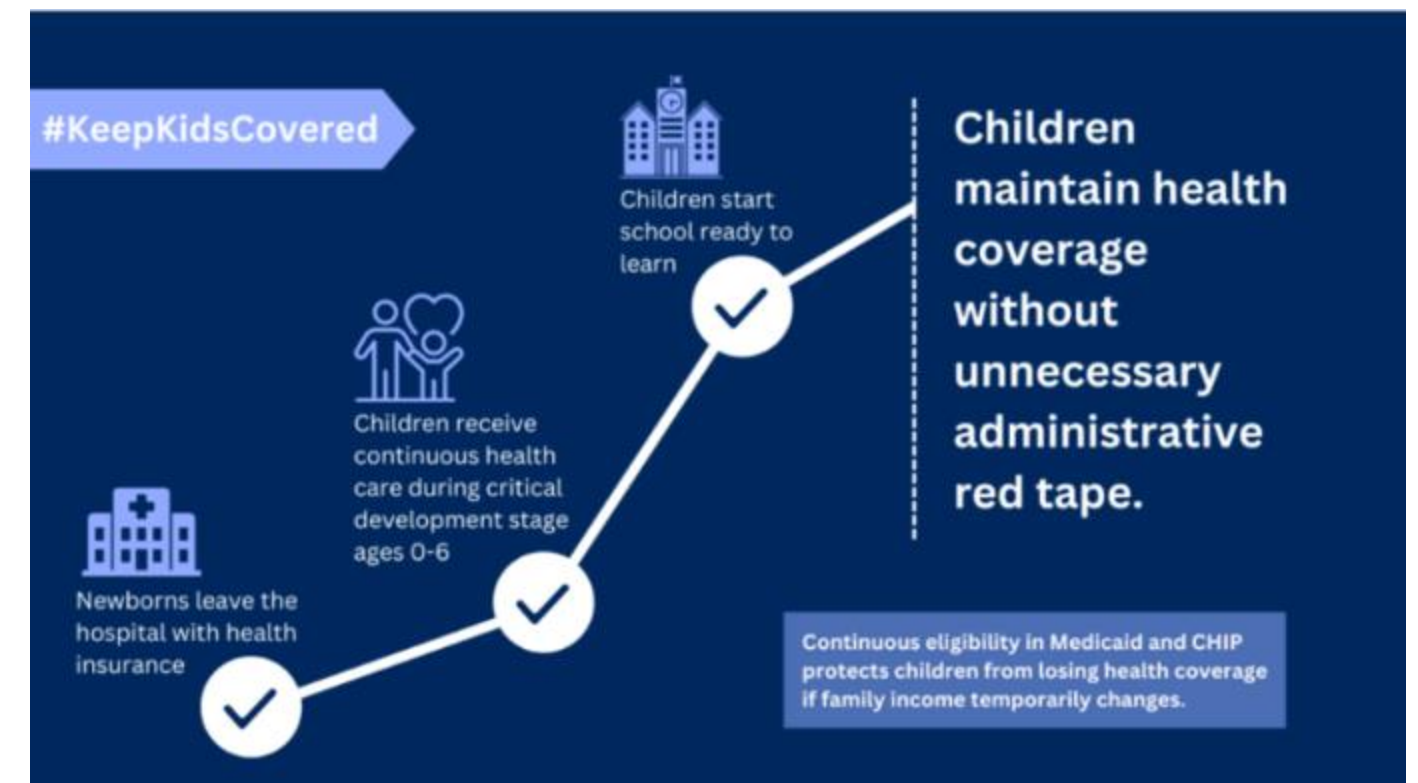


44%

Percentage of
people living in a
child care desert ⁽⁶⁾

Maternal + Infant Health - Talking Points

- Access to perinatal care and services improves birth outcomes, such **as lowering the risk of preterm birth, reducing the incidence of low birth weight babies, and increasing breastfeeding rates.**
- Investing in evidence-based models of care and services enhances access to culturally competent care that meets the unique needs of diverse populations and ensures that all families, regardless of income or background, have equal opportunities for healthy pregnancies and births



Medicaid and MIChild enrollment in Michigan has fallen from **nearly 3.1 million to under 2.7 million between March 2023 and October 2024**, according to Kaiser Family Foundation.



Maternal + Infant Health - Talking Points

- Home visiting helps families maintain healthy pregnancies and children and supports parents in helping their children grow and develop in a safe and stimulating environment by providing in-home support and training.
- Despite high need, funding for rural home visiting has not been increased in years, resulting in unmet needs for young children.
- Home visiting supports families in reaching their goals to return to school, secure housing, and develop new workforce skills.



1,556

families served



1,227

children served



16,984

home visits provided

*including 7,829
virtual visits*



Relationship building



Expertise



Importance of legislative
staff



Talking points

AFTER YOUR MEETING

- (1) **COMPLETE** the rapid survey on the Michigan AEYC app
- (2) Send “Thank You” email and include links to resources.
- (3) Stay in touch!
- (4) Invite members to connect in person!



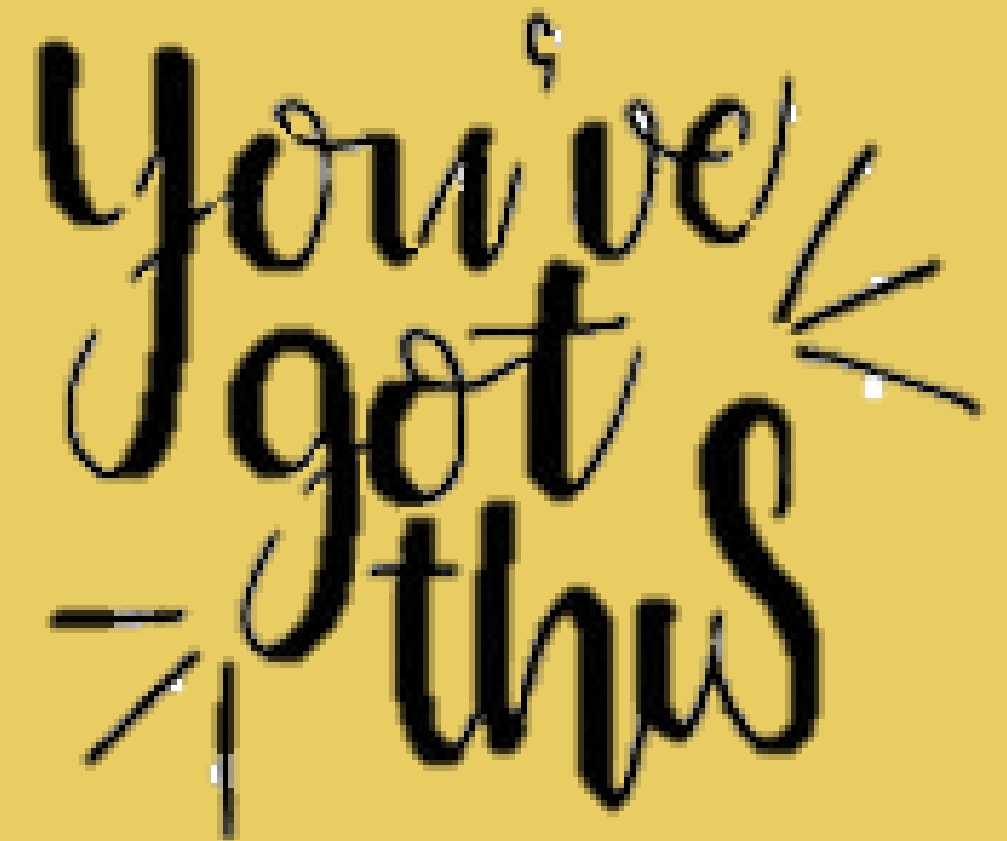
- **You don't know the answer?**
 - “That’s a great question! I’ll follow up with more information.”
- **You’re asked about a specific bill?**
 - “Our focus today is on supporting early childhood broadly.”
- **A staffer is dismissive or negative?**
 - “I hope we can work together to ensure children and families have the supports they need during the earliest years of life.”

Handling Tough Questions: Pivot + Redirect

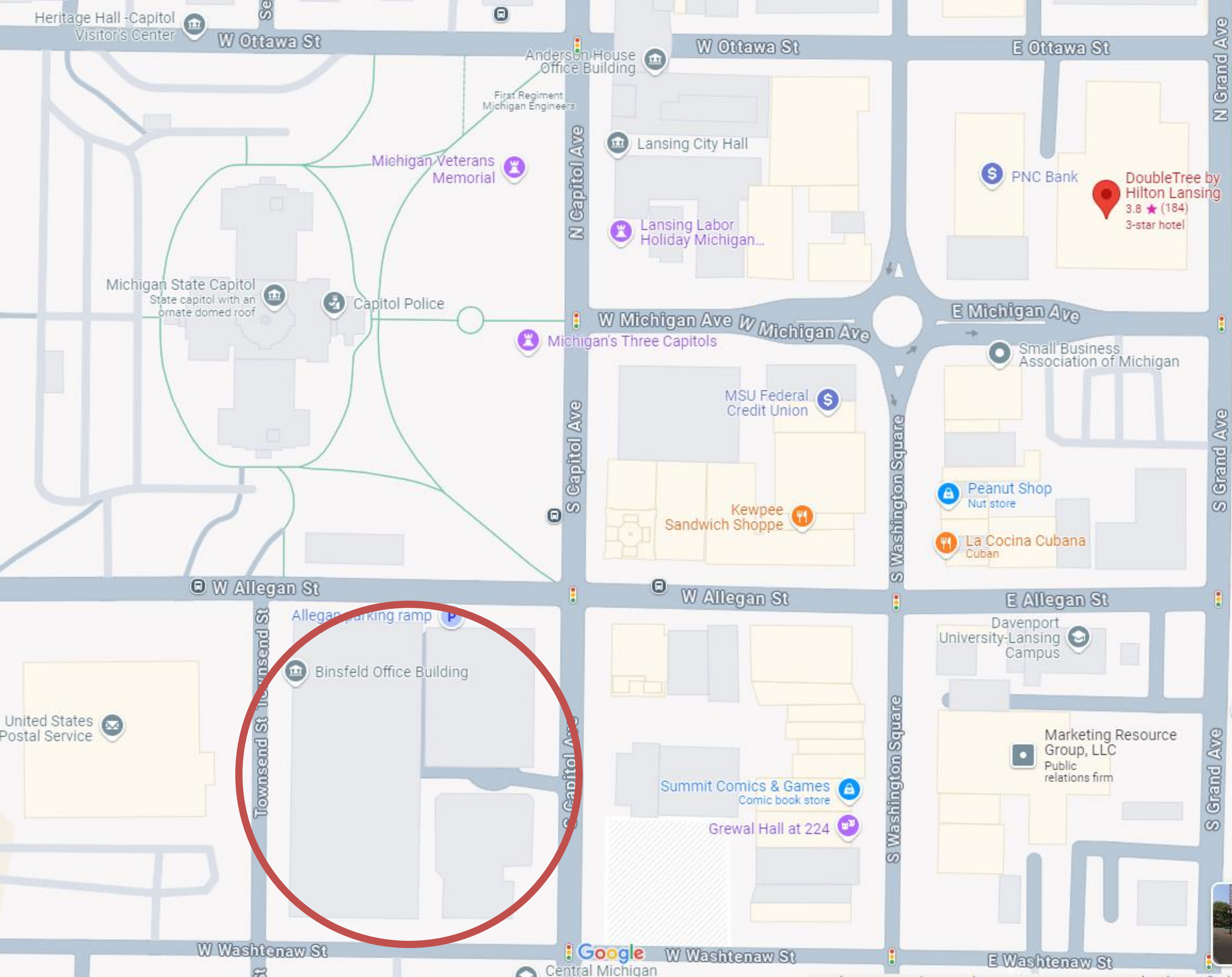
If the conversation gets off track, or uncomfortable, bring it back to shared values:

- “We are here because we all care about ensuring children have access to high-quality early learning.”
- “I’m not sure about that policy, but I can tell you how important funding is for families in my program.”
- “I’d love to invite you to visit our program and see quality early education in action.”

- You don't have to be the expert – just speak from experience.
- Legislators and staff WANT to hear from you.
- You are not alone – advocacy is a team effort!
- Every conversation moves us closer to change.



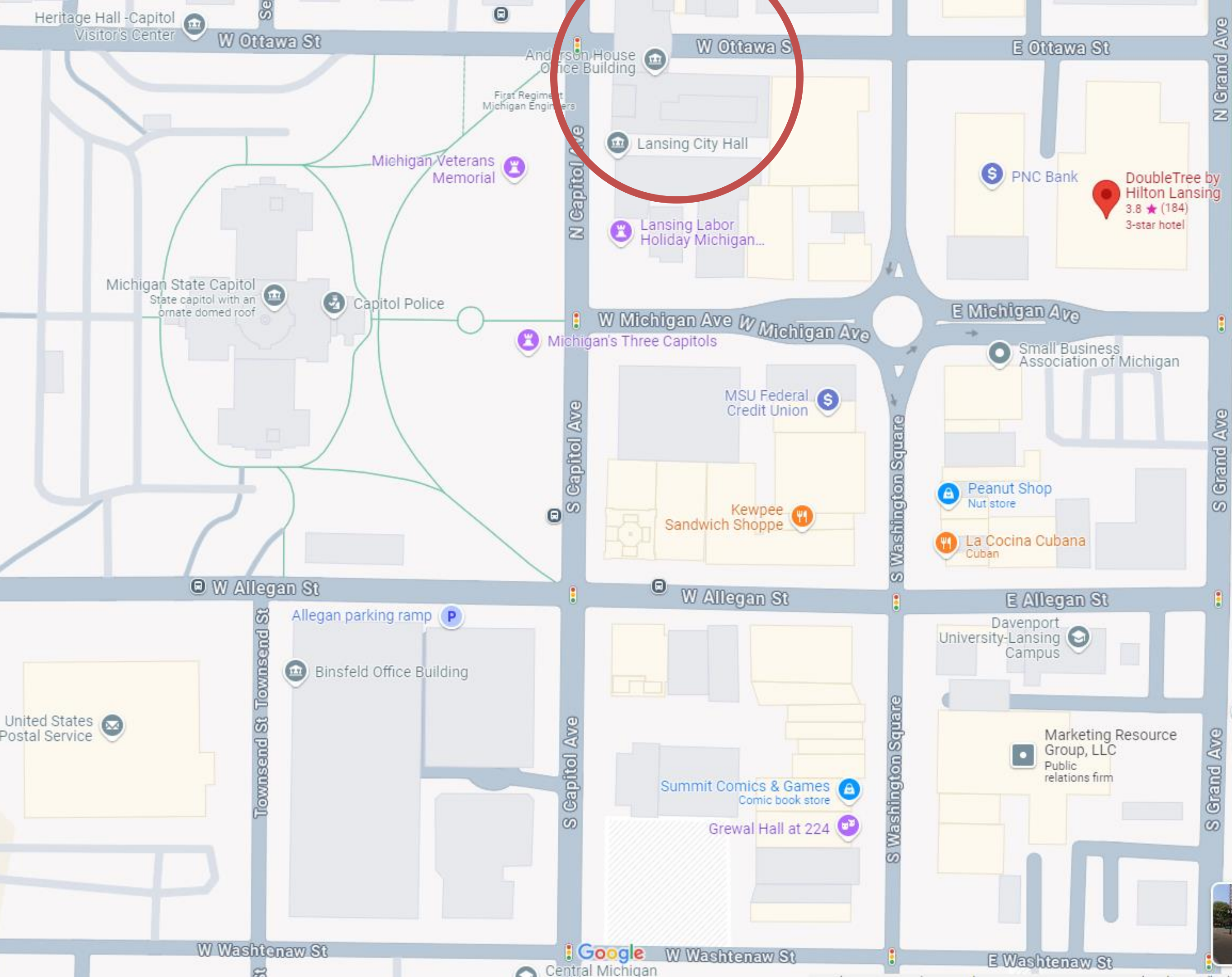
You've
got
this



Binsfeld Office

- 201 Townsend St., Lansing, MI
- This is where your Senator's office is located.





Anderson House Office

- 124 N Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI
- This is where your Representative's office is located.



House Teams



Early Childhood Capitol Day

Discuss with Your House Team

- Discuss with others at your table what you want lawmakers to know about your experiences in the early childhood system.
- Practice sharing your introduction and your story.



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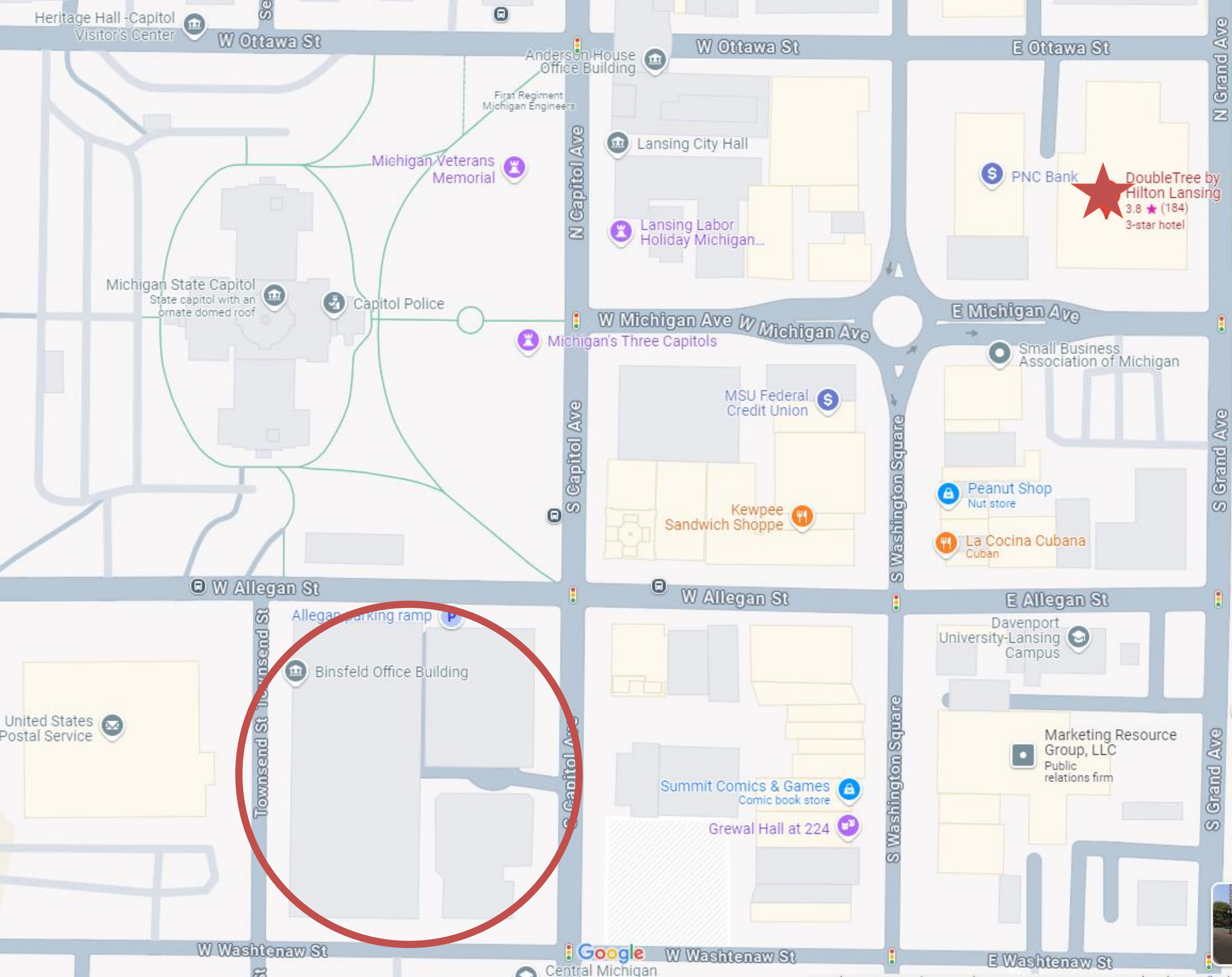


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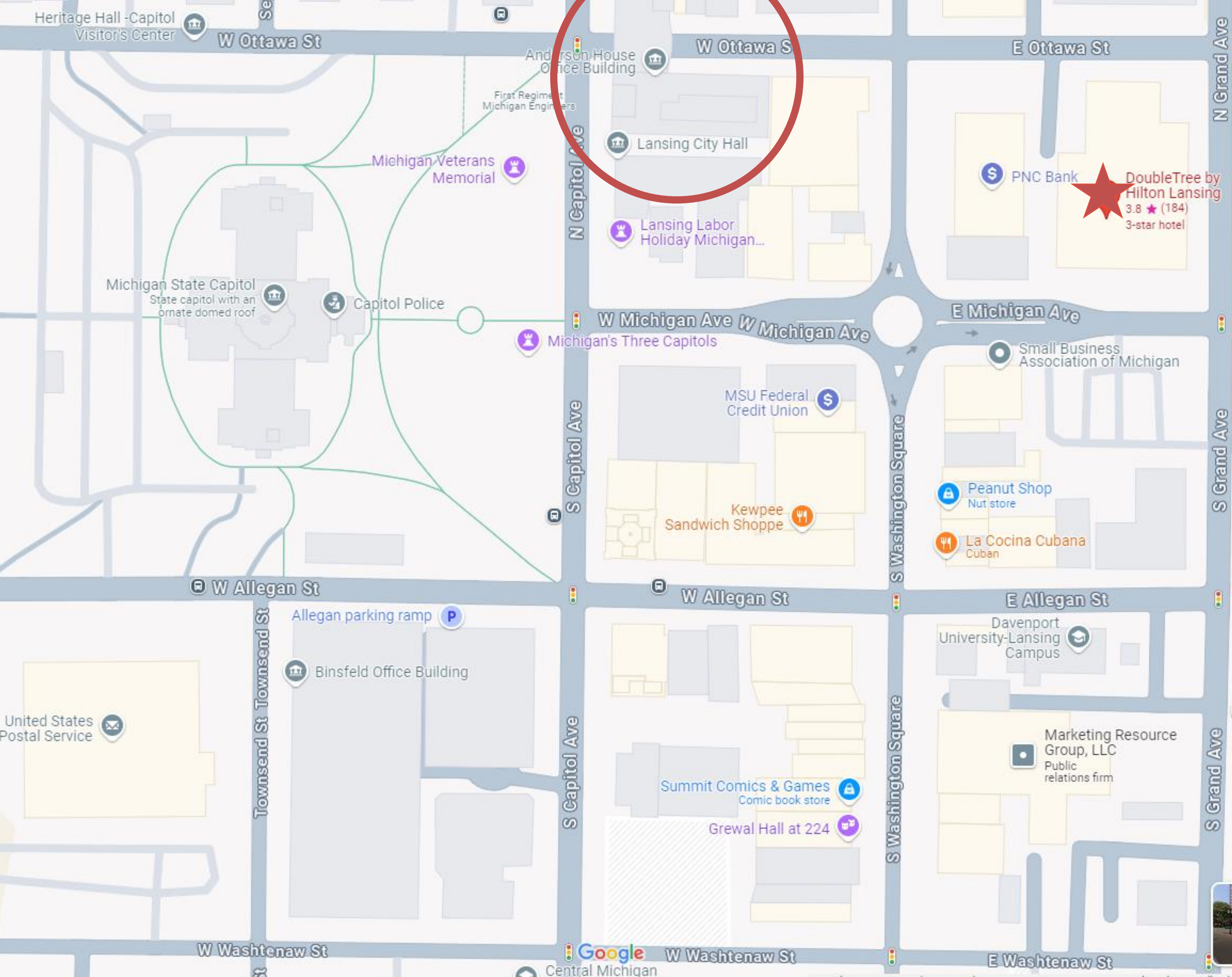
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