

Early Childhood Capitol Day

April 21, 2026

8:30 AM

DOORS OPEN

Central United Methodist Church

215 N Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

9:00 AM

WELCOME

- **Erica Willard**, Executive Director, Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children
- **Terrell Couch**, Director of Public Affairs, Mothering Justice
- **Tricia Grifka**, Board President, Michigan Head Start Association
- **Alicia Guevara**, CEO, Early Childhood Investment Corporation

9:30 AM

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Representative John Roth**, Michigan House District 104
- **Senator Rosemary Bayer**, Michigan Senate District 13

9:45 AM

PANEL

From the Start: Parents & Providers on Investing in the Whole Child

MODERATOR:

Mina Hong, Vice President of Strategic Impact, Early Childhood Investment Corporation

PANELISTS:

- **Chy'Leetzia Johnson**, Director of Perinatal, Infant, & Early Childhood Clinical Services, Starfish Family Services
- **Monique Vasquez**, Parent Leader, Think Babies Michigan
- **Walishya White**, Early Childhood Director, Kiddie Time Childcare Center
- **Ni'esha Wright**, Director of Community Health, Cradle Kalamazoo

10:45 AM

PRESENTATION

State of the Budget: Context, Status, & Proposals

PRESENTERS:

- **Amy Zaagman**, Executive Director, Michigan Council for Maternal & Child Health
- **Monique Stanton**, President and CEO, Michigan League for Public Policy

11:15 AM

BREAK

11:30 AM

WORKSHOP

Living Proof: Turning Personal Experience into Policy Change

Attendees use the information from morning sessions to practice their messaging & storytelling for legislative visits.

PRESENTERS:

- **Kirsten Charnesky**, Advocacy Committee Chair, Michigan AEYC
- **Annette Sobocinski**, Advocacy Committee Member, Michigan AEYC

12:00 PM

LAWMAKER MEETING PREP

12:15 PM

LUNCH

1:30 PM

LAWMAKER MEETINGS AS SCHEDULED

All meetings are scheduled between 1:30 and 3:30pm.

EVENT SPONSORS

