

# COVID-19 RESPONSE: **HELP AND HOPE** FOR STRUGGLING MICHIGANDERS



Michigan needs action, not politics. Federal COVID-19 relief dollars must be used to get real help in the hands of our families, schools and small businesses that are struggling, not pay for politicians' pet projects. House Republicans' budget plan commits to helping families, students and business stay afloat while increasing investments in key public health priorities — including vaccine distribution and virus testing.

## Help afflicted job providers and their families

- **\$150 million** deposit into the unemployment trust fund **ensures benefits for unemployed workers** continue and helps offset the cost of fraudulent claims paid due to a lack of oversight from the Whitmer administration.
- **\$55 million** to **ensure relief for local Michigan job providers** currently facing higher unemployment system contribution costs.
- **\$415 million** to **help restaurants and other small businesses** who lost revenue because of the governor's severe and arbitrary COVID restrictions.
- **\$38.5 million** to reimburse **fees for liquor licenses and health department inspections** as local businesses struggle to reopen.
- **\$22 million** to **assist job providers** facing penalties and interest on 2020 summer or winter property taxes.
- **\$165 million** to help families with **rent and utility relief**.
- **\$510 million** for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits **for families facing hunger**. More funding is expected to follow.

## Get kids back in school

- **\$363 million** for districts committing to **reopen in-person instruction by Feb. 15**. All **\$1.65 billion** in federal Title I funds would be allocated, and \$12 million would cover benchmark assessments. The state could not shut down in-person instruction or sports activities, but local districts and local health departments could do so when appropriate based on COVID metrics.
- **\$135 million** for a voluntary, in-person summer semester for K-8 **to help kids recover from learning loss** during the pandemic, plus a credit recovery option for high school students. An additional **\$15 million** helps districts launch **before-and-after school programs**.
- **\$21 million for teachers and support staff** helping students catch up on learning over the summer.
- **\$5.8 million** to help families participating in summer school **offset transportation, tutoring and other costs**.

## Fix the governor's broken vaccine rollout

- **\$22 million** quarterly for closer monitoring and accountability in the governor's troubled distribution plan. The state could not impose vaccination mandates.
- **\$144 million** for **virus testing** would be allocated quarterly, to improve oversight and efficiency.

Total Cost: About \$3.5 billion in federal and state funding