

## West Michigan Partnership for Children CEO's Statement on the Restoration of Funding for Innovative Kent County Foster Care System

Dec. 10, 2020

We are pleased by the bipartisan effort by the Michigan Legislature and Governor Whitmer to restore funds cut from critical programs serving Michigan's most vulnerable children and families, to include West Michigan Partnership for Children (WMPC). With this action, WMPC will be able to continue oversight of foster care for 850 children and their families in Kent County.

WMPC is honored to pilot the first performance-based foster care funding model in Michigan in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and in collaboration with its five consortium member agencies and other system partners. After only two years of operation, WMPC's innovative approach is already yielding successful outcomes in safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families and is a shining example of how a private/public partnership committed to the best interest of children can effectively collaborate to effect systemic change.

We are grateful for the outpouring of support we have received over the past two months from our community, statewide public and private child welfare professionals, and legislative champions and are eager to re-focus our attention on our mission of *empowering communities to create better futures for children and families through innovation and collaboration.*