

**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program  
(A Private Purpose Trust Fund  
of the State of Michigan)**

**Financial Statements**

**September 30, 2020**



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## Independent Auditors' Report

Ms. Rachael Eubanks  
State Treasurer  
Michigan Department of Treasury

Mr. Doug Ringler, CPA, CIA  
Auditor General  
Office of the Auditor General

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program, as of September 30, 2020, and the respective changes in fiduciary net position, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Emphasis of a Matter**

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program, are intended to present the fiduciary net position and changes in fiduciary net position of only that portion of the activities of the State of Michigan that is attributable to the Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the State of Michigan as of September 30, 2020, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

## **Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, as identified in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information, because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

## **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 23, 2020 on our consideration of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Yeo & Yeo, P.C.*

Lansing, Michigan  
December 23, 2020

# Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program

## Management Discussion and Analysis

### For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

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The following discussion of the Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program financial performance provides an overview of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's financial activities as of September 30, 2020 and for the year then ended. Please read it in conjunction with the financial statements.

#### Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program Act

The Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program Act (Public Act 160 of 2015 of the *Michigan Compiled Laws*) established a savings program in which an individual or a designated representative of a designated beneficiary can open a Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program savings account to save money to pay the qualified disability expenses of the designated beneficiary. Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program is a private purpose trust fund of the State of Michigan and is included in the State of Michigan Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (SOMCAFR). TSA Consulting Group Inc. (TSA) serves as the program manager and is responsible for providing administrative services and investment management services for the participant plans. To facilitate the investment of contributions received from account owners participating in the plan, TSA established the trust with FPS Trust Company, LLC (FPS) to serve as the custodian.

#### Financial Highlights

The following highlight some of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's key financial results:

- The year ended September 30, 2020, was the fourth year of operations and plan is still growing quickly.
- The program held approximately \$18.88 million and \$11.49 million in net contributions from account owners as of September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively.
- Contributions received from participants were \$9.77 million and \$7.03 million for 2020 and 2019, respectively. Distributions to participants for the years ended September 30, 2020 and 2019 were approximately \$2.61 million and \$1.91 million, respectively. The Program earned approximately \$418,000 and \$250,000 from investments for the years ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively.
- For the years ending September 30, 2020 and 2019, approximately \$184,000 and \$115,000, respectively, of program management and account-based fees were paid to TSA/FPS. These fees are based on total accounts and the value of investments held in the Trust.

#### Overview of Financial Statements

Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). As required under generally accepted accounting principles applicable to fiduciary fund types, Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Investments are reported at fair value, and all investment transactions are recorded on a trade-date basis. Changes in fair value, along with realized gains (losses), are included in net change in fair value of investments on the statement of changes in fiduciary net position. Amounts received from participants are recognized when they are received, and distributions to participants are recognized when paid. Program management and account-based fees are accrued and paid quarterly.

**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program  
Management Discussion and Analysis  
For the Year Ended September 30, 2020**

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Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's basic financial statements comprise the statement of fiduciary net position, the statement of changes in fiduciary net position and the related notes to the financial statements. The statement of fiduciary net position presents information on Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's assets and liabilities, with the difference between them representing net position held in trust. The statement of changes in fiduciary net position shows how Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's fiduciary net position changed during the year. The notes to the financial statements provide additional information about the amounts presented in the financial statements. It is essential that readers of this report consider the notes to the financial statements to obtain a full understanding of the financial statements.

**Financial Analysis**

Fiduciary Net Position

The following condensed statement of fiduciary net position provides a "snapshot" of the overall financial position of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program:

	<b>September 30,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total assets	\$ 18,941,995	\$ 11,547,980
Total liabilities	62,357	59,210
Net position held in trust	\$ 18,879,638	\$ 11,488,770

The reported balance of net position held in trust represents the cumulative total of amounts received from participants since Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's inception, increased by net investment income, and decreased by distributions to participants and program management fees paid.

Investments, which total approximately \$9.50 million and \$6.09 million at September 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively, represent 50% and 53% of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's total assets, respectively. Account owners may choose to invest in a bank savings account option, or one or more Target Risk Options, each of which invests in a predetermined asset allocation of mutual funds, exchanged-traded funds (ETFs) and/or an interest-bearing savings account, structure for different levels of risk tolerance and time horizons.

Other assets, which totaled approximately \$9,442,000 and \$5,459,000 at September 30, 2020 and 2019, represents cash. This was an increase of \$3,983,000 from 2019.

**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program  
Management Discussion and Analysis  
For the Year Ended September 30, 2020**

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Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

The following condensed statement of changes in fiduciary net position summarizes how Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's net position held in trust changed during the period presented:

	<b>For the year ended September 30, 2020</b>	<b>For the year ended September 30, 2019</b>
Received from participants	\$ 9,770,756	\$ 7,029,198
Net investment income	417,628	250,481
Total additions	<u>10,188,384</u>	<u>7,279,679</u>
Distributed to participants	(2,613,092)	(1,906,035)
Program management and account-based fees paid	(184,424)	(114,502)
Total deductions	<u>(2,797,516)</u>	<u>(2,020,537)</u>
Change in net position	7,390,868	5,259,142
Net position held in trust - beginning of year	<u>11,488,770</u>	<u>6,229,628</u>
Net position held in trust - end of year	<u>\$ 18,879,638</u>	<u>\$ 11,488,770</u>

**Investment Commentary**

Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program accounts offer a pre-screened list of brand-name low-cost investments from Vanguard and Dimensional funds. Also available are five pre-defined asset allocation models constructed from the pre-screened list of investments, ranging in approach from conservative to aggressive.

The different asset classes include fixed income, foreign and domestic equity funds, and involves a range of market capitalization and industry sectors. Investments within each asset class that meet initial screening criteria are identified and reviewed for viability. Each portfolio and fund manager are evaluated against qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Investments that have demonstrated a discipline of performance history, style consistency, preservation and stewardship are selected. Each is then monitored and reviewed regularly.

The Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program plan also offers a bank saving investment option.

**Contacting Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program**

The financial report is designed to provide the Legislature, the executive branch of the government, the public, and other interested parties with an overview of the financial results of the Program's activities and to show the accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional information regarding the Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program, contact R. Scott DeVarona, 430 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48922 or go to [www.michigan.gov/miable](http://www.michigan.gov/miable).

**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program**  
**Statement of Fiduciary Net Position**  
**September 30, 2020**

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**Assets**

Cash	\$ 9,442,215
Investments	<u>9,499,780</u>

**Total assets**

18,941,995

**Liabilities**

Fees payable	52,658
Requested withdrawals due to participants	<u>9,699</u>

**Total liabilities**

62,357

**Net position held in trust**

\$ 18,879,638



**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program**  
**Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2020**

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**Additions**

Received from participants	\$	9,770,756
Investment income		
Interest and dividends		219,467
Net change in fair value of investments		198,161
Net investment income		417,628
Total additions		10,188,384

**Deductions**

Distributed to participants		2,613,092
Program management and account-based fees paid		184,424
Total deductions		2,797,516

**Change in net position**

		7,390,868
Total net position held in trust - beginning of year		11,488,770
<b>Total net position held in trust - end of year</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>18,879,638</b>

# Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### September 30, 2020

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#### **Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **Reporting Entity**

The Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program, a private purpose trust fund of the State of Michigan, was established within the Michigan Department of Treasury by Public Act 160 of 2015. Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program is a savings program created to encourage and assist individuals and families in saving funds for the purpose of supporting individuals with disabilities, to maintain health, independence, and quality of life. These funds are expected to provide secure funding for qualified disability expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries with disabilities that will supplement, but not supplant, benefits provided through private insurance, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, the Medicaid program, the beneficiary's employment, and other sources.

##### **Basis of Presentation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The accompanying financial statements present only Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program. Accordingly, they do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position and the changes in financial position of the State of Michigan as a whole or its other funds in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America.

##### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. As allowed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 62, *Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements*, Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program follows all GASB pronouncements and those Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Statements and Interpretations, Accounting Principles Board Opinions, and Accounting Research Bulletins, except those that conflict with a GASB pronouncement. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

##### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

##### **Cash Deposits**

Cash balances, which are part of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's investment options are held by the service organization at FDIC insured financial institutions as custodian. As of September 30, 2020, Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's bank balance was \$ 9,445,705, in which all deposits were fully insured by depository insurance.

##### **Investments**

Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program accounts offer a pre-screened list of brand-name low-cost investments from Vanguard and Dimensional funds. Also available are five pre-defined asset allocation models constructed from the pre-screened list of investments, ranging in approach from conservative to aggressive.

The different asset classes include fixed income, foreign and domestic equity funds, and involves a range of market capitalization and industry sectors. Investments within each asset class that meet initial screening criteria are identified and reviewed for viability. Each portfolio and fund manager are evaluated against qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Investments that have demonstrated a discipline of performance history, style consistency, preservation and stewardship are selected. Each is then monitored and reviewed regularly.

**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**September 30, 2020**

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The Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program plan also offers a bank saving investment option.

Net realized and unrealized gains are included in the net change in fair value of investments on the statement of changes in fiduciary net position. Purchases and sales are recorded on a trade-date basis. Dividends and capital gain distributions are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

**Investment Income**

Dividend income and capital gain distributions from the underlying funds, if any, are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Capital gain distributions, if any, from underlying funds are a component of the net increase in the fair value of investments. Interest income is recorded earned.

**Income Taxes**

Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program is exempt from federal income tax under Section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code and does not expect to have any unrelated business income subject to tax. Accordingly, no provision for federal income tax has been made.

**Note 2 – Investments and Cash Deposits**

Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program’s investments at September 30, 2020, are as follows:

<u>Mutual Funds, at fair value</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
Dimensional US Core Equity 2	Mid-Cap Blend	\$ 3,036,528
Dimensional Emerging Markets Core	Diversified Emerging Markets	648,858
Dimensional Five-Year Global Fixed Portfolio	World Bond	308,179
Dimensional Global Real Estate Securities	Global Real Estate	449,564
Dimensional Inflation Protected Securities	Inflation-Protected Bond	1,111,205
Dimensional Intermediate Government Fixed Income	Intermediate Government	754,321
Dimensional International Vector Equity	Foreign Small/Mid Value	515,556
Dimensional Two-Year Global Fixed Portfolio	World Bond	298,064
Vanguard Developed Markets Index Fund	Foreign Large Blend	977,757
Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index Fund	Short-Term Bond	750,415
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund	Intermediate-Term Bond	<u>649,333</u>
Total mutual funds		9,499,780
Bank Savings Account	Cash	<u>9,442,215</u>
Total cash and investments		<u><u>\$ 18,941,995</u></u>

**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**September 30, 2020**

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The following table calculates the net change in the fair value of investments and cash during the year ended September 30, 2020:

Fair value of cash and investments - end of year	\$ 18,941,995
Less cost of investments purchased and dividends reinvested during the year	(9,993,370)
Plus proceeds from investments sold during the year	2,797,516
Less fair value of cash and investments - beginning of year	<u>(11,547,980)</u>
 Net change in fair value of cash and investments	 <u><u>\$ 198,161</u></u>

The mutual funds in which Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program invests comprise of various investment securities whose asset holdings include corporate debt and equity securities, obligations of the United States government and government agencies, and international securities. These securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risk, and it is at least reasonably possible that changes in their fair values could occur in the near term, materially affecting the amounts reported in Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's financial statements.

Certain investments are subject to a variety of investment risks based on the amount of risk in the underlying funds. GASB requires that entities disclose certain essential risk information about deposits and investments. All of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's investment portfolios are uninsured and unregistered and are held by a custodian in Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's name.

Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's cash and investments are subject to certain types of risk, which are detailed below:

**Investment Policy**

The investments that compose the various portfolio options are specified in the Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program participant disclosure statement. There are no separate formal investment policies that specifically addresses credit risk, custodial credit risk, interest risk, or foreign currency risk.

**Credit Risk**

The Dimensional Five-Year Global Fixed Portfolio, Dimensional Inflation Protected Securities, Dimensional Intermediate Government Fixed Income, Dimensional Two-Year Global Fixed Portfolio, Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index Fund, and Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund include bonds issued by corporations, foreign governments, and the U.S. government, its agencies, and instrumentalities. Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program may be indirectly exposed to credit risk, which is the risk that a bond issuer will fail to pay interest and principal, when due, as a result of adverse market or economic conditions.

None of the mutual funds in which Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program invests are rated by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

**Custodial Credit Risk**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a failure, Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's deposits and investments may not be returned. An account owner has an investment in an investment portfolio and not a direct investment in any underlying mutual fund or other investment vehicle to which funds in that investment may be allocated. Because of this ownership structure, the custodial credit risk is significantly mitigated.

**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**September 30, 2020**

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**Interest Rate Risk**

The Dimensional Five-Year Global Fixed Portfolio, Dimensional Inflation Protected Securities, Dimensional Intermediate Government Fixed Income, Dimensional Two-Year Global Fixed Portfolio, Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index Fund, and Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund, due to their investment primarily in bonds, may also be exposed to interest rate risk, which is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely impact the fair value of an investment. Average maturity is the average length of time until fixed-income securities held by a fund reach maturity and will be repaid, taking into consideration the possibility that the issuer may call a bond before its maturity date. In general, the longer the average maturity, the more a fund's share price will fluctuate in response to changes in interest rates. As of September 30, 2020, the average effective maturity of holdings in each of these investments are as follows:

	<b>Average Effective Maturity</b>
Dimensional Five-Year Global Fixed Portfolio	1.07 years
Dimensional Inflation Protected Securities	8.42 years
Dimensional Intermediate Government Fixed Income	7.86 years
Dimensional Two-Year Global Fixed Portfolio	0.34 years
Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index Fund	2.90 years
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund	8.50 years

**Foreign Currency Risk**

The Dimensional Emerging Markets Core, Dimensional Five-Year Global Fixed Portfolio, Dimensional Global Real Estate Securities, Dimensional International Vector Equity, Dimensional Two-Year Global Fixed Portfolio, Vanguard Developed Markets Index Fund may include international securities and foreign currency in their underlying asset holdings. There are certain inherent risks involved when investing in international securities and foreign currency that are not present with investments in domestic securities, such as foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, adverse political and economic developments, natural disasters, and the possible prevention or delay of currency exchange due to foreign governmental laws or restrictions. Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program does not have any direct investment in foreign securities. As of September 30, 2020, the values of investments in underlying mutual funds that significantly invest in foreign dominated contracts are as follows:

	<b>Foreign Currency</b>	<b>Market Value</b>
Dimensional Emerging Markets Core	Various	\$ 648,858
Dimensional Five-Year Global Fixed Portfolio	Various	\$ 308,179
Dimensional Global Real Estate Securities	Various	\$ 449,564
Dimensional International Vector Equity	Various	\$ 515,556
Dimensional Two-Year Global Fixed Portfolio	Various	\$ 298,064
Vanguard Developed Markets Index Fund	Various	\$ 977,757

**Note 3 - Fair Value Measurement**

The investments are reported at closing market prices as of the reporting date. Accounting standards categorize fair value measurements according to a hierarchy that is based on valuation inputs that are used to measure fair value. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices for identical assets in active markets that can be accessed at the measurement date. Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted market prices that are observable for an asset, either directly or indirectly. Level 3 inputs are unobservable.

Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program has the following recurring fair value measurements as of September 30, 2020: mutual funds of \$ 9,499,780 are valued using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs).

**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**September 30, 2020**

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**Note 4 - Fees and Expenses**

**Program Management Fees**

Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program pays a fee to a service organization for administering and managing the investment options. This fee, which is 0.5% on average daily balance for the quarter, is accrued quarterly and reduces the net asset value per unit of each investment. Program management fees for the year ended September 30, 2020 were \$ 75,008.

**Underlying Investment Fees**

Investment advisory fees, administrative fees, and other expenses related to management of the mutual funds in which Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program invests are paid out of the assets of the mutual funds and reduce the amount of income available to be distributed to Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program in the form of dividends or capital gains. These underlying fund expenses are not direct expenses paid from Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program assets, and therefore, are not reported in Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's financial statements.

**Account-Based Fees**

Each individual account is charged a quarterly maintenance fee of \$ 11.25. This fee is processed as withdrawals from the individual accounts. Total account fees for the year ended September 30, 2020 were \$ 109,416.

**Note 5 - Risk Management**

The State of Michigan has elected not to purchase commercial insurance for many of the risks of losses to which it and the Authority are exposed. The State of Michigan is self-insured for most general liability and property losses, portions of its employee insurance benefit and employee bonding programs, automobile liability, and workers' compensation and unemployment compensation claims.

**Note 6 - Commitments**

Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program has contracted with a third party to manage the program, maintain records, and be the custodian of the investments. This third-party contracts with subcontractors to perform the duties. The contract expires on August 31, 2021.



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## **Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

### **Independent Auditors' Report**

Ms. Rachael Eubanks  
State Treasurer  
Michigan Department of Treasury

Mr. Doug Ringler, CPA, CIA  
Auditor General  
Office of the Auditor General

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the accompanying financial statements of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents, and have issued our report thereon dated December 23, 2020.

#### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

## Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Yeo & Yeo, P.C.*

Lansing, Michigan  
December 23, 2020



**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program**  
**Schedule of Findings and Responses**  
**September 30, 2020**

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**Government Auditing Standards**

There were no findings related to financial statements which were required to be reported in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards for the year ended September 30, 2020.

**Michigan Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program**  
**Summary Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings**  
**September 30, 2020**

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**Government Auditing Standards**

There were no findings related to financial statements which were required to be reported in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards for the year ended September 30, 2019.