



OAG

Office of the Auditor General

Report Summary

Performance Audit

Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) Program Deferrals

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

Report Number:
431-3302-23

Released:
October 2023

The PATH Program is a partnership between MDHHS and Workforce Development, Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, to connect clients who receive cash assistance with the types of jobs, education, and training opportunities to help them achieve self-sufficiency and meet the workforce and skill needs of Michigan businesses. MDHHS requires all work-eligible individuals seeking or receiving cash benefits to participate in the PATH Program, unless deferred or engaged in other employment-related activities. Reasons for deferrals may include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility for disability, caring for a disabled spouse or child, full-time employment, and the parent of a child under 2 months old. During the audit period, approximately 88,000 individuals received cash assistance. Of those, an average of 1,700 individuals per month (700 SSI-related and 1,000 non-SSI related) had a deferral from the PATH Program. During this same time period, payments related to individuals receiving cash assistance totaled \$111.7 million.

Section 400.57b(5) of the *Michigan Compiled Laws* requires the OAG to conduct an annual audit of MDHHS's evaluation and assessment process to defer SSI applicants from the PATH Program.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective: To assess the effectiveness of MDHHS's processes to defer SSI and non-SSI applicants from the PATH Program.			Effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
None reported.			Not applicable.

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