



## Issue Brief

# MICHIGAN COUNTIES

## LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Lansing Center | DoubleTree Hotel | April 29 - May 1, 2024

# County Child Care Fund

## Background

The County Child Care Fund (CCF) reimbursement rate is now 75 percent for community-based services after the passage of juvenile justice reform legislation in 2023. The reimbursement rate for out-of-home placement remains at 50 percent. The 75 percent reimbursement rate is no longer tied to intensive level of services, and allows counties to adopt, implement and utilize research-based approaches to care and rehabilitation. Counties can also use the funds earlier on for justice involved youth – from the point of pre-court diversion through removal from the home.

The goal is to divert low-risk youth entirely from the judicial system, while providing services to youth at all levels of need and reducing out-of-home placements altogether. Now, for counties to be eligible for the 75 percent reimbursement rate, they must follow five new requirements.

## Eligibility Requirements

1. Adopt a validated risk screening tool to guide diversion and consent calendar decisions.
2. Adopt a validated risk assessment tool to use before disposition.
3. Adopt a detention screening tool to inform the use of secure detention.
4. Utilize research-based juvenile-specific probation standards, developed by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO).
5. Employ a local quality assurance specialist to support the county with implementing research-based practices *excluding counties receiving basic grants*.
  - a. For basic grant counties, guidance will likely come from SCAO.

These requirements will force procedural, structural, and philosophical changes within courts and counties.



## Key Takeaways

- Counties and courts should evaluate their intake process and incorporate risk assessments, the caseload distribution among staff, new contracts and diversion opportunities with community partners, and the need for administrative oversight.
- These new requirements provide areas for investment and restructuring by counties and courts.
- Risk screening tools, already used by 75 percent of counties, may require more investment and training for those that have not yet implemented.