

OASIS · AT A GLANCE

Michigan's FY27 budget, read the way a disability family reads it

Seventy five point two billion dollars, signed on July 21, 2026. Direct care wages held. The autism navigator survived. And the structural problems that put your family on a waiting list went entirely unaddressed.

BY JIM PALASTY · 11 MIN READ · MICHIGAN BUDGET

1.3

MILLION FOR AUTISM

Out of a \$75.2 billion budget. Read that twice.

How it works

THREE STEPS

STEP 1

Executive recommendation

The governor's February proposal sets the opening frame.



STEP 2

House and Senate versions

Two competing budgets. This is where cuts get inserted.



STEP 3

Conference and signature

Bipartisan deal July 3, signed July 21, effective October 1.

FY27 lines a disability family should know

Total budget	\$75.2 billion, signed July 21, 2026
General fund	\$14.1 billion
Direct care wages	\$351.9 million
Medicaid stabilization	\$185 million
H.R. 1 administration	\$184.3 million general fund
MI Rehabilitation Services	\$152.2 million
Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies	\$116.2 million
MI Choice increase	\$92 million
PACE increase	\$38 million
Behavioral health capacity	\$31 million

WHAT A BUDGET LINE FEELS LIKE

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Marta spent the spring calling legislative offices about her son's community living supports hours, which have been authorized at 30 a week and filled at about 12 since last fall. In July she read that the budget protected direct care wages. In August her provider still could not staff the shifts. Both things are true. Only one of them made the press release.

FUNDED IS NOT THE SAME AS DELIVERED.

What matters, at a glance

MICHIGAN SPECIFIC

Direct care wages

\$351.9 million to maintain direct care worker wages against minimum wage increases and paid sick leave costs.

Medicaid stabilization

\$185 million to steady Medicaid funding as federal changes land.

Maintenance is not investment

Nearly every disability line in this budget holds ground rather than gaining it. Wages keep pace with a rising legal minimum. That is not a raise. That is standing still while the floor moves up underneath you.

Where the new money went

A \$92 million increase for MI Choice and \$38 million for PACE, both aimed at aging in place. \$31 million for behavioral health capacity built around a new state psychiatric hospital opening in October 2026. Good programs. None of them are adult autism day services.

Paperwork

General fund dollars to administer new federal SNAP and Medicaid requirements. That is 141 times the autism navigator line, spent on checking eligibility.

Autism navigator

\$1.3 million. It helps families find services. It does not create the services families cannot find.

BRING THESE · CHECK AS YOU GO

☐ Your legislative district number

☐ Your family member's authorized versus filled hours

☐ The dollar amount you are asking for

☐ A one page written version to leave behind

☐ Your CMH board's name and allocation

☐ The specific line item you want changed

☐ What that amount buys in your county

☐ A date you will follow up

YOUR MOVE

How to read next year's budget before it is written

1

Read the House Fiscal Agency summary. It is free and plain.

2

Compare the executive, House, and Senate versions.

3

Find your CMH board's FY27 allocation.

4

Ask your CMH what it funds and what it does not.

5

Take the gap to your state representative in writing.

6

Testify at the appropriations subcommittee in February.

February is when the executive budget drops and the fight is winnable. July is when it is over. Most families arrive in July.