

OASIS · AT A GLANCE

Michigan pays \$17.13. Illinois pays \$21.30.

Same labor market, same year, same job. A four dollar and seventeen cent gap that Michigan rebuilds by hand every budget cycle, because it has never made the raise permanent.

PILLARS: WHERE · WHY | COMPANION TO BLOG POST B154 | 2-PAGE BRIEF

\$4.17

THE HOURLY GAP

Between Michigan's wage floor and Illinois's, both effective January 1, 2026.

How the gap gets rebuilt every year

BASE, PATCH, TRANSFER



Turning the gap into a question

ONE NUMBER, ONE ASK

COUNT

Document what the gap costs you

☐ Every authorized hour nobody delivered last month

☐ The date and the reason you were given

☐ What you did instead, including missed work

☐ How many workers turned over in the last year

☐ What each one said when they left

COMPARE

The figures to put on the page

☐ Michigan wage floor: \$17.13 as of January 1, 2026

☐ Illinois wage floor: \$21.30 statewide

☐ Illinois Chicago metro: \$24.50

☐ The gap: \$4.17 an hour, \$166.80 a week

☐ Michigan next step: \$18.40 on January 1, 2027

ASK

The question with two answers

☐ Will you vote to make the increase permanent in statute?

☐ Not whether they support direct care workers

☐ Send it by email so there is a record

☐ Include two sentences about your adult child

☐ Ask for a written reply and keep it

WATCH

What to track every spring

☐ The direct care worker wage line, not the total budget

☐ Whether the passthrough is fully funded

☐ The FY27 need of \$182.2 million

☐ The overall gap of \$305.0 million

☐ Who voted which way, by name

BRING ONE PAGE, NOT A BINDER

The unfilled hours sheet

01

Authorized

Hours per week your adult child is approved for.

02

Delivered

Hours that actually happened last month, by date.

03

The gap

The difference, in hours and in what you covered.

04

The wage

Michigan \$17.13 against Illinois \$21.30, printed.

YOUR MOVE

From an unfilled shift to a recorded vote

1

Count the hours

Authorized against delivered, with dates.

2

Print the two wages

Michigan and Illinois, same effective date.

3

Email both members

State representative and state senator.

4

Ask the one question

Permanent statute or annual appropriation?

5

Keep the answer

And send it back every spring.

The wage is not a market accident. It is a line in an appropriations bill rewritten every year by people whose email addresses are public.

SOURCES

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Direct Care Worker Wage Coalition. The Direct Care Worker Wage Math Problem. April 2026. Michigan mandated wage \$17.13 effective January 1, 2026 and \$18.40 effective January 1, 2027.

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