



2021



**DISABILITY POLICY**  
WEBINAR SERIES

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**JUNE 4, 2021**



**RWC ADVOCACY**

A Governmental Affairs Law Firm

# State Government Affairs Update

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# **Current Government Landscape**

## Executive Branch

- Governor (Executive Office)
- State Departments/Agencies
  - MI Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
    - ~Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA)
    - ~Medical Services Administration (Medicaid)

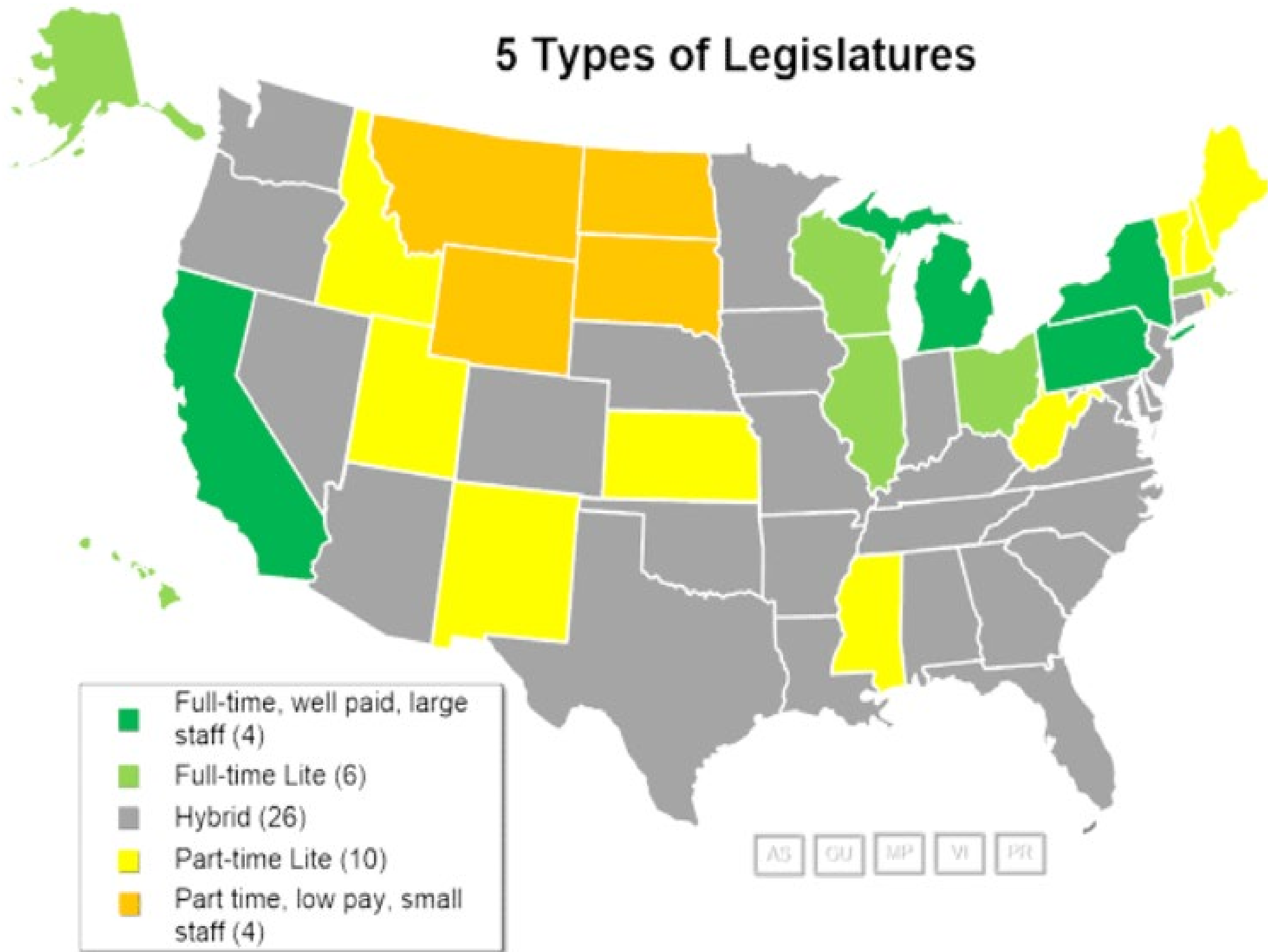
## **MDHHS Leadership Team**

- Elizabeth Hertel – **Director**
- David Knezek – **Chief Deputy for Administration**
- Joneigh Khaldun, MD – **Chief Medical Executive**
- Allen Jansen – **Deputy Director, BHDDA**
- Kate Massey – **Senior Deputy Director, MSA (Medicaid)**
- Emily Schwarzkopf – **Director of Legislative, Appropriations, and Constituent Services**

# Legislative Branch

- 148 elected members
  - 110 Representatives
  - 38 Senators
- Year-round (full-time) Legislature
- Two-year session schedule
- 101<sup>st</sup> Legislature (2020 - 2021) began on January 1, 2021 and will end on December 31, 2022

# 5 Types of Legislatures



Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

# Legislative Branch

- Term Limits
  - State House – 3 terms of 2 years each (6 years)
  - State Senate – 2 terms of 4 years each (8 years)
    - = 14-year lifetime limit
- Term limits approved in 1992 by constitutional amendment, affecting lawmakers sworn in after January 1, 1993
- Michigan's legislative term limits are among the strictest in the nation
- Benefits and pitfalls



## 2021-2022 Legislature

- New House Members - 28
- New House Leadership
- Senate Vacancies
- New Committees
- Committee Process



# **Current Political Landscape**

## Current Political Composition of the Legislature

- **20 – 16** Republican majority in Senate (2 vacant seats)
  - Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey
  - Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich
- **58 – 52** Republican majority in House
  - House Speaker Jason Wentworth
  - House Democrat Leader Donna Laskinski

# Redistricting

- Republican Majorities Controlled Redistricting Process in 2011
- In 2018, voters approved proposal 2 that allowed for the creation of an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
- New maps drawn in 2021, based on data from 2020 census



# **State Budget Update**

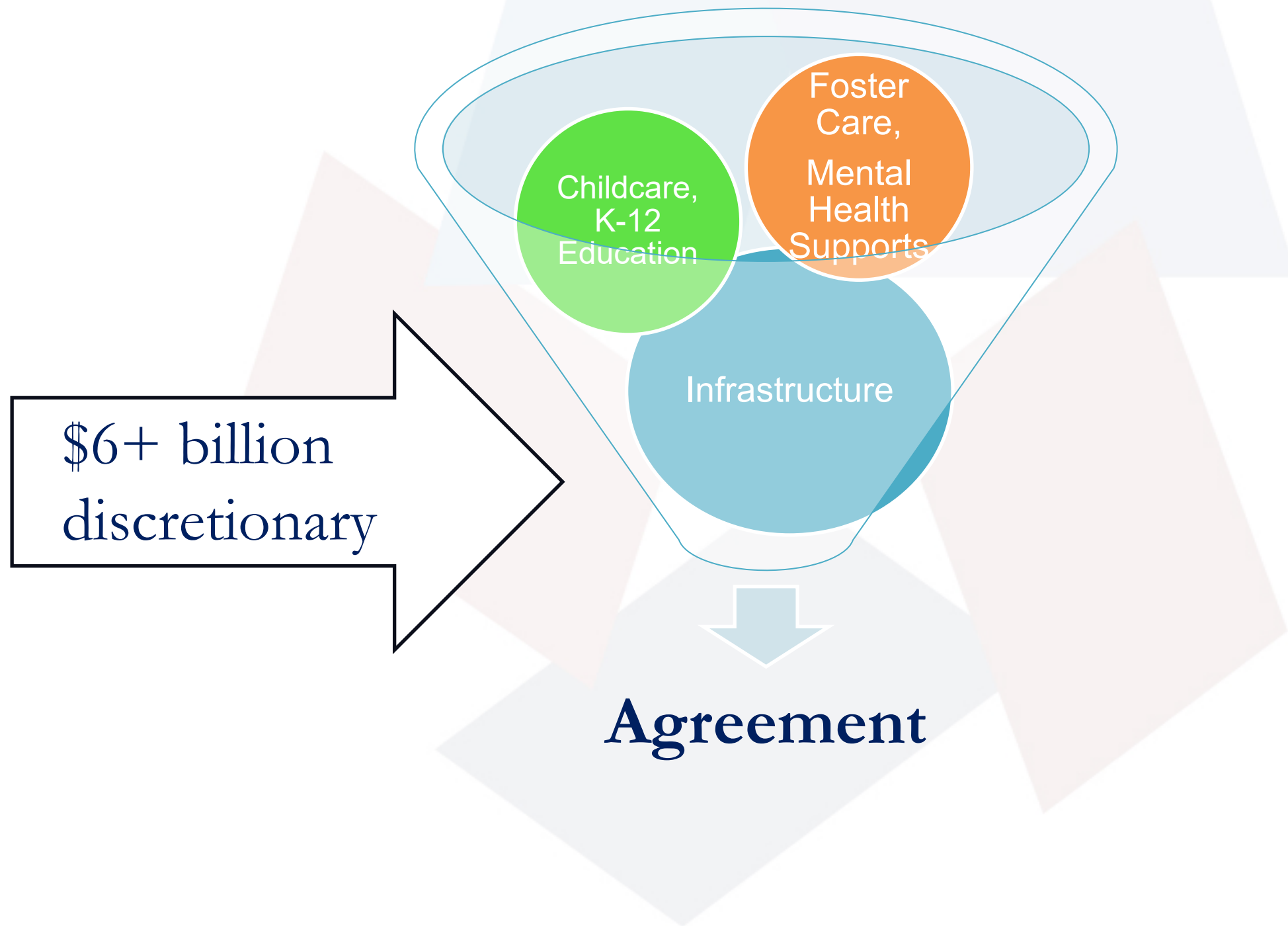
- FY 21 Supplementals
  - ~December Stimulus
  - ~American Rescue Plan Act
- FY 22 Budget Process
- May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference



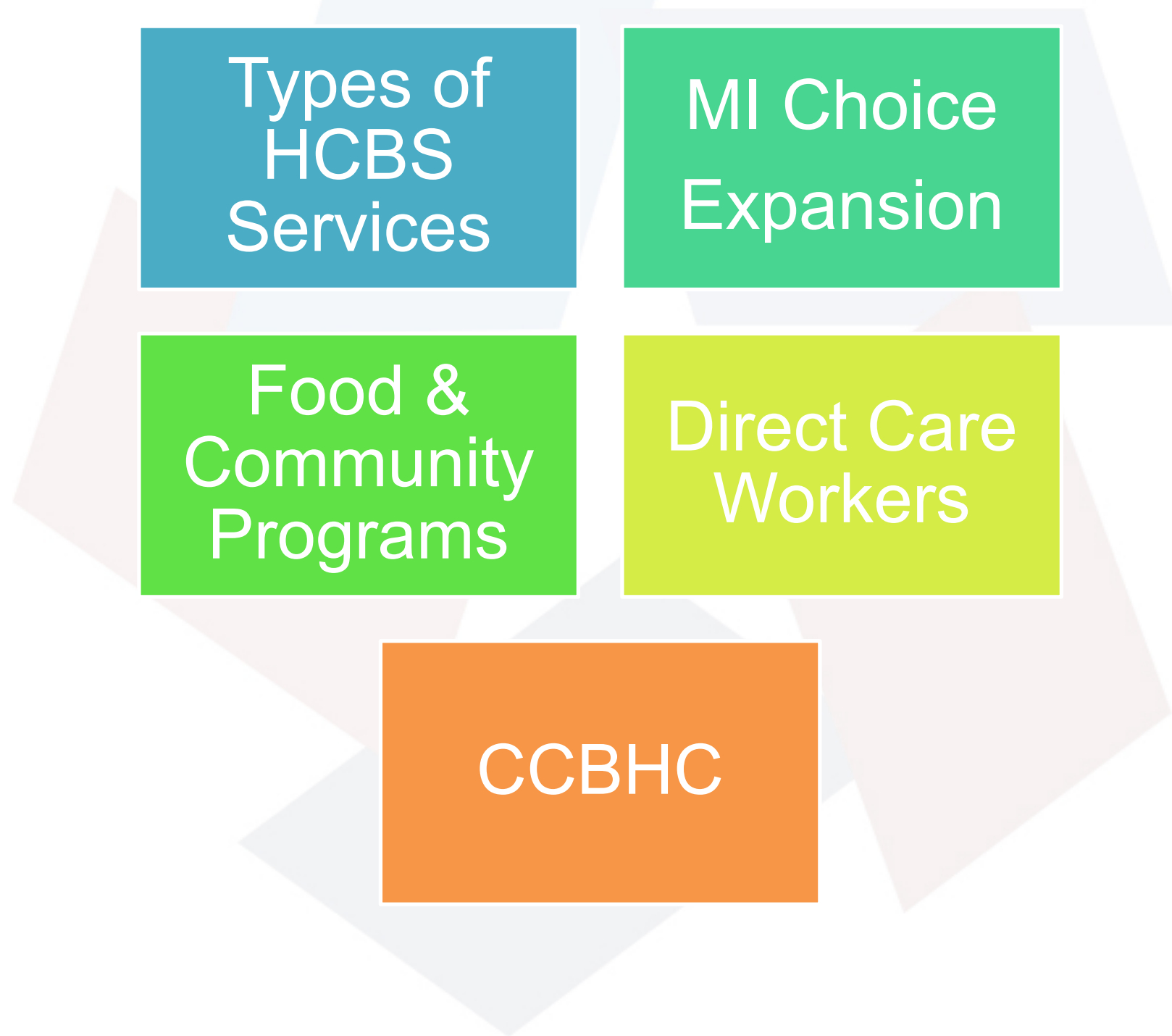
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- ✓ **July 1** Statutory Deadline
- ✓ **September 30** end of FY

# American Rescue Plan Act – State Leadership Priorities











# American Rescue Plan Act – Arc Priorities





# FY 22 Budget

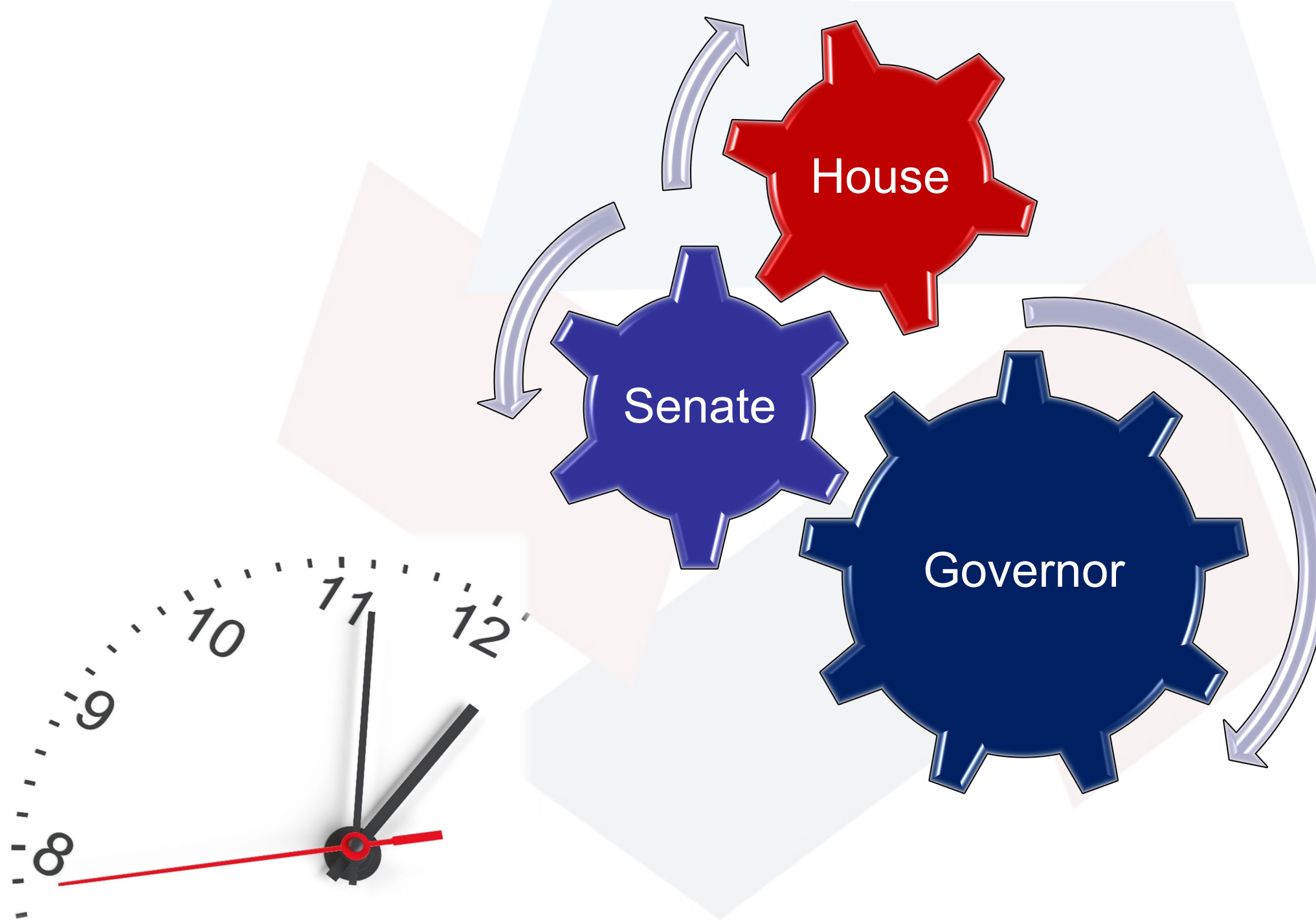
-  MI Choice Waiver Slots
-  Direct Care Workers
-  Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics
-  Autism Navigators
-  KB v Lyon
-  Behavioral Health Homes
-  Mental Health Block Grant
-  Medicaid Funding

## May CREC Highlights

- Impact of federal stimulus
- Revenues exceeding expectations
- Budget surplus

“I haven’t seen anything like this before.” – Mary Ann Cleary, Director of House Fiscal Agency

# FY 22 Budget





# **Current Legislative Issues**

Election Reform

Behavioral Health Reform

COVID-19 Recovery

Law Enforcement Reform

Health Care Transparency & Access



**The Arc**<sup>®</sup>  
Michigan





# **Effective Advocacy**

## Cast a Wide Net

- Include both legislative and executive branches
- Regulatory Advocacy
  - MDHHS
- Legislative Advocacy
  - Bipartisan
  - Bicameral



## Strategies & Tactics

- Pro-active & reactive
- Strategic and properly-timed
- Build a brand/familiarity first





# The Foundation

- Relationship-building
  - Campaign Support
  - Coffee Hours (even virtual!)
  - Events
- Message
- Timing
- Consistency



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# Meetings in Lansing 101

- Step 1: Prepare
  - Research the Lawmaker, Issues
- Step 2: Reflect
  - Your position
  - What's your story?





# Meetings in Lansing 101

- Dress code
- Flexibility
- Punctuality
- Friendly to staff
- Personal connections
- Stay on message
- Brevity
- Make the ask



## Follow Up

- Hand-written note, if possible
- Send any documents or background that were promised
- Establish consistency and continuity



## Resources

- 100<sup>th</sup> Legislature – Citizen’s Guide to State Government:  
<http://legislature.mi.gov/Publications/CitizensGuide.pdf>
- National Conference of State Legislatures:  
<https://www.ncsl.org/>
- Michigan Constitution:  
<http://legislature.mi.gov/Publications/MICConstitution.pdf>
- State Budget Office: <https://www.michigan.gov/budget/>
- House Fiscal Agency Publications:  
<https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/home.asp>
- Senate Fiscal Agency Publications:  
<https://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa/>



**Thank you!**

**Questions?**

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# LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!



A RECORDING OF TODAY'S PRESENTATION WILL BE UPLOADED TO OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.ARCMI.ORG](http://WWW.ARCMI.ORG)

JOIN US NEXT FRIDAY AT 10a.m., TO HEAR FROM R SCOTT De VARONA, DIRECTOR OF THE MIABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM. [HTTPS://WWW.MIABLE.ORG](https://WWW.MIABLE.ORG)

YOU'RE ALREADY REGISTERED, WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

