

POVERTY ON THE BALLOT

POVERTY IS THE EXPERIENCE OF NOT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY TO AFFORD ESSENTIALS.

Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan views poverty as the result of interlinked systems — housing, education, criminal justice, labor markets — that fail to function as they should for people with low incomes.

From national to local levels of government, elected officials have an important role to play in passing policies and funding programs that address poverty.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

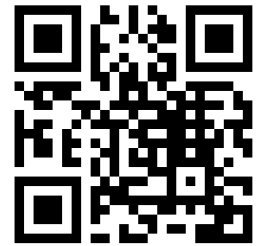
- The federal poverty line is **\$25,820 for a three-person household** in 2024.
- **13% of Michiganders** and **17.6% of children in Michigan** live in poverty.
- The University of Michigan's research found during the pandemic, **cash payments** in the form of stimulus checks and the expanded Child Tax Credit correlated with historically low child poverty rates, decreases in hardship, and improved mental health.
- Research by the Federal Reserve found stimulus checks contributed to **inflation**, and the **national debt** rose due to the government's pandemic response.

ASK THE CANDIDATES

- What lessons did you learn from the economic downturn of the pandemic that can guide how we provide assistance to meet people's basic needs?
- What steps will you take to reduce poverty in Michigan?



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