The OFL focuses their efforts on three key issue areas as identified by the governor and aligned with foundation priorities: P-20 Education, Workforce Development, and Health. The OFL has played a key role in:

### Strengthening & Advancing Early Childhood Efforts in Michigan

- **Collaborating with diverse stakeholders** to create a strong foundation for the Office of Great Start to help it effectively support Michigan’s families and children.
- **Communicating regularly with philanthropic funders** about state issues to facilitate the growth of public-private partnerships.
- **Convening public and private partners** to support projects and initiatives to strengthen Michigan’s early childhood efforts.
- **Facilitating strategic discussions and mediating tough decisions** to build consensus among cross-sector partners and hold them accountable.

### Addressing Chronic Absence in Michigan’s Schools

- **Recognizing the potential** for public-private partnerships to help strengthen Michigan’s education system.
- **Gathering important information** about the issues grounding school absenteeism (such as poverty) to better educate both state and philanthropic partners.
- **Convening education partners from across the state and nation** to launch Michigan’s first school attendance summit.
- **Keeping a finger on the pulse of work** in both private and public sectors around school attendance improvement initiatives in Michigan.

### Improving Benefits Access for Michigan’s Families

- **Connecting public and private partners** to education opportunities.
- **Bridging public and private sectors** to tackle a complicated state system.
- **Keeping** government and philanthropic partners connected, accountable, and on mission.
- **Educating and inspiring funding partners** about opportunities to leverage resources with the state.

The OFL has brokered more than $150 million in foundation investments for initiatives to increase Michigan’s economic competitiveness through reforms in prenatal to postsecondary education, economic and workforce development, health, and land use.
GOVERNANCE

The OFL is governed by an advisory committee of contributing funders; the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF), its fiscal agent: the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA); and a member of the Governor’s executive staff. Current committee members are:

Kyle Caldwell
Council of Michigan Foundations
Melanca Clark
Hudson-Webber Foundation
David Egner
Ralph C Wilson Jr. Foundation
Neal Hegarty, Chair
C.S. Mott Foundation
Emily Laidlaw
Office of the Governor
Kate Levin Markel
McGregor Fund
Wendy Lewis Jackson
Kresge Foundation
David McGhee
The Skillman Foundation
Donna Murray-Brown
Michigan Nonprofit Association
Faye Nelson
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Julie Ridenour
Steelcase Foundation
Virginia Romano
Dresner Foundation
Cynthia Rowell
Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation
Diana Sieger
Grand Rapids Community Foundation

Supporting Improvements to Michigan’s Child Care System

• Engaging in strategic networking to connect funding partners to opportunities with state agencies
• Clarifying important budget vs. policy issues to ensure government and philanthropic partners are on the same page
• Facilitating collaboration between private and public partners to cultivate knowledge-sharing between sectors and inspire coordinated cross-sector action

Bringing Flint’s Breakfast in the Classroom Program to Life

• Identifying support gaps in operating a district-wide school breakfast program and understanding where private partners can step in to help
• Connecting the right public and private partners at the right time that would work together to implement an ambitious and successful district-wide school breakfast program in Flint

Facilitating the Expansion of Double Up Food Bucks

• Gathering important information about food access issues for funder education opportunities
• Facilitating conversations with government and philanthropic partners through OFL’s special position between the public and private sectors
• Connecting public and private partners to help Fair Food Network serve a greater number of Michigan’s low-income families

Bringing Mental Health Resources to Flint Residents

• Engaging in strategic collaboration to identify important public and private partners in providing vital crisis relief resources to Flint residents
• Bringing public and private sectors together to deliver, restore, and launch the operation of a mobile mental health unit in Flint in the wake of the Water Crisis

Helping Flint Seniors Access Clean Water

• Coordinating efforts with partners to find creative clean water access solutions for Flint’s seniors
• Expertly facilitating connections between the public and private sectors to ramp up food and water delivery to senior homes

CONTACT US

Karen Aldridge-Eason
Foundation Liaison
P: 517-241-1689
kaldridge-eason@michiganfoundations.org

Stephen Arellano
Associate Foundation Liaison
P: 517-335-4545
sarellano@michiganfoundations.org

Michelle Danaj
Office Assistant
P: 517-241-5882
mdanaj@michiganfoundations.org