

Building Your Network: High School and College Student Resources

May 18, 2014

**Sarah Anthony, Director of Finance and Strategic Partnerships
Christi Taylor, Office Manager
Michigan College Access Network**

**Khadija Walker Fobbs, Director of Development & Community Partnerships
Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative**

Michigan College Access Network

Mission: To *increase college readiness, participation and completion rates* in Michigan, particularly among low-income students, first generation college going students, and students of color.

Vision and Values

- ✧ **College is *Postsecondary Education*:** MCAN uses the term “college” to refer to the attainment of valuable postsecondary credentials beyond high school, including professional/technical certificates and academic degrees.
- ✧ **College is *a Necessity*:** Postsecondary education is a prerequisite to success in a knowledge-based economy. Everyone must pursue and complete a postsecondary credential or degree beyond high school.
- ✧ **College is *for Everyone*:** The postsecondary education attainment rates among low-income students and students of color are significantly lower than those of other students. MCAN is committed to closing these gaps.
- ✧ **College is *a Public Good*:** Postsecondary educational opportunity and attainment are critical to a just and equitable society, strong economy, and healthy communities.

MCAN's Goal

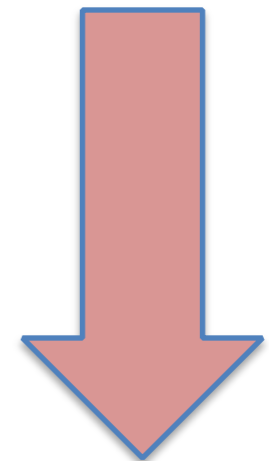
Increase the percentage of
Michigan residents with
high-quality degrees or
credentials to:

60% by 2025



How are we doing?

- 37.4 % of Michigan's 5.2 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a 2-or-4 college degree, an *increase* from last year's rate of 36.8%.
- The state's rate of higher education attainment is *below* the national average of 39.4%.



MCAN's Strategies

- Local College Access Network Development
- Implement Statewide Initiatives
 - *Michigan College Application Week*
 - *FAFSA Completion Campaign / Data Sharing Resource*
- Professional Development
- Coordination and Partnerships
 - *Fostering Success Michigan*
- Advocacy and Leadership

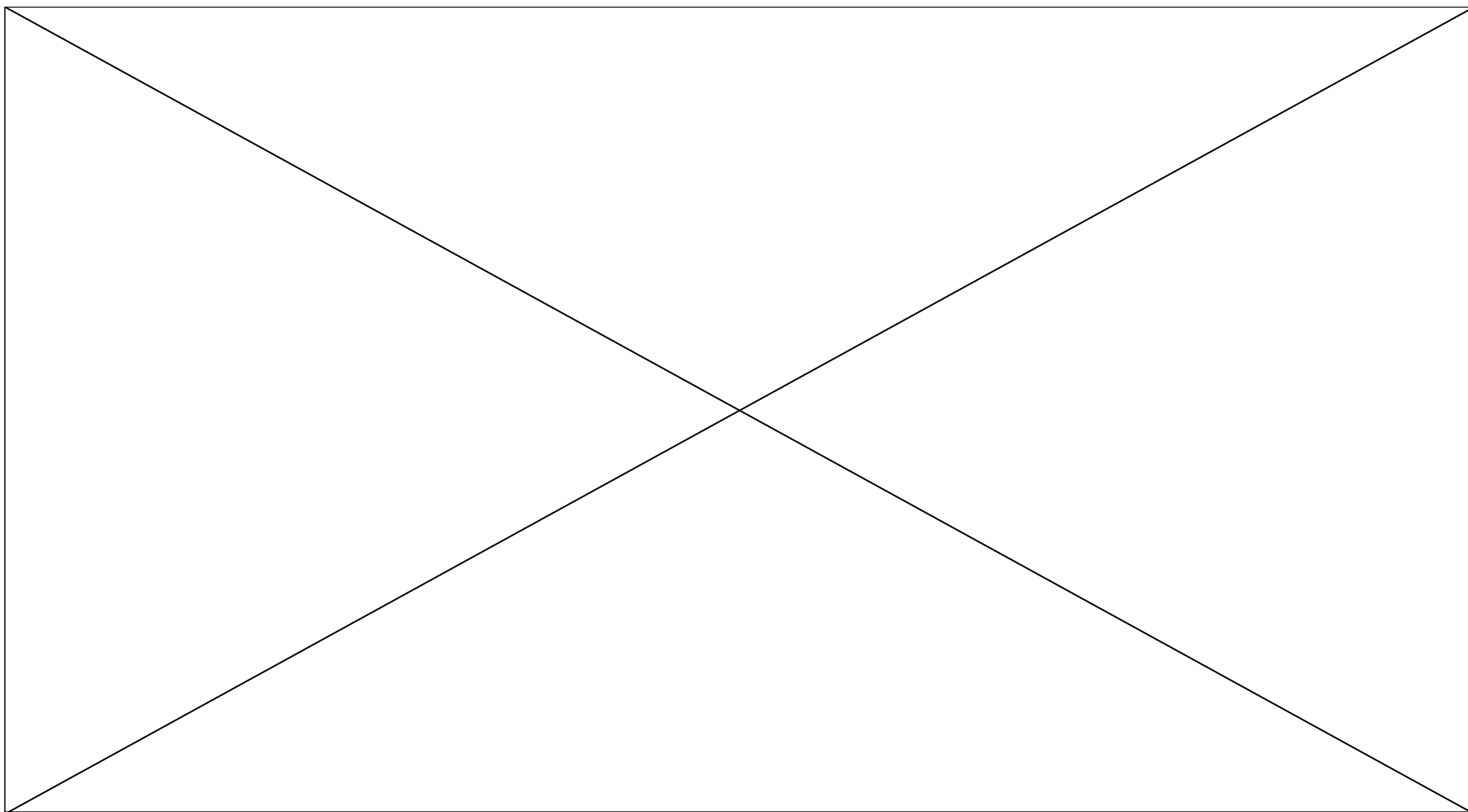
MICHIGAN

College Application Week

November 3-7, 2014

Concept and Goals

- Goal to provide every graduating high school senior the opportunity to apply to college.
- All graduating seniors complete **at least one** application by end of CAW.
- **Designated space** and **time** is set aside **during** the school day for completing applications
- Special focus is placed on assisting students who would be the first in their families to attend college, low-income students, and students who may have not otherwise seriously considered applying to college.
- Encouraging all students to apply gives confidence.
- Provides admissions fee waivers only to those who qualify



MICHIGAN



MI College Goal

- Graduating students need to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To get the most assistance for college, applications need to be turned in by March 1.
- MI College Goal events happen every February around the state – experts help student fill out the FAFSA for free.
- Check <http://www.micollegegoal.org/> for updates on locations and events.

MICHIGAN

College Decision Day

Concept

- Celebrate students' success and commitment to postsecondary education
- Encourages awareness among younger students
- May 1
- Hosted by high school
- Inspired by NCAA's Signing Day

Goals

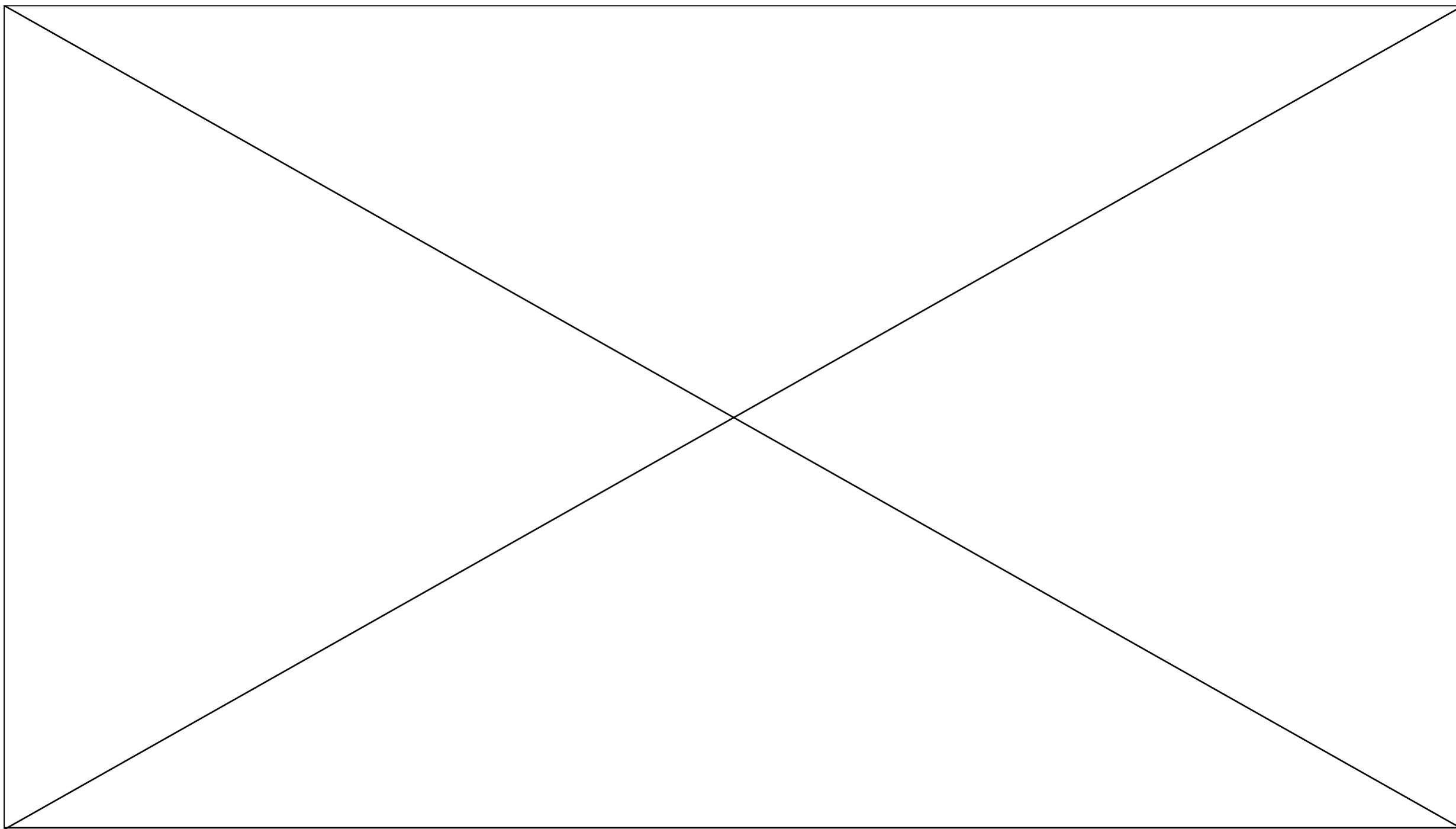
- Recognize **ALL** seniors for postsecondary plans
- Supports best match & fit
- Encourage & remind students to make a decision
- Influences younger students
- Supports college-going culture
- Wrap up school year with a celebration

MICHIGAN

College Decision Day

What does it look like?

- Assembly
- Outside speaker(s)
- Picnic
- Party
- Carnival
- Breakfast ceremony
- Part of an existing school event



Available Resources

College Application Week:

<http://www.micollegeaccess.org/events/college-application-week>

MI College Goal:

<http://micollegegoal.org/>

Decision Day:

<http://www.micollegeaccess.org/events/college-decision-day>

Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI)

MYOI began in 2003 as partnership between the Michigan Department of Human Services, the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, and the Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency and many other community partners. MYOI started in 2 sites and is now in most counties across Michigan.

- MYOI serves current and former foster care youth in Michigan, ages 14-24, who are transitioning out of the system by developing leadership, advocacy and financial skills to ensure long term success.

“This program is amazing for these youth. Youth in our program call us their MYOI family. They get together as friends outside of MYOI now and have learned to enjoy each other as people instead of seeing each other as “another foster care kid”. They are active and lively and make our program what it is.”

MYOI Coordinator

MYOI's Goal

The goal of MYOI is to ensure that young people in foster care have successful outcomes in housing, education, employment, community engagement and health.

These goals are accomplished through the following program components:

Youth Boards

Youth boards serve as the leadership and advocacy arm of MYOI. Youth are trained in leadership, media and communication skills, including how to strategically share their story and present on panels.

Community Partner Boards

A community partner board is a group of businesses, public and private agencies, and community representatives that have an interest in assisting youth who are transitioning out of foster care. Community Partner Board members provide support, discounts to services and advocacy for older youth in care.

Training

Training opportunities provided to youth encompass asset purchases, life skills, and preparation for adulthood including, housing, employment, education, health and community engagement.

Matches

Each youth has an Individual Development Account (IDA). Youth are required to save money in their IDA each month. MYOI matches the IDA funds dollar to dollar up to \$1000 per year for a youth to purchase an asset.

Stipends

Youth earn stipend payments for participation in events and meetings. The stipends assist youth to save money in their IDAs. Earning stipends is a tangible way to recognize the time and effort the youth contributes to the program.



Ferris Youth Initiative Mission

The mission of the Ferris Youth Initiative (FYI) is to positively impact the lives of foster care youth and low-income youths who attend Ferris State University. The Ferris Youth Initiative program is designed to provide support and learning opportunities throughout students' academic careers by incorporating academic success, character development and positive, holistic approaches to their well-being.

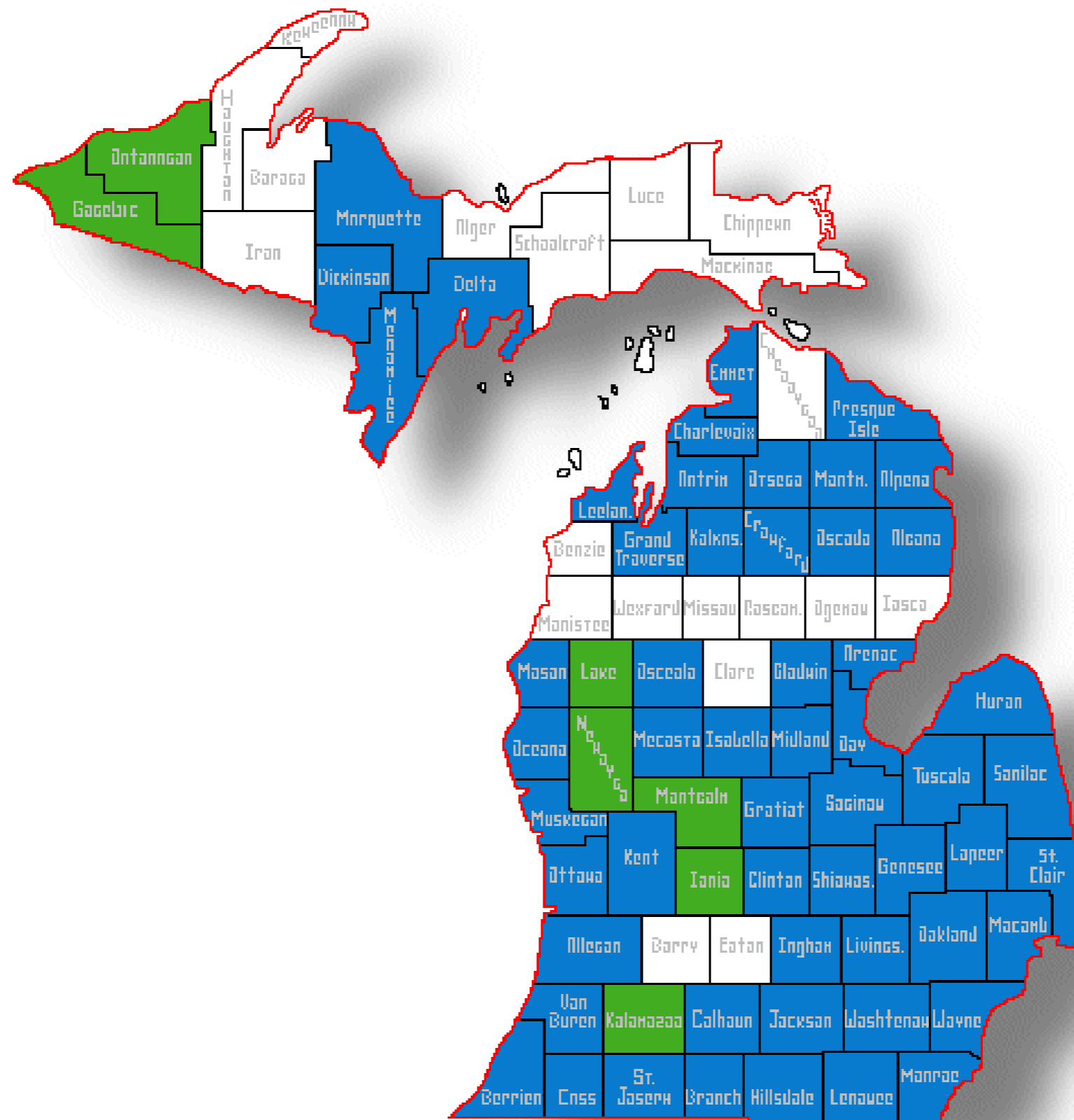


Who is eligible?

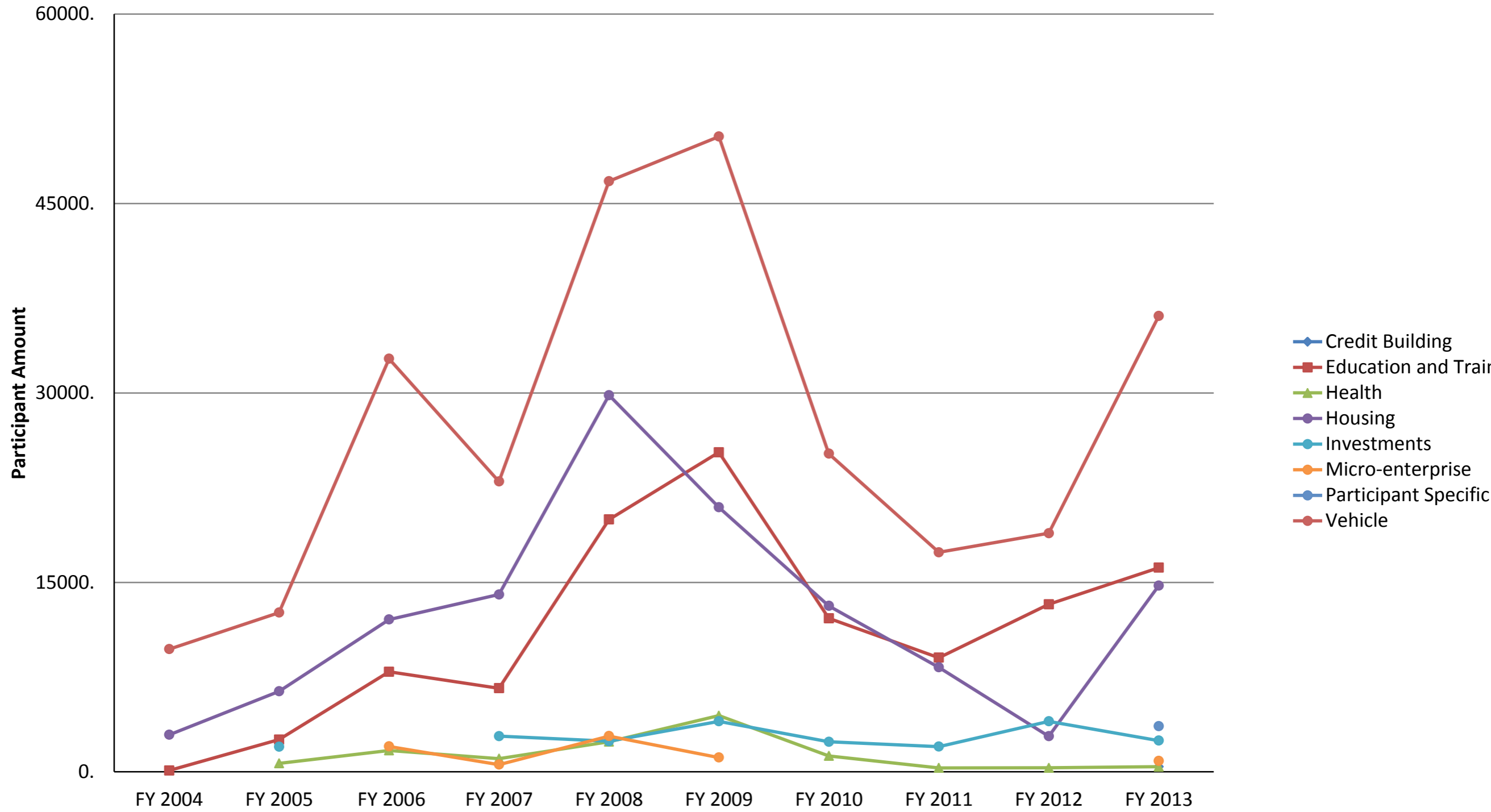
Michigan youths who are active in the foster care system, placed out of their home based on abuse and neglect, after age 14 and up to age 21 (up to age 24 as funding allows).

Michigan youth, ages 18 to 21 (up to age 24 as funding allows), that have been in foster care on or after their 14th birthday but are no longer under DHS supervision.

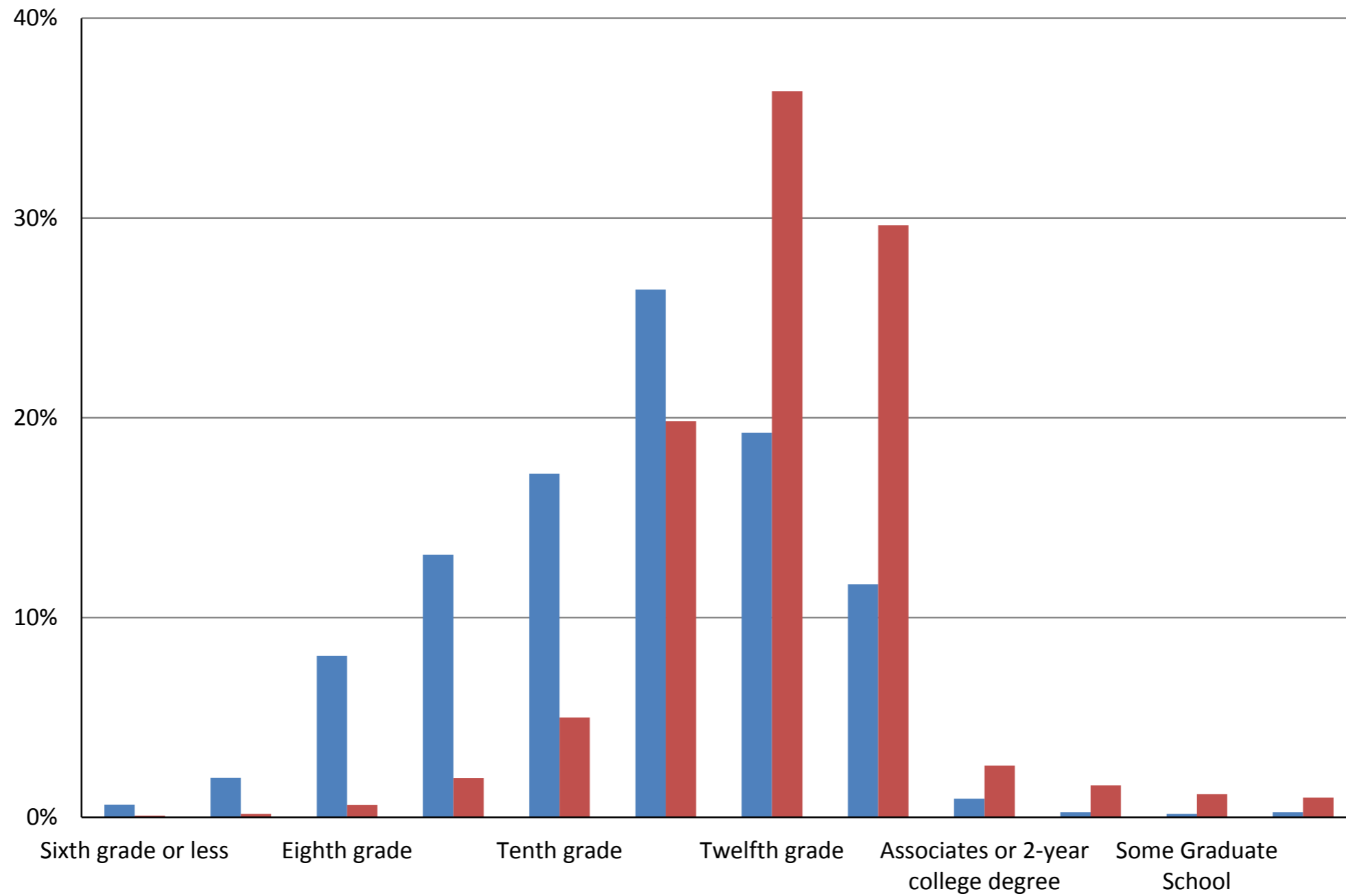
Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative



Asset Purchase by Category



1st and Most Recent Surveys for Age 18+ Highest Grade Completed



■ Looking at all 1st Surveys for those age 18+, percentages for "Highest Grade Completed".
■ Looking at all "Most Recent Available" Surveys for those age 18+, percentages for "Highest Grade Completed".

MYOI Education Support Partnerships

- Asset trainings in education for youth
- 16 education planners
- Education Success Program (ESP)
- Youth Education Liaisons
- MYOI Campus tours
- Jump Shot Your Future event/training
- Partnerships with over 12 colleges/universities with campus supports for foster youth.



Jump Shot Your Future event in Detroit was hosted by the Park West Foundation, & MYOI-ESP



Education Success Program

The Education Success Program is a program within MYOI that serves older youth ages 21-24 years old in the area of higher education. ESP participants will be able to use their IDA accounts to make a 3:1 match on education related costs.

There are 2 ESP coordinators who work with the youth involved in the ESP program in Wayne and Kent County.

They help participants create education plans, set goals and connect them with resources for success. The youth who qualify for ESP but are not currently ready to make an education match, can participate in ESP preparatory. ESP preparatory serves MYOI youth, ages 18-24 in Wayne and Kent County.

- We know that national data tells us less than 3% of youth transitioning from foster care will earn a college degree by age 25.
- In the state of Michigan we have many partners working to ensure our youth can compete in the workforce with a college education, and foster care will not stop them.



Contact Information

Khadija Walker-Fobbs

kfobbs@myoifund.org

248-921-8282

Christi Taylor

christi@micollegeaccess.org

517-316-1713

Sarah Anthony

sarah@micollegeaccess.org

517-316-1713