

Ottawa County Department of Human Services



Annual Plan 2012

www.michigan.gov/mibridges



MI BRIDGES
State of Michigan

[FAQ](#)
[Español](#)



Login to MI Bridges

* User ID

* Password

User Login

Forgot your password? Is your account locked? Please enter your User ID and [Click Here](#)

Community Partners Login

Am I Eligible?

Apply for Benefits!

- > Food Assistance
- > Medical Assistance
- > Cash Assistance
- > Child Care
- > Emergency Services

View My Case

- > Check My Benefits
- > Report My Changes
- > Upload My Documents

If you do not have a user id and password, click on 'Apply For Benefits' or 'View My Case' to create an account.

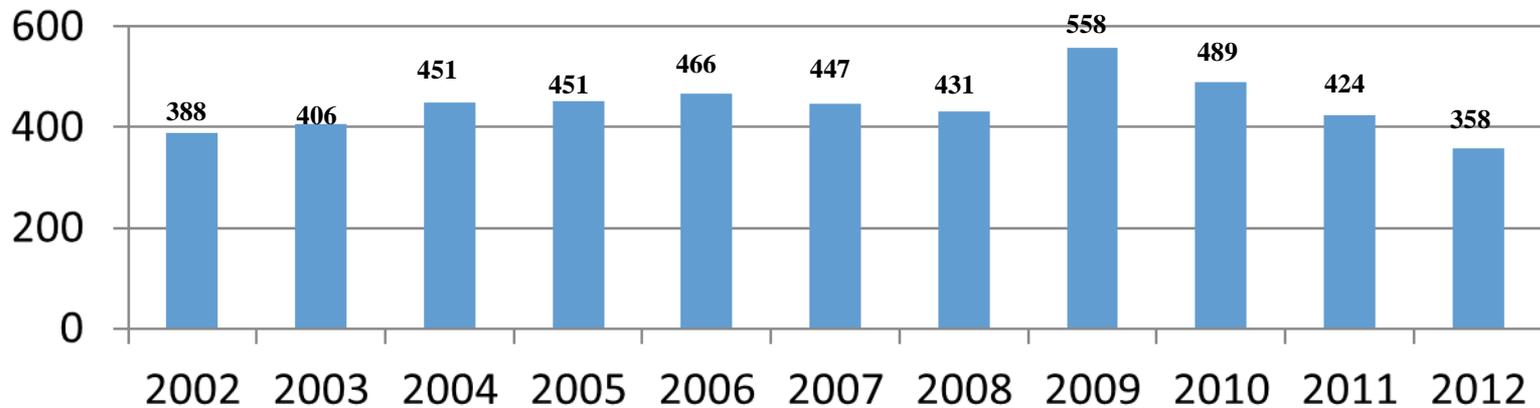
If you have not used a computer very much and would like to practice before you get started, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to see MIBridges training videos.

Ottawa County DHS provides Cash Assistance

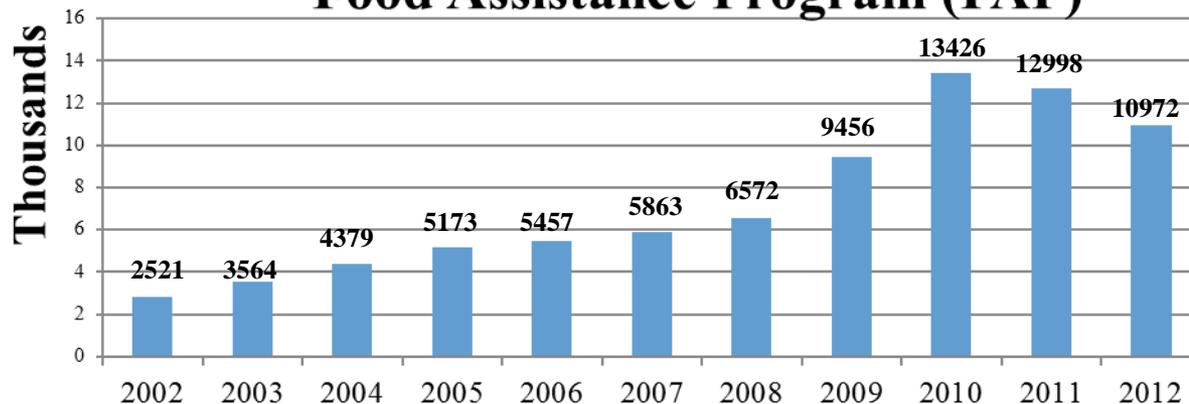
- Family Independence Program (FIP)
 - Food Assistance Program (FAP)
 - Child Development and Care (CDC)
 - State Disability Assistance (SDA)
 - State Emergency Relief (SER)
-

FIP Caseload



- The goal of the Family Independence Program (FIP) is to help families achieve self-support and independence, and to reduce dependence on public assistance. The Family Independence Program provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women who meet income and asset requirements.
 - Applicants for cash assistance will take part in a robust, results-oriented work participation program in conjunction with Michigan Works called PATH (Partnership, Accountability, Training & Hope). The new program features a 21-day assessment period during which barriers to employment are identified and caseworkers work individually with clients to connect them with resources to address these barriers.
 - **The average FIP payment per family in Ottawa County in FY 2012 was \$346 per month.**
 - **Ottawa County families received \$1,505,664 in total FIP payments during 2012.**
-

Food Assistance Program (FAP)

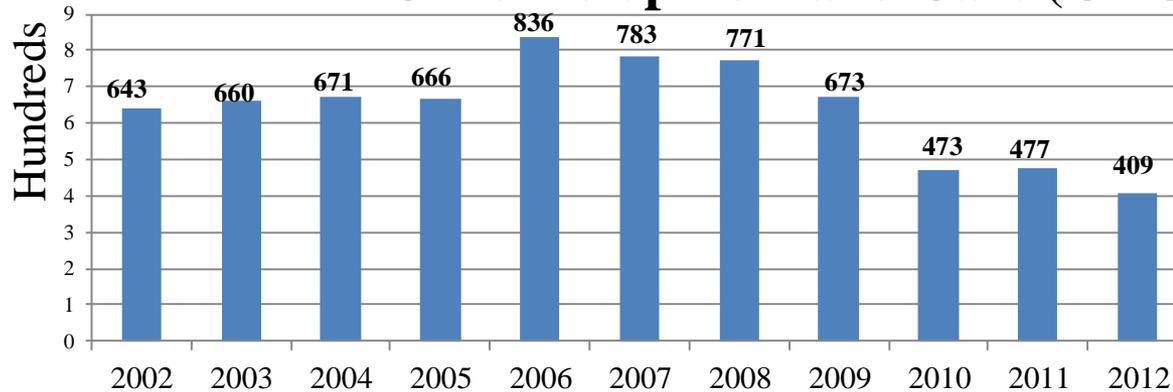


- The Food Assistance Program provides financial assistance to increase the food purchasing power of eligible low-income households. Families obtain their benefits through the Bridge Card.
- A household of 4 with a monthly net income of \$2,367 or less, qualifies for benefits.

**In 2012, monthly FAP benefits averaged \$120 per person in Ottawa County.
Ottawa County citizens received \$35,253,290 in FAP benefits during 2012.**



Child Development and Care (CDC)

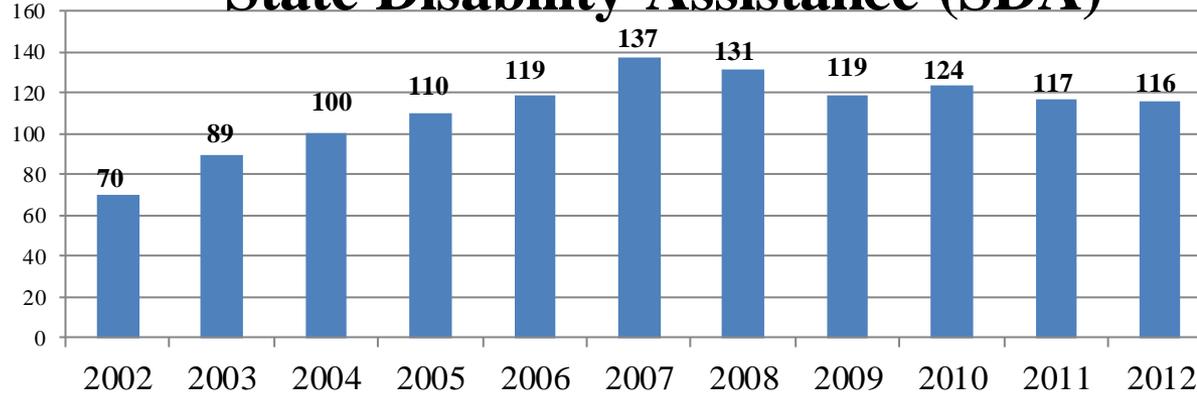


- The Child Development and Care program provides funding for all or a portion of child day care expenses when the parent, legal guardian, or other caretaker is unavailable to provide child care due to employment, attending high school, GED, or training classes; and/or a health/social condition for which treatment is being received. This program provides payments for children up to age 13. (Note: Children ages 13-18 may receive child care under certain circumstances.)

Ottawa County provided CDC payments to an average of 409 families per month during 2012. The average monthly child care payment per family was \$447 per month. The Total Child Day Care payments for FY 2012 in Ottawa County was \$2,193,743.



State Disability Assistance (SDA)



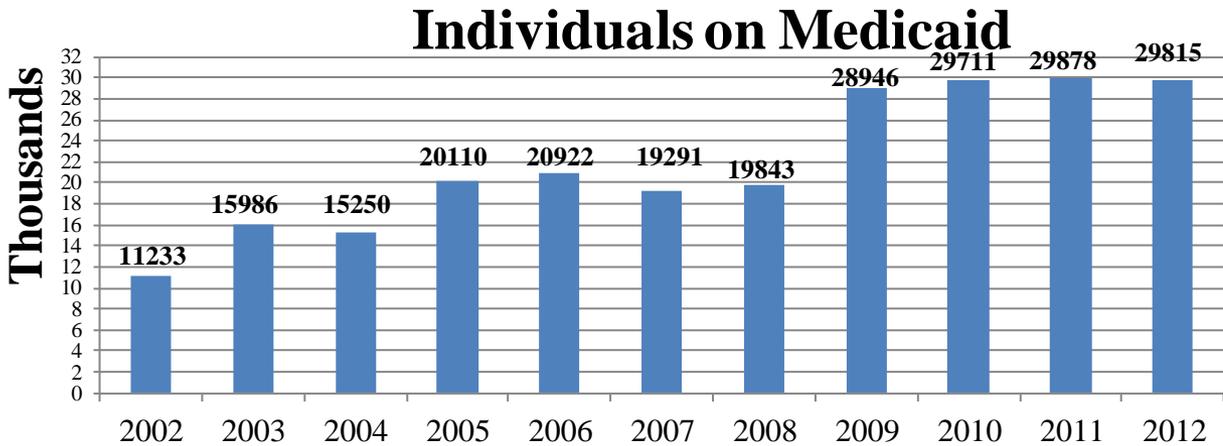
The State Disability Assistance Program is a cash assistance program for disabled individuals without dependent children. To be eligible for this program, the individual must be disabled and unable to work for at least 90 days due to a physical or mental disability, be enrolled in special education classes or be a caretaker for an individual who is disabled for at least 90 days and unable to care for themselves as verified by a medical provider.

Total funds spent on SDA in Ottawa County for 2012 was \$302,274.

State Emergency Relief (SER)

The State Emergency Relief Program provides limited financial assistance to individuals/families facing emergencies that threaten their health or safety. Covered services include rent payments to avoid homelessness, house payments and property-tax payments when foreclosures or tax sales are imminent, home repairs and utility assistance to shut-offs or to restore service. State Emergency relief is funded both by state and federal funds. Expenses for last year include the following:

➤ Rental Assistance	\$94,021
➤ Home Ownership (mortgage foreclosures, tax sales)	\$18,254
➤ Utilities (water & Sewer Shut-offs) & Deposits	\$22,756
➤ Burial Assistance	\$25,040
➤ Heat Assistance	\$320,947
➤ Electric Assistance	\$583,200
➤ Furnace Repair and Replacement	\$32,756
➤ Home Repair	\$15,218
➤ Total SER payments for 2012	\$1,112,192



Medicaid provides necessary health care services to cash and SSI recipients and other low-income, medically-needy persons who are; under the age of 21; pregnant; disabled; blind; or age 65 and older. Although Medicaid in Michigan is administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health, Medicaid eligibility is determined by DHS according to an individual's or family's income and assets. There are over 30 different Medicaid categories in Michigan to help low-income families and individuals access the medical care they need. Coverage may begin three months before an application month. Eligible clients receive a MI-Health Card, which verifies Medicaid eligibility for medical providers. This is a federal and state funded program.

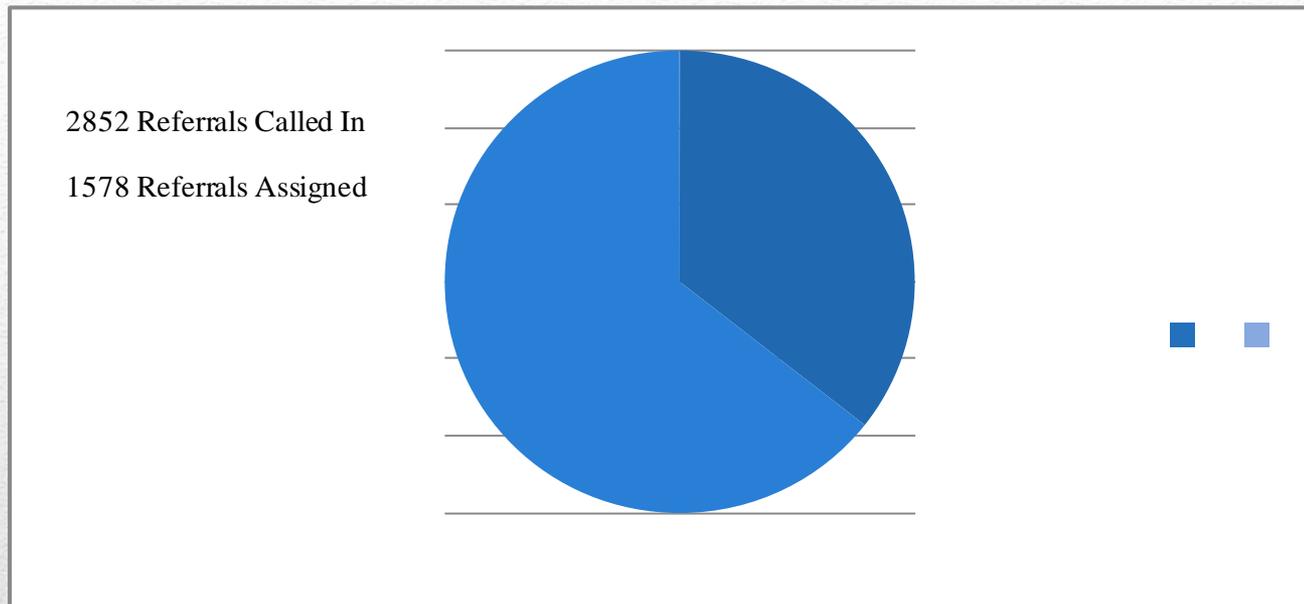
At the end of 2012, Ottawa County had 32,617 individuals active for Medicaid.



Ottawa County DHS provides Individual and Family Services

- Protective Services for Children
 - Foster Care & Foster Home Licensing
 - Michigan Youth Opportunity Initiative (MYOI)
 - Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAFVC)
 - Prevention Services
 - Adult Protective Services
 - Adult Independent Living Services
 - Adult Community Placement Services
-

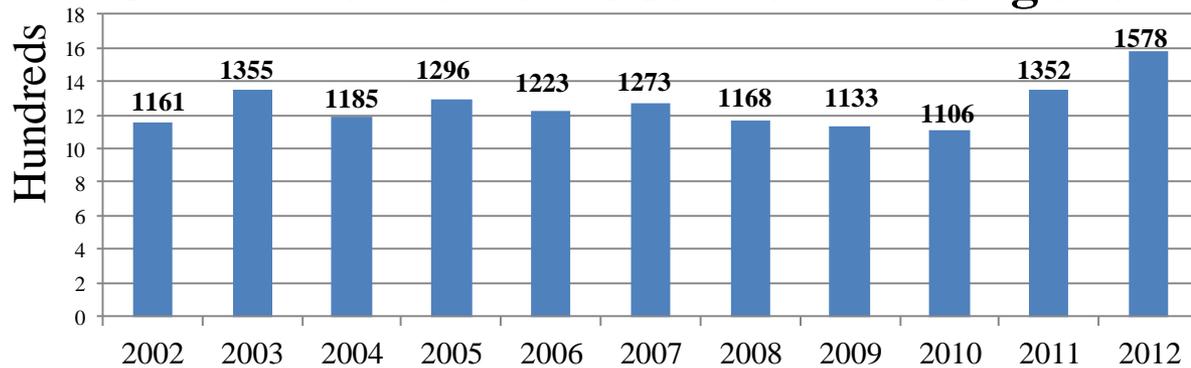
Centralized Intake



On March 5th, 2012 the State of Michigan went to a 24 hour/7 day a week Centralized Intake System. Ottawa county was part of the original pilot in September 2011, which assisted in the rollout statewide. The Department of Human Services established a Centralized Intake (CI) unit to ensure consistency across the state in how abuse and neglect complaints to Children's Protective Services (CPS) Intake and Adult Protective Services (APS), are documented. For CPS it provides consistency in evaluation and decisions related to assignment.

(855)444-3911

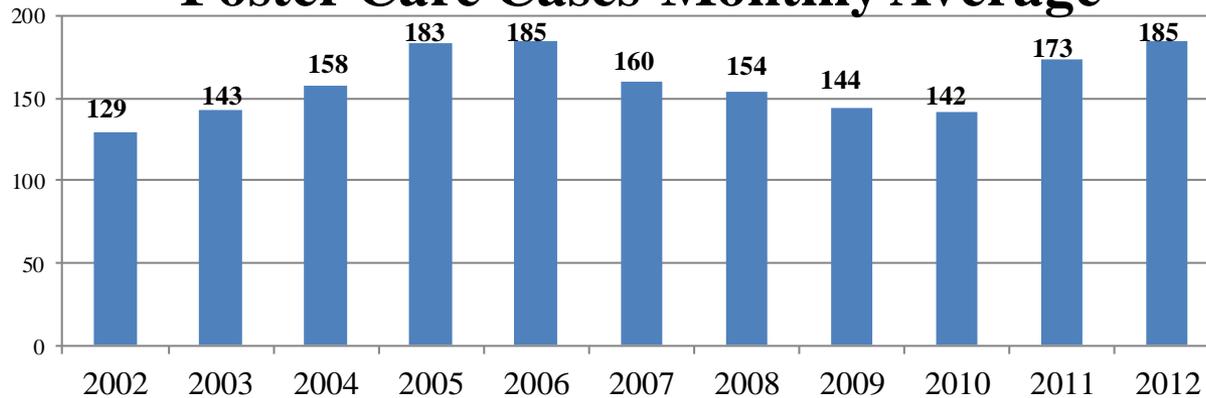
Children's Protective Services Investigations



Children's Protective Services (CPS) investigates or remedies abuse, neglect or exploitation of children under the age of 18 when the alleged perpetrator is a parent, legal guardian or an adult who is responsible for the child's health or welfare. Anyone may make a complaint if abuse or neglect is suspected. DHS has only investigative authority, enforcement authority is with the police and the courts.

**In 2012, Ottawa County DHS received 2,852 CPS referrals.
Of that number, 1578 (55.3%) were assigned for abuse/neglect investigations.**

Foster Care Cases-Monthly Average



The Children's Foster Care staff provides placement, supervision and monitoring services for children in foster care who cannot remain in their own homes due to abuse or neglect. A primary goal of the foster care staff is to reunite children with their families. If this is not possible, workers will petition the courts to have parental rights terminated and adoption may become the goal. Funding is provided by a combination of federal, state and/or county appropriations depending on the family's eligibility.

In 2012, Ottawa County DHS averaged 185 children in foster care.

Of that number 57% were supervised by private agency staff and 43% by DHS staff.

FOSTER HOME LICENSING

The ultimate goal of foster care is to keep children safe from abuse and neglect by providing a safe home environment and, when possible, reunite children with their birth families.

Foster children are all ages and races, and are often in sibling groups. Usually, the Department of Human Services and family courts have removed them from their birth families because of abuse or neglect. Many of the children have not had consistency or safety in their lives and come with a variety of challenges and needs (behavioral, emotional, physical and developmental).

Ottawa County licensed 53 homes in the FY'12.



Young Voluntary Foster Care

The Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care Act allows the extension of foster care services to age 21 for youth who were in state supervised foster care at age 18 or older.

PROGAM Requirements:

- Actively completing high school or a program leading to a general equivalency diploma (GED).
- Enrolled at least part-time in a college, university, vocational program, or trade school.
- Employed in either full or part-time work or participating in a program that promotes employment (such as Job Corps, Michigan Works!, or another employment skill building program. Participating must be at least 80 hours per month and may be at one or more places of employment and/or combination of the above activities.
- Incapable of the above educational and employment activities due to a documented medical condition.

In 2012, 6 youth were serviced through YAVFC program in Ottawa County.

MYOI

The Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative is a partnership between the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Michigan Department of Human Services. The program was created to improve outcomes for youths transitioning from foster care to adulthood.

In 2012, Ottawa County had 6 youth complete the required financial literacy training and enroll in the MYOI program bringing the total of 12 youth participating in the program by years end.

12 Youth Board Meetings were held allowing youth to participate in the planning and direction of the program.

45 Asset Trainings were provided to youth covering topics such as: Community Resources, Educational Opportunities, Healthy Living, Budgeting, and Employment

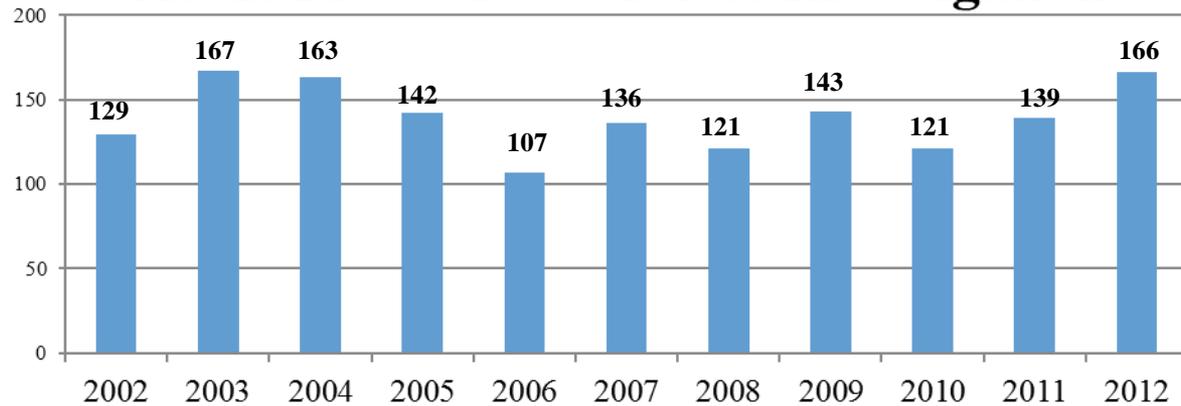
In 2012, the program helped several youth by matching their savings to purchase assets including a car, computers, and housing.

Prevention Services

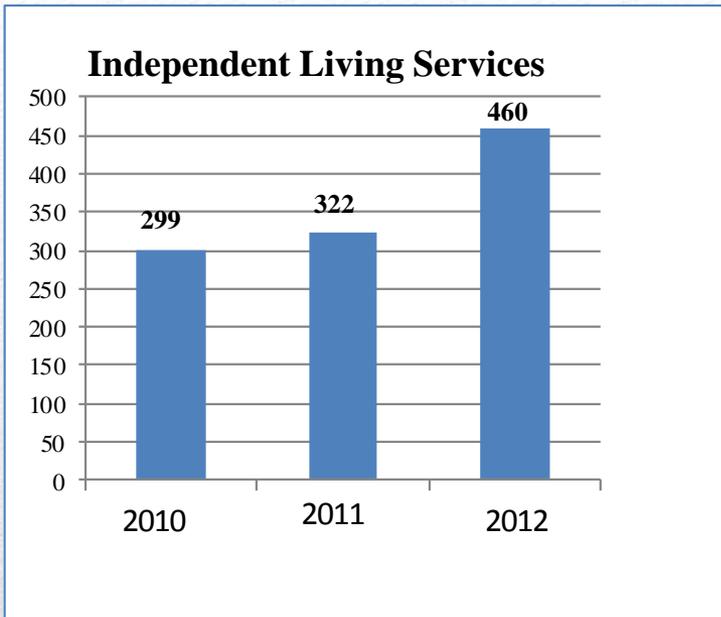
Prevention Services are family-based services which connect the family with community resources to prevent child abuse and neglect. Ottawa County DHS provides these services directly by a Prevention caseworker that works half-time, by collaborating with community resources and by purchasing the following prevention services:

➤ Families First	\$309,481
➤ Counseling	\$666,267
➤ Families Together Building Solutions	\$101,982
➤ Emergency Shelter	\$ 19,328
➤ Family Reunification Program	\$ 14,217

Adult Protective Services Investigations



Adult Protective Services Specialists investigate allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation and provide protection to vulnerable adults (persons 18 years or older). Investigators coordinate with mental health, public health, law enforcement, the probate courts, the aging network, community groups and the general public to take the necessary steps to correct their abuse/neglect situation.



Adult Independent Living Services provides case management, home-help services, and supported services to enable individuals to remain in their own homes as an alternative to nursing home or institutional placement.



Department of Human Services

Department of Human Services Board

- Gail RingelbergChairperson
Bob VanderzwaagMember
Sandra Metcalf.....Member

Administration

- Kendra SpanjerDirector
Michelle SoudersProgram Manager

Office Location

12185 James Street – Suite 200
Holland, MI 49424

Mission

Improving the quality of life in Michigan by providing services to vulnerable children and adults that will strengthen the community and enable families and individuals to move toward independence.
