

# Ottawa County Department of Human Services



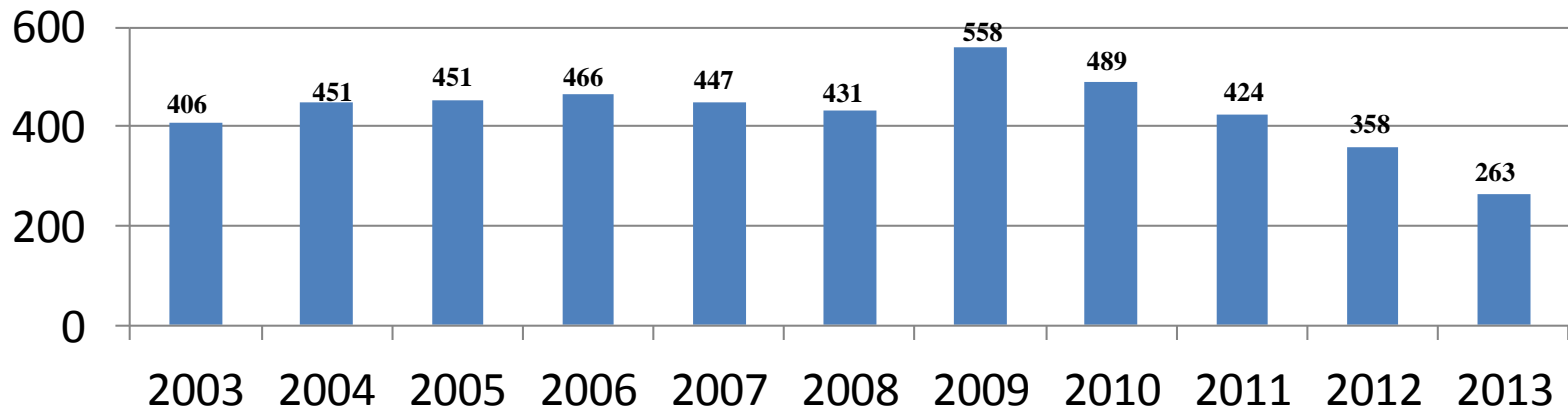
Annual Plan 2013

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# Ottawa County DHS provides Cash Assistance

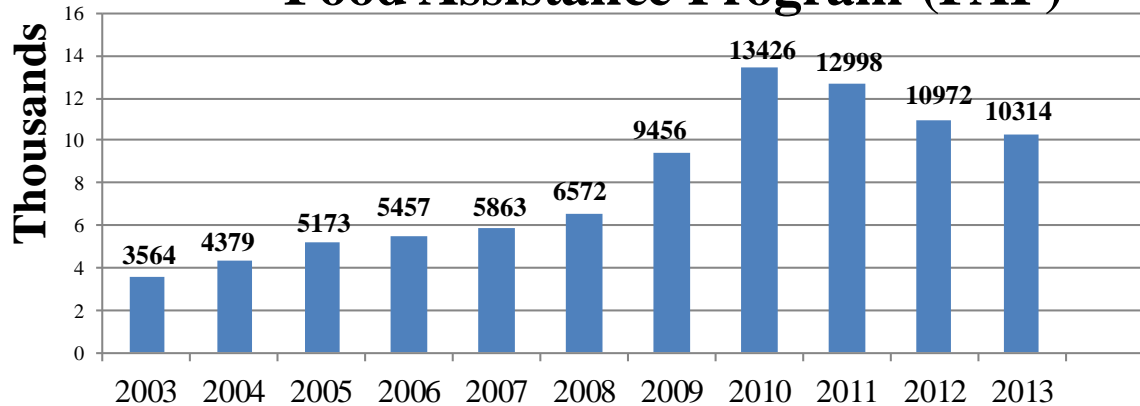
- Family Independence Program (FIP)
  - Food Assistance Program (FAP)
  - Child Development and Care (CDC)
  - State Disability Assistance (SDA)
  - State Emergency Relief (SER)
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## FIP Caseload



- 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 are required to take part in a work participation program in conjunction with Michigan Works called PATH (Partnership, Accountability, Training & Hope). The 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 2013 was \$351 per month.**
  - **Ottawa County families received \$91,833 in total FIP payments during 2013.**
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## Food Assistance Program (FAP)

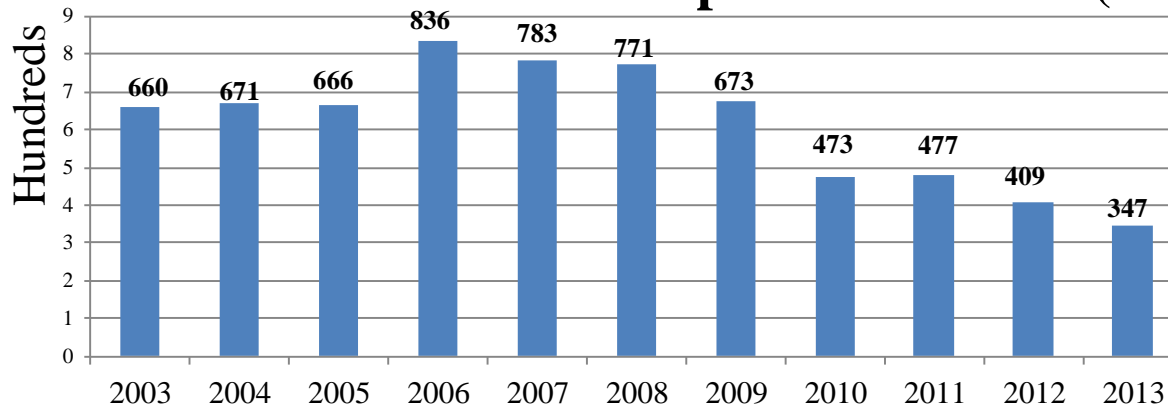


- The Food Assistance Program provides financial assistance to increase the food purchasing power of eligible low-income households. Families obtain their benefits through the Bridge Card.
- A household of 4 with a monthly net income of \$2,367 or less, qualifies for benefits.
- Every year there is a slight change in benefits on October 1<sup>st</sup> to reflect the costs of living. In November 2013 there was also a change in the monthly benefits received due to the end of the extra benefits provided by the federal stimulus package. On average, a family of four saw a decrease of about \$36 per month.

**In 2013, monthly FAP benefits averaged \$119 per person in Ottawa  
Ottawa County residents received \$32,039,540 in FAP benefits during**



## Child Development and Care (CDC)

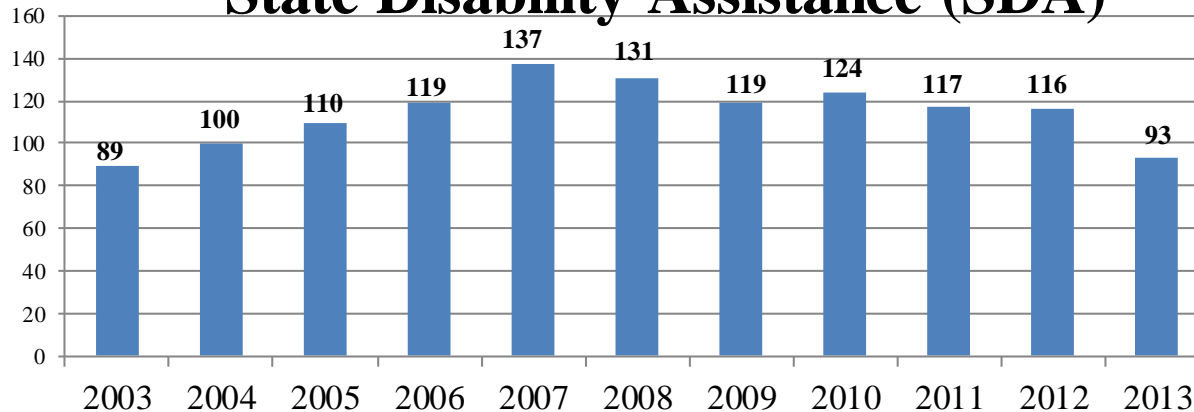


- The Child Development and Care program provides funding for all or a portion of child day care expenses when the parent, legal guardian, or other caretaker is unavailable to provide child care due to employment, attending high school, GED, or training classes; and/or a health/social condition for which 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 347 families per month during 2013. The average monthly child care payment per family was \$461 per month. The Total Child Day Care payments for FY 2013 in Ottawa County was \$1,926,820.**



## 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 2013 was \$228,637.**

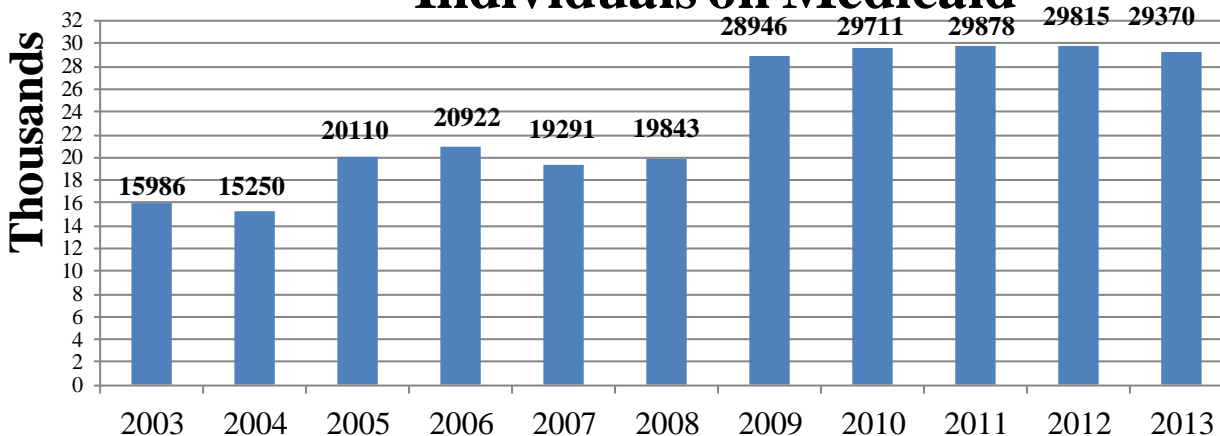
# State Emergency Relief (SER)

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 for 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	\$69,615
➤ Home Ownership (mortgage foreclosures, tax sales)	\$14,111
➤ Utilities (water & sewer shut-offs) & Deposits	\$16,028
➤ Burial Assistance	\$15,966
➤ Heat Assistance	\$282,712
➤ Electric Assistance	\$583,200
➤ Furnace Repair and Replacement	\$13,551
➤ Home Repair	\$30,977
➤ <b>Total SER payments for 2013</b>	<b>\$970,820</b>

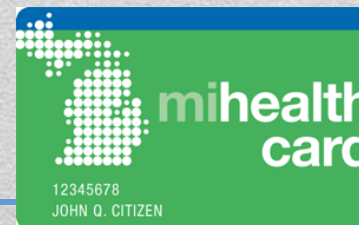
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## Individuals on Medicaid



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.

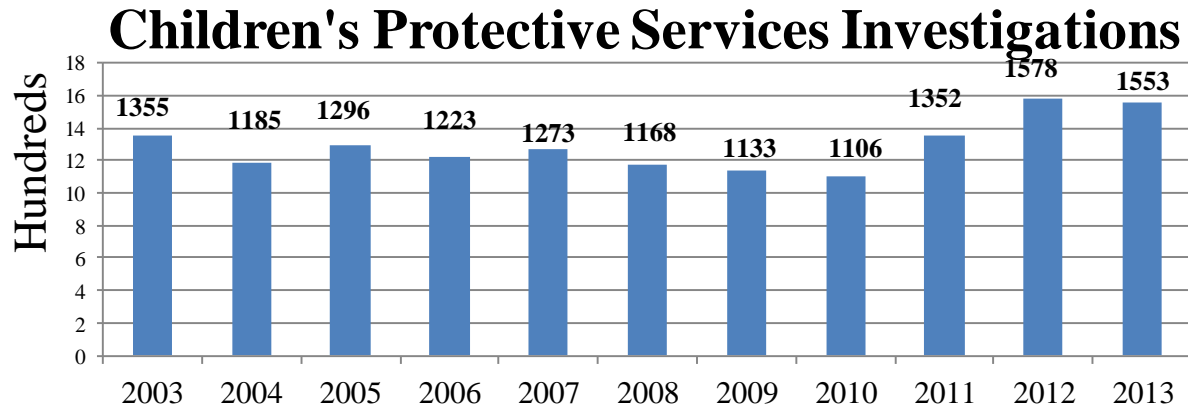
**At the end of 2013, Ottawa County had 29,370 individuals active for Medicaid.**





# Ottawa County DHS provides Individual and Family Services

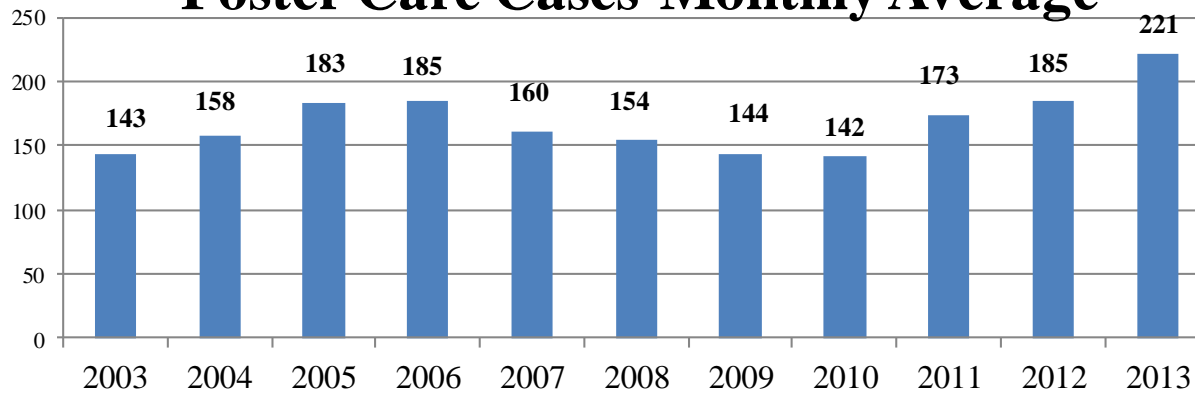
- Protective Services for Children
  - Foster Care & Foster Home Licensing
    - Michigan Youth Opportunity Initiative (MYOI)
    - Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAFVC)
  
  - Adult Protective Services
  - Adult Independent Living Services
  - Adult Community Placement Services
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Children's 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 by contacting Centralized Intake. DHS has only investigative authority, enforcement authority is with the police and the courts.

**In 2013, Ottawa County DHS received 2,929 CPS referrals.  
Of that number, 1553 (53%) were assigned for abuse/neglect investigations.**

## Foster Care Cases-Monthly Average



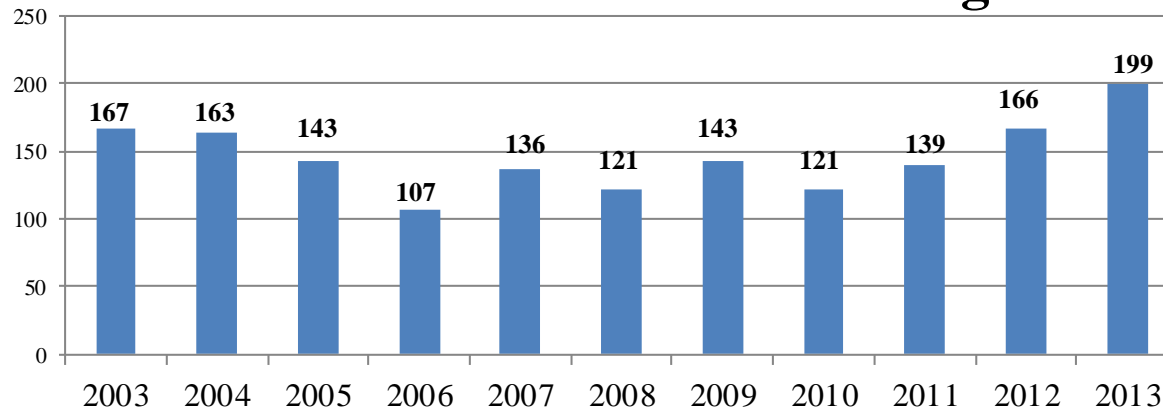
The Children's Foster Care staff provides placement, supervision and monitoring services for children in foster care who cannot remain in their own homes due to abuse or neglect. A primary goal of the foster care staff is to reunite children with their families. If this is not possible, workers will 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 2013, Ottawa County DHS averaged 221 children in foster care.**

**Of that number 40% were supervised by private agency staff and 60% by DHS staff.**

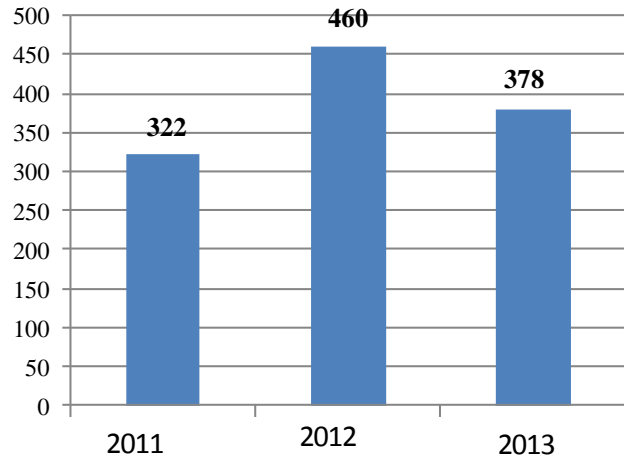
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## Adult Protective Services Investigations



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.

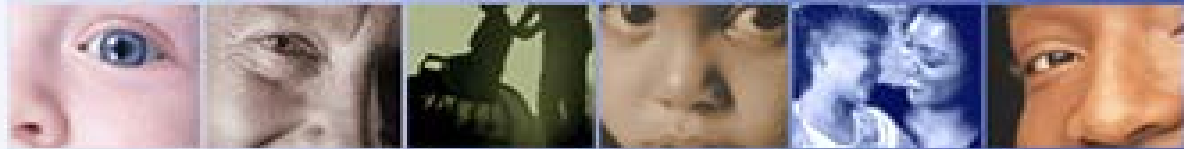
## Independent Living Services



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.

# Changes in 2013...

- Ottawa County went live with EDM (Electronic Document Management) in July 2013
    - Continuing to look for Navigation sites
  - Supplemental Emergency Relief – Crisis Season for Energy Services from November 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Prevention position eliminated October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Human Services Internship program
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# Department of Human Services

## Department of Human Services Board

- Gail Ringelberg .....Chairperson  
Bob VanderZwaag .....Member  
Sandra Metcalf.....Member

## Administration

- Kendra Spanjer .....Director  
Michelle Souders .....Program 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.

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