

**SENATE FISCAL AGENCY  
 MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 17, 2020  
**TO:** Members of the Michigan Senate  
**FROM:** Cory Savino, Fiscal Analyst  
**RE:** Executive Order 2019-19

**Executive Order 2019-19**

On December 18, 2019, Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order (E.O.) 2019-19 to create the Michigan Poverty Task Force as an interagency advisory board within the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO). The Task Force will act in an advisory capacity to the Governor to identify, recommend, and implement strategies to reduce poverty in Michigan. The Task Force will report regularly to the Governor on its activities.

Article V, Section 1 of the Michigan Constitution states that the power of the executive is vested in the Governor. Article V, Section 2 of the Michigan Constitution grants the Governor the power to make changes in the organization of executive departments that she considers necessary for efficient administration and that do not require the force of law. The establishment of the Michigan Poverty Task Force is not subject to legislative disapproval, and the order creating it was effective upon filing, December 18, 2019.

**Creation of the Michigan Poverty Task Force**

Executive Order 2019-19 creates the Michigan Poverty Task Force as an interagency advisory board within LEO. The Task Force must consist of department directors, or their respective designees, from the following departments: LEO; the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; the Department of Civil Rights; the Department of Corrections; the Department of Education; the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; the Department of Health and Human Services; the Department of Insurance and Financial Services; the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs; the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; the Department of Natural Resources; the Michigan State Police; the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget; the Department of Transportation; and the Department of Treasury. The Task Force also will consist of the executive director of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, the chairperson of the Michigan Public Service Commission, the executive director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and any other representatives from department, agencies, or instrumentalities of the Executive Branch that the Governor may choose to appoint. The Director or Director's designee from LEO must serve as the chairperson of the Task Force.

Within 45 days after the Executive Order is filed, the chairperson of the Task Force must establish an advisory council whose membership will include three State legislators from urban and rural areas affected by poverty, and three Michigan residents affected by poverty or working with communities in poverty.

### **Charge of the Task Force**

The Task Force must research, identify, recommend, and implement strategies for reducing poverty in Michigan, which may include the following:

- Identifying and evaluating poverty's root causes and contributing factors in Michigan and the effectiveness of previous efforts to address poverty in Michigan.
- Identifying and evaluating financial and other resources to combat poverty in the State.
- Identifying and evaluating barriers to upward mobility and developing strategies to overcome these barriers in Michigan.
- Developing strategies to increase public awareness of poverty and the resources available to those affected by it.
- Developing routine communication protocols between the Task Force and stakeholders.
- Identifying key stakeholders in areas affected by poverty and performing outreach to those stakeholders.
- Performing general public outreach regarding poverty in Michigan and the work of the Task Force.
- Creating measurable goals and objectives for the State along established timelines.
- Recommending changes in Michigan law and policy that can be implemented by various agencies that are relevant to fighting poverty in Michigan.
- Any other duties requested by LEO or the Governor.

The Task Force will report regularly to the Governor on its activities.

### **Operations of the Task Force**

The Task Force will be staffed and assisted by LEO; LEO also will provide any budget, procurement, or other management functions necessary to perform the Task Force's objectives. The Task Force must adopt procedures consistent with Michigan law and may select from among its members a vice chairperson and secretary.

The Task Force may establish advisory workgroups, conduct investigations, hold hearings, consult with outside experts, or hire or retain contractors or consultants as determined by the Director of LEO. Members of the Task Force must coordinate all legislative and media contacts that involve the work of the Task Force.

### **Types of Transfers**

The creation of the Task Force does not involve a Type I, II, or III transfer as identified under the Executive Organization Act.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity will incur any costs for staff or support that is provided to the Task Force. Members of the Task Force will serve without compensation; however, they may be reimbursed for necessary travel and expenses consistent with current law, rules, and procedures, and subject to available funding.

The typical annual costs to support an advisory committee can range from \$10,000 to \$200,000 depending on the travel expenses and staff demands of the Task Force. As mentioned, the costs will be determined by demand and available funding within the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity; thus, there is no anticipated need for additional funding.

**Summary**

Executive Order 2019-19 creates the Michigan Poverty Task Force as an interagency advisory board within LEO. The Task Force will act in an advisory capacity to the Governor to identify, recommend, and implement strategies to reduce poverty in Michigan. The Task Force will report regularly to the Governor on its activities.

The E.O. that created the Task Force was effective upon filing, December 18, 2019.

If you have any questions on E.O. 2019-19, please do not hesitate to contact me.

/mh

c: Christopher Harkins, Director  
Kathryn Summers, Associate Director