

Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness

Empowering Communities, Ending Homelessness



State IDs

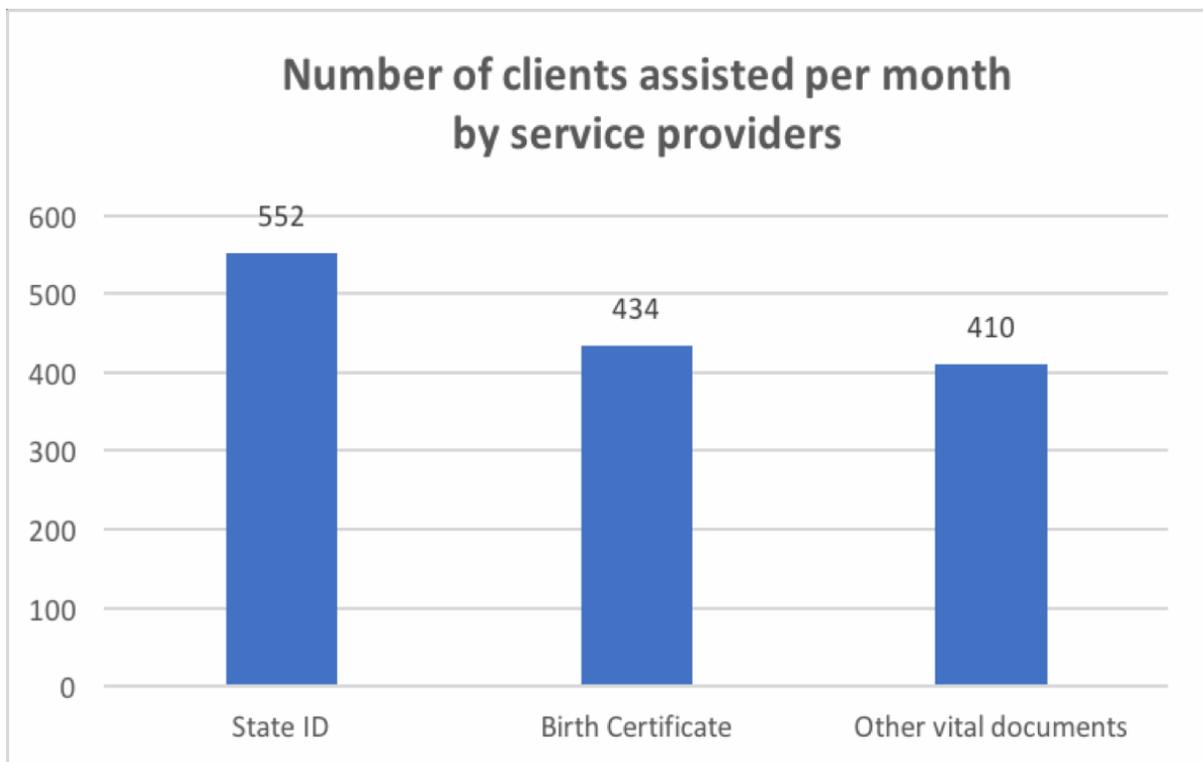
Background

In order to complete most daily basic functions, one needs a State ID. For thousands of Michiganians obtaining valid proof of identity is far more difficult than it should be. They face obstacles ranging from a lack of supporting documents such as a birth certificate or Social Security card, they do not have the funds, or time to take public transportation multiple times to the local Secretary of State office.

In July 2013 a State ID Task Force was formed in Oakland County. The Taskforce worked with the Secretary of State to launch a pilot with two branch locations in Oakland county and one location in Wayne county. The pilot focused on expediting applications and allowing for alternate documentation through the SoS Exceptions unit for homeless individuals who were working with a case manager from one of a select few service providers. Since then the pilot has spread to Genesee, Macomb and Calhoun counties. Despite the success of the pilot and the need statewide, the Secretary of State currently does not plan to extend the pilot to any additional communities.

In February of 2016, the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness in partnership with State ID Task Force, conducted a survey of homeless service providers to get a better sense of the scope and scale of the issue. We had 92 agencies respond to the survey and here are some of the key things we discovered:

Scope of the Issue



Major Challenges to Obtaining an ID

Top 3 Barriers to Obtaining an ID:

- Acquiring supporting documents
- Cost
- Transportation

73% of clients go to the Secretary of State Office **2 or more times** to obtain an ID with nearly **33%** going **3 or more times**

2 ½ Hours
The average amount of time staff assist clients with obtaining an ID

Only 13% of clients qualify for a **fee waiver** to cover costs

40% of birth certificates are obtained **out of county** and **23%** are obtained **out of state**

How you can help

- Support legislation that makes it easier for people experiencing homelessness to obtain a State ID.
- Support increased funding for local County Clerks Offices to cover fee waivers for homeless individuals who need birth certificates.
- Encourage the Secretary of State to expand the pilot ID program to additional counties.

Contact

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