



JAMES J. BLANCHARD, Governor

OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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The Honorable James J. Blanchard
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Blanchard:

As you know, the problems of substance abuse are likely to be a major campaign issue this year. We can expect most candidates to talk about substance abuse issues. The Reagan Administration "War on Drugs" and the Democratic response at the federal level (HR 5334 - Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1986) are likely to increase public awareness, anxiety and fears about drug problems in Michigan.

For these and other reasons, it is important to review the solid progress of your administration, to find ways to let the public know what your Administration has already accomplished, and to share with them the plans that we have for the future.

"Let us start with a proposition with which most, or at least many, Americans agree. Drugs are a serious problem in our nation's life...Let us further agree that illegal drugs are an epidemic that has taken lives, wrecked careers, broken homes, invaded schools, incited crimes, tainted businesses, toppled heroes, corrupted policemen and politicians, bled billions from the economy and in some measure infected every corner of our public and private lives..." (Hodding Carter, Wall Street Journal, August 14, 1986).

The foundation to the Blanchard Administration's response to this epidemic in substance abuse problems has been to restore a solid financial base to Michigan's network of publicly funded alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment services. Attachment 2 displays the real dollar impacts on substance abuse prevention and treatment resources of budgetary decisions during the last three years of the Milliken Administration, the last five years of the Reagan Administration and the first three years of the Blanchard Administration. Under both the Milliken