

STATEMENT

Curtis Hertel is a shady political insider who has spent his career getting rich off of Michigan taxpayers. As Governor Whitmer's top lobbyist, Curtis Hertel was in charge of passing the state budget and he used his position to give \$1.5 million in taxpayer funds to a politically connected non-profit through his wife's agency. He resigned the day the budget was signed into law and then immediately accepted a \$100,000 contract from that same non-profit.

Verification

On December 28, 2022, Curtis Hertel Jr. Announced He Was To Serve As Legislative Director For Governor Gretchen Whitmer Starting January 1st. “Proud to share that as of January 1st I will serve as Legislative Director for Governor Gretchen Whitmer. I Look forward to continuing in public service and being part of a great team!” (Curtis Hertel Jr., [Facebook](#), 12/28/22)

HEADLINE: “Insider: Hertel To Become Whitmer's Chief Lobbyist” (Beth Leblanc And Chad Livengood, “Insider: Hertel To Become Whitmer's Chief Lobbyist,” [The Detroit News](#), 12/31/22)

Insider: Hertel to become Whitmer's chief lobbyist

Beth LeBlanc and Chad Livengood The Detroit News
Published 11:00 p.m. ET Dec. 31, 2022

(Beth Leblanc And Chad Livengood, “Insider: Hertel To Become Whitmer's Chief Lobbyist,” [The Detroit News](#), 12/31/22)

Hertel Was Part Of Negotiations On The \$82 Billion FY2024 Budget. “He was part of negotiations on the \$82 billion Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget, which the Legislature finished passing this week.” (Jon King, “Hertel Resigns As Whitmer Legislative Affairs Director, Fueling Speculation Of Congressional Run,” [Michigan Advance](#), 6/30/23)

On June 30, 2023, Hertel Left The Whitmer Administration. “Curtis Hertel Jr. has officially left the Gov. Gretchen Whitmer administration, furthering speculation that he will announce a run for Congress to replace U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Lansing), who's launched a U.S. Senate bid. In a press release Friday, Whitmer announced that Hertel had stepped down as her director of legislative affairs, a position the Democrat had held since being term-limited from the Michigan Senate in 2022.” (Jon King, “Hertel Resigns As Whitmer Legislative Affairs Director, Fueling Speculation Of Congressional Run,” [Michigan Advance](#), 6/30/23)

Per The Omnibus For FY 2024, \$1.5 Million Was Appropriated To Create A Social Determinants Of Health Hub, Located In A City With A Population Between 80,000 And 82,000. (State Of Michigan, [Act No. 119](#), Pg. 134 And 202 , Effective: 8/1/23)

	For Fiscal Year Ending Sept. 30, 2024
Medically underserved area services	\$ 700,000
Michigan Clinical Consultation and Care	2,500,000
Michigan crisis and access line	5,000,000
Michigan relief plan	2,000,000
Mobile mammography	1,000,000
Multicultural integration funding	8,600,000
Narcotics awareness program	5,000,000
Native American health services	3,000,000
Prenatal and infant allowance pilot program	16,500,000
Psychiatric GME	8,000,000
Public health operations	3,166,700
Recovery community organizations	1,800,000
Rides to wellness	250,000
Rural obstetric services	1,500,000
Safe opioid use task force	500,000
Senior citizen home renovation	1,183,300
Senior nutrition services	1,000,000
Senior university	400,000
Sickle cell center	2,500,000
Social determinants of health hub - one-time	1,500,000
Substance abuse community and school outreach	1,000,000
Substance use rehabilitation services	3,500,000
Substance use treatment center	10,000,000
Theranostics clinic	20,000,000
Tobacco prevention and cessation programs	1,500,000
University autism center	4,000,000
University dental clinic	4,000,000
Water quality projects	61,439,400
Women's health grant backfill	2,000,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	\$ 347,413,400
Appropriated from:	
Federal revenues:	
Coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund	2,500,000
Social security act, temporary assistance for needy families	16,500,000
Total other federal revenues	10,983,400
State general fund/general purpose	\$ 317,450,000

(State Of Michigan, [Act No. 119](#), Pg. 134 , Effective: 8/1/23)

Sec. 1988. From the funds appropriated in part 1 for social determinants of health hub - one-time, the department shall allocate \$1,500,000.00 to a nonprofit organization organized under the laws of this state that is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 501, located in a city with a population between 80,000 and 82,000 according to the most recent federal decennial census that runs health equity programs. The funding must be used for start-up costs necessary to create a social determinants of health hub, to offer technical assistance to other communities across this state, and to provide multisector coordination necessary to become a social determinants of health hub.

(State Of Michigan, [Act No. 119](#), Pg. 202 , Effective: 8/1/23)

- **NOTE:** the city of Flint [appears to have](#) a population of 80,628.

State Senator John Cherry Touted The Appropriation Creating A SDOH Hub Through The Greater Flint Health Coalition, Which He Took Credit For. (State Senator John Cherry, “Sen. Cherry Secures Major Budget Wins For Flint And Genesee County,” [Press Release](#), 6/30/23)

Flint & Genesee County's 2024 Budget Items will:	
• Enable the Michigan School for the Deaf (MSD), located in Flint, to build a new student dormitory;	
• Build a new high school for the Beecher Community School District, which currently houses middle and high schools in the same building;	
• Promote entrepreneurship through initiatives such as 100K Ideas and Foodie Commons, Flint's first dedicated food truck park, with a focus on empowering women and minority-owned food businesses;	
• Increase support for Rides to Wellness, a nonemergency medical transport service benefiting Genesee County residents;	
• Invest in early childhood and youth education with support to Educare Flint and Flint YMCA;	
• Establish long-term funding for the maintenance of Flint State Park through the Community Foundation Endowment;	
• Create a Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hub through the Greater Flint Health Coalition;	
• Expand mental health services at the Boys & Girls Club of Flint;	
• Provide healthcare workforce training through GST Michigan Works, and;	
• Combat crime and ensure public safety by replacing police cruisers for the City of Flint and increasing capacity in the Genesee County Prosecutors' office.	

(State Senator John Cherry, “Sen. Cherry Secures Major Budget Wins For Flint And Genesee County,” [Press Release](#), 6/30/23)

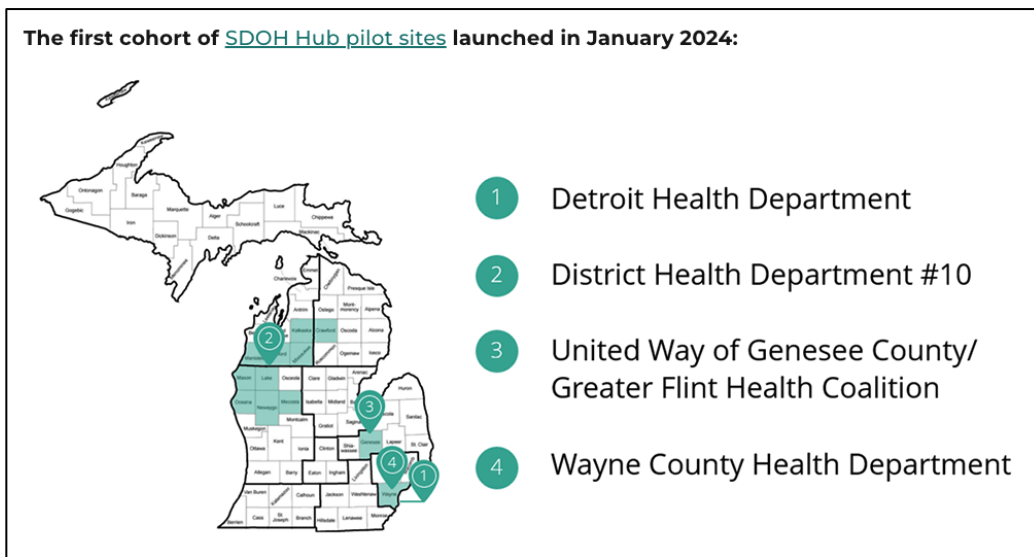
- **NOTE:** Hertel is [a campaign donor](#) of Cherry, who has [backed his](#) congressional run.

Per The Detroit News, The State Budget Included \$1.5 Million To Create A Hub In Flint Working On Non-Medical Factors To Influence Health Outcomes, Which Was To Go To The Genesee County United Way. “The new state budget featured a \$1.5 million appropriation to create a hub in Flint to work on non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. The money is going to the Genesee County United Way through the Department of Health and Human Services budget, according to the nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency.” (Craig Mauger, “Key U.S. House Hopeful Moved From Whitmer's Office To Nonprofit Tied To \$1.5M Grant,” [The Detroit News](#), 11/1/23)

The CEO Of The United Way In Genesee County Said His Organization Was The Fiduciary For The State Funding With Services Being Provided By The Greater Flint Health Organization. “Jamie Gaskin, CEO of the United Way in Genesee County, said his organization is serving as the fiduciary for the state funding with the services being provided by the Greater Flint Health Coalition. Likewise, state Sen. John Cherry, D-Flint, said in a statement on June 30 that the hub will be created by the Greater Flint Health Coalition.” (Craig Mauger, “Key U.S. House Hopeful Moved From Whitmer’s Office To Nonprofit Tied To \$1.5M Grant,” [The Detroit News](#), 11/1/23)

The Greater Flint Health Coalition Received The \$1.5 Million Appropriation. “While Hertel denies having any involvement with a \$1.5 million budget appropriation that’s slated to fund an upcoming Greater Flint Health Coalition project, the situation puts a spotlight on the close, behind-the-scenes relationships between groups seeking assistance from state government and officials in positions to provide it.” (Craig Mauger, “Key U.S. House Hopeful Moved From Whitmer’s Office To Nonprofit Tied To \$1.5M Grant,” [The Detroit News](#), 11/1/23)

The Greater Flint Health Coalition And Genesee United Way Were Among Those Listed As Being Launched For The Pilot Program For SDOH Hubs. (“SDOH Hub Pilots,” [State Of Michigan](#), Accessed: 3/5/24)



(“SDOH Hub Pilots,” [State Of Michigan](#), Accessed: 3/5/24)

3: Lead Organization: [Greater Flint Health Coalition/Genesee United Way](#)

Jurisdiction: Genesee County

Key Partners:

Overall Goal: *To align with the MDHHS SDOH Strategy and utilize a health equity in all policies approach to operate the [Mid-Michigan Community Health Access Program \(CHAP\)](#), a clinical-community linkage hub that utilizes a community health worker workforce to address person’s health related social needs through connections to community-based organizations, leveraging technology and community information exchange capacities.*

Activities:

1. Operate Mid-Michigan CHAP.
2. Utilize CHWs to address health-related social needs for persons referred to CHAP.
3. Build the capacity of the counties within the Mid-Michigan CHAP’s service area to participate in community information exchange.

(“SDOH Hub Pilots,” [State Of Michigan](#), Accessed: 3/5/24)

- **NOTE:** *The Detroit Health Department, the District Health Department, and the Wayne County Health Department are public government entities. The United Way of Genesee Count and the Great Flint Health Coalition appear to be the only non-profits.*

On June 28, 2023, The Budget Was Passed. “LANSING, Mich.— Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer celebrated the passage of a balanced, bipartisan state budget for Fiscal Year 2024 focused on growing the economy, lowering costs, delivering on kitchen-table issues, and helping anyone ‘Make it in Michigan.’” (Governor Gretchen Whitmer, “Gov. Whitmer Applauds Passage Of ‘Make It In Michigan’ Budget,” [Press Release](#), 6/28/23)

On June 30, 2023, Hertel Left The Whitmer Administration. “Curtis Hertel Jr. has officially left the Gov. Gretchen Whitmer administration, furthering speculation that he will announce a run for Congress to replace U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Lansing), who’s launched a U.S. Senate bid. In a press release Friday, Whitmer announced that Hertel had stepped down as her director of legislative affairs, a position the Democrat had held since being term-limited from the Michigan Senate in 2022.” (Jon King, “Hertel Resigns As Whitmer Legislative Affairs Director, Fueling Speculation Of Congressional Run,” [Michigan Advance](#), 6/30/23)

In 2023, Immediately After Negotiating Gov. Whitmer’s Budget, Hertel Began Working For The Greater Flint Health Coalition Through A Contract. “In less than a week, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's top lobbyist, Curtis Hertel Jr., went from negotiating the state's \$82 billion budget to working for a Flint-based nonprofit that's expected to benefit from money provided through the legislation. Ahead of launching a campaign for Congress in a key mid-Michigan district, Hertel, a Democrat from East Lansing, stepped down as Whitmer's director of legislative affairs on June 30, a Friday. On July 3, the following Monday, Hertel began working with the nonprofit Greater Flint Health Coalition through a contract, said coalition President and CEO Jim Ananich, who served with Hertel in the state Senate from 2015 through 2022.” (Craig Mauger, “Key U.S. House Hopeful Moved From Whitmer's Office To Nonprofit Tied To \$1.5M Grant,” [The Detroit News](#), 11/1/23)

“A Financial Disclosure That Hertel Had To File To Run For Congress Revealed He's Now Making About \$9,000 A Month Or \$108,000 Annually At The Greater Flint Health Coalition.” “A financial disclosure that Hertel had to file to run for Congress revealed he's now making about \$9,000 a month or \$108,000 annually at the Greater Flint Health Coalition. Hertel was paid \$77,845 during his six months in the governor's office, according to the disclosure.” (Craig Mauger, “Key U.S. House Hopeful Moved From Whitmer's Office To Nonprofit Tied To \$1.5M Grant,” [The Detroit News](#), 11/1/23)

SCHEDULE C: EARNED INCOME			
Source	Type	Amount Current Year to Filing	Amount Preceding Year
State of Michigan	Salary	\$77,845.00	\$82,500.00
State of Michigan	Spouse Salary	N/A	N/A
Greater Flint Health Coalition	Salary	\$9,000.00	N/A

(Curtis Hertel Personal Financial Disclosure, [Clerk of the House](#), 8/4/23)

The Greater Flint Health Coalition CEO Acknowledged He And Hertel Had Discussed Hertel Working With The Nonprofit Before He Left The Governor’s Office. “On July 3, the following Monday, Hertel began working with the nonprofit Greater Flint Health Coalition through a contract, said coalition President and CEO Jim Ananich, who served with Hertel in the state Senate from 2015 through 2022. ... Ananich, a former Senate Democratic leader, acknowledged that he and Hertel had discussed Hertel working with the nonprofit before he departed the governor's office. But Ananich said he wasn't sure when the conversations began. Ananich became the chief executive of the Greater Flint Health Coalition in January, after he and Hertel left the Legislature due to legislative term limits.” (Craig Mauger, “Key U.S. House Hopeful Moved From Whitmer's Office To Nonprofit Tied To \$1.5M Grant,” [The Detroit News](#), 11/1/23)

Jim Ananich Is President & CEO Of Greater Flint health Coalition. (“Staff,” [Greater Flint Health Coalition](#), Accessed: 2/16/24)

Administration

Jim Ananich

President & CEO

(“Staff,” [Greater Flint Health Coalition](#), Accessed: 2/16/24)

From 2013 Through 2022, Jim Ananich Was A Michigan State Senator. (“Sen. Jim Ananich (D-27, 2022),” [Michigan Votes](#), Accessed: 2/16/24)



Sen. Jim Ananich (D-27, 2022)

ABOUT VOTES SPONSORSHIPS AMENDMENTS

TERMS IN OFFICE
Michigan Senate, District 27 (2013-2022)
Michigan House of Representatives, District 49 (2011-2013)

VOTING HISTORY (2011-2022)
8,170 votes 235 sponsorships 37 amendments

(“Sen. Jim Ananich (D-27, 2022),” [Michigan Votes](#), Accessed: 2/16/24)

Ananich Was The Minority Leader. Was “FLINT, MI -- Outgoing Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich is joining the Greater Flint Health Coalition as its new chief executive officer.” (Ron Fonger, “Ananich Moving From Michigan Senate To Lead Greater Flint Health Coalition,” [Michigan Live](#), 11/21/22)

Hertel Was A State Senator From 2015 Through 2022. (“Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-23, 2022),” [Michigan Votes](#), Accessed: 2/16/24)



Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-23, 2022)

ABOUT VOTES SPONSORSHIPS AMENDMENTS

TERMS IN OFFICE
Michigan Senate, District 23 (2015-2022)
Michigan House of Representatives, District 2 (1997-1998)

VOTING HISTORY (1997-2022)
5,132 votes 226 sponsorships 63 amendments

(“Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-23, 2022),” [Michigan Votes](#), Accessed: 2/16/24)

The Michigan Department Of Health And Human Services Was Responsible For The Procurement Of Social Determinants Of Health Hubs. (Biolerplate Report, [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#), pp. 354)

Social Determinants of Health Program Support			
Master Procurement Contract - 2024 - MDHHS Project Attachment KA			
Project Duration:	10/1/2023 to 9/30/2024		
Appropriation Line: Policy and planning administration, ARP - strengthen pub hlth infrastruct, workforce, data sys			
Project Amount:	1,167,253.00		
Fund			
State General Funds (1000)	1,167,253.00		
Project Spending Plan:	Contractual:		
Salary & Wages	494,411.00	Michigan Community Health Worker Allianc	226,046.00
Fringe Benefits	173,044.00	Q11 Photography	8,000.00
Employee Travel and Training	6,269.00		
Supplies & Materials	158.00		
Subawards – Subrecipient Services	0.00		
Contractual - Professional Services	234,046.00		
Communications	54.00		
Grantee Rent Costs	0.00		
Space Costs	0.00		
Capital Expenditures - Equipment & Other	0.00		
Client Assistance - Rent	0.00		
Client Assistance - All Other	0.00		
Other Expense	110,523.00		
Indirect Costs	148,748.00		
Cost Allocation Plan	0.00		
Total	1,167,253.00		
Project Description:			
The purpose of this project is to support the Department in planning, coordinating, aligning and implementing a social determinants of health (SDoH) strategy.			

(Biolerplate Report, [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#), pp. 354)

The Michigan Department Of Health And Human Services Launched Five Social Determinants Of Health (SDOH) Hubs Pilots In January 2024. “The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will launch five Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hub pilots in January 2024 and is seeking participants across the state to serve on the SDOH Hub Advisory Council. The pilot is part of the 2022-2024 MDHHS SDOH Strategy, Michigan’s Roadmap to Healthy Communities and brings together resources at the state and local level for a greater impact in communities.” (Chelsea Wuth, “MDHHS Seeks Advisory Council Participants For Social Determinants Of Health Hub Pilots,” [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#), 11/16/23)

Per The Detroit News, The Funding Was Appropriated Through The Department Of Health And Human Services Budget. “The new state budget featured a \$1.5 million appropriation to create a hub in Flint to work on non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. The money is going to the Genesee County United Way through the Department of Health and Human Services budget, according to the nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency.” (Craig Mauger, “Key U.S. House Hopeful Moved From Whitmer’s Office To Nonprofit Tied To \$1.5M Grant,” [The Detroit News](#), 11/1/23)

(“Elizabeth Hertel, Director,” [Michigan Department Of Health And Human Services](#), Accessed 3/8/24)

Elizabeth Hertel, Director

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Elizabeth Hertel is the Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Previously she was Senior Chief Deputy Director for Administration where she oversaw External Relations and Communications, Financial Operations Administration, Legislative Services, Legal Affairs, Policy & Planning, Strategic Integration, Organizational Services, Workforce Engagement and Community and Faith Engagement.

Hertel joined the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) in 2013 as the senior assistant for Policy and Planning, and in February 2014, was appointed director of Policy and Planning. Following the merger of the Departments of Community Health and Human Services into MDHHS in 2015, Hertel served as senior deputy director for Policy, Planning and Legislative Services. In October 2016, she left that position to serve as director of Michigan Advocacy for Trinity Health and returned to MDHHS as Chief Deputy for Administration in February 2019.

Prior to joining MDCH, Hertel worked as a senior advisor for Health Policy in the state House Republican Policy Office and as a legislative assistant to state Rep. Bruce Caswell. She began her tenure in the House in 2005. In 2010, she worked as a consultant with Public Sector Consultants and then as a policy analyst at Blue Cross Blue Shield. She returned to the House in 2011.

[PDF version of bio](#)



Elizabeth Hertel, Director

(“Elizabeth Hertel, Director,” [Michigan Department Of Health And Human Services](#), Accessed 3/8/24)

Elizabeth Hertel, The Head Of The Michigan Health Department, Is The Spouse Of Curtis Hertel. “LANSING, Mich. — Minutes after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed Elizabeth Hertel to lead the state health department, her husband, State Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. said he asked to be removed from a committee due to conflict of interest.” (Samantha May, “Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr, Husband Of MDHHS Director, Asks To Be Removed From DHHS Committee,” [News Channel 3](#), 1/22/21)