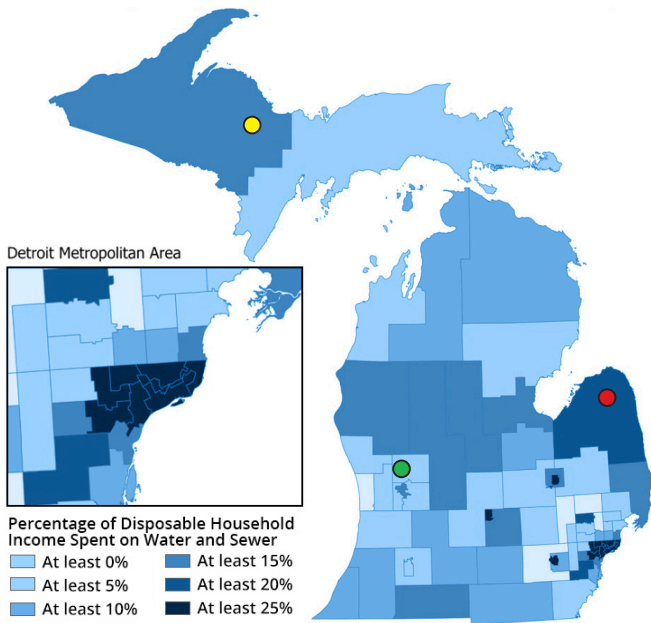


RURAL COMMUNITIES: Safe, Affordable and Reliable Drinking Water is Possible Under Proposed Michigan Water Affordability Legislation

- **Rural communities face water affordability issues, too.**
- Smaller water utilities often **do not have programs to assist customers** who are struggling to pay their water bills or the **administrative capacity and resources** to run a standalone water affordability program.
- Across Michigan, the average cost of water went up 188% between 1980 and 2018.

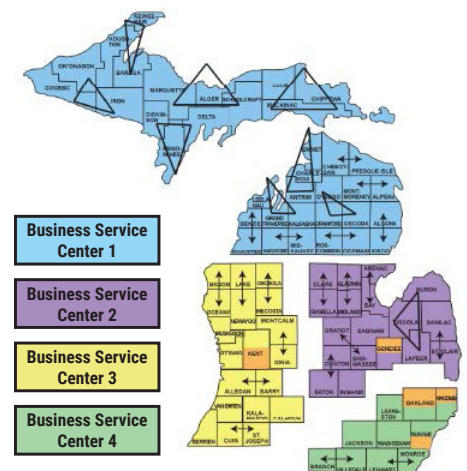


- Customers in the Huron County community of Bad Axe (population ~3,000) pay **\$155.55/month** for 4,000 gallons water and sewer.
- In Ishpeming (population ~6,000) water and sewer for that same level of consumption is **\$138.64**.
- Compare that to Grand Rapids, the state's second largest city, where residents pay **\$60.69 for the same amount** of water and sewer.¹
- Rural customers experience a larger financial burden to pay for water and sewerage services.

We can solve Michigan's water affordability problem in small and large communities alike by tackling it head on with the statewide water affordability program proposed under SB 549/HB5088.

- SB 549/HB5088 allows low-income households in **every county to enroll in a water affordability program** and receive a **capped, discounted bill for water, sewerage, and drainage/stormwater services**.
- Income-eligible customers **under 135% of the federal poverty level (FPL)** will pay no more than **2% of household income**, and households with income between **135% to 200% of the FPL** will pay no more than **3% of household income**.
- Also, a statewide water affordability program will ensure that resources collected within four regions of the state will stay in those areas to help local families.²

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Business Services Centers



Learn more at [miwaterplan.com](https://www.miwaterplan.com)

¹ <https://www.circleofblue.org/2021/world/michigans-rural-water-systems-confront-generations-of-inadequate-investment/>

² SB550/HB5089, Sec. 14t(5)