

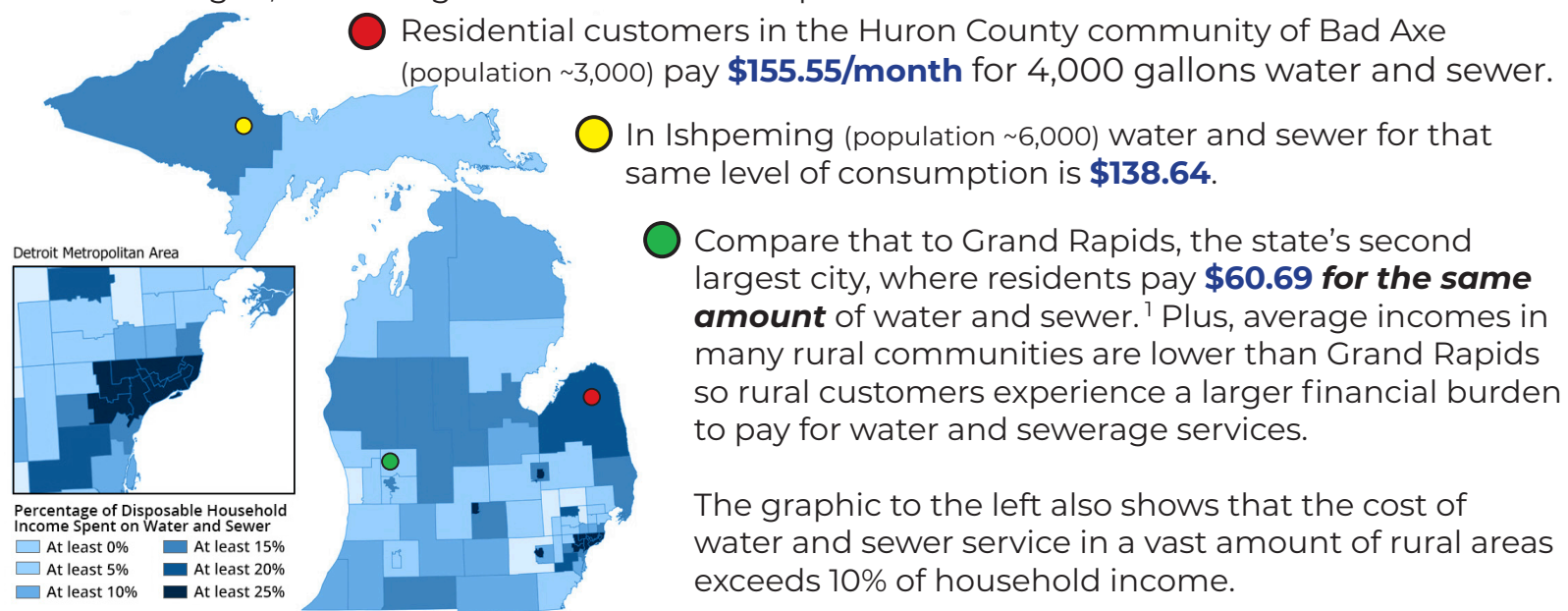
RURAL COMMUNITIES:

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

While water affordability problems in urban cities receive considerable attention, rural communities face water affordability issues, too. Many rural residents are served by smaller water utilities that often do not have programs to assist customers who are struggling to pay their water bills. Moreover, water providers in rural areas typically do not have the administrative capacity or resources to run a standalone water affordability program.

In small towns, social services may be limited for families who need help with water bills and other economic difficulties. Faith-based organizations and fraternal networks are a reliable source of support and aid to local members, but as economic problems grow, they frequently struggle to provide for the needs of many.

Across Michigan, the average cost of water went up 188% between 1980 and 2018.

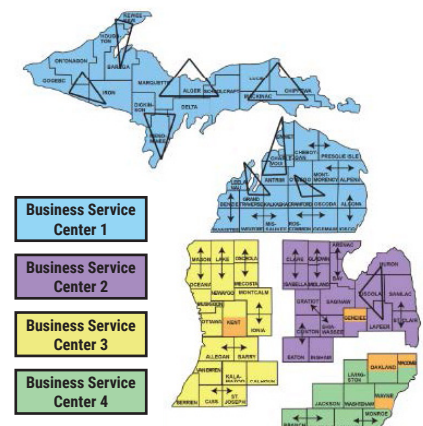


We can solve Michigan's water affordability problem in small and large communities alike by tackling it head on with the statewide water affordability program proposed under SB 248.

SB 248 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 (see Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services graphic to the right) will stay in those areas to help local families.² This will help ensure an equitable distribution of program funds and accountability.

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Business Services Centers



Learn more at miwaterplan.com

¹ <https://www.circleofblue.org/2021/world/michigans-rural-water-systems-confront-generations-of-inadequate-investment/>
² SB250