

# Diabetes Partners in Action Coalition

## In the news

**Welcome to 2009 and another year with DPAC!** The Communications Workgroup has put together a plan to provide current and relevant information for the membership on a quarterly basis through our popular newsletter. With the current state of flux in our economy, we thought it would be helpful to dedicate some time to providing information for those who are without jobs, insurance, or facing hard times in managing their diabetes. We encourage you to share your feedback and ideas for future topics.

### Resources for Persons With Diabetes Who Are Unemployed and Without Health Insurance

*By Jean Chickering, RN, MSN and Dawn Crane, MS, ACNS-BC, CDE*

*Michigan Diabetes Prevention and Control Program*

During this economic downturn, persons with diabetes who are without jobs and health insurance will find the following ideas for obtaining resources helpful. These ideas are also relevant for anyone having challenges in meeting basic diabetes expenses. Please pass these on to your patients, family and members of the community:

- Apply to the patient assistance program of the company that makes the patient's insulin, using the reason of "hardship needs." All of the companies have patient assistance programs. Ask the pharmacist for information on the company and then call or email them for medication assistance information.
- Contact the American Diabetes Association ([www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) or 800-342-2383) or the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (248-355-1133 in southeast Michigan or 616-957-1838 in west Michigan) to see if they have any local assistance programs.
- Contact the primary physician who may be able to help out if they have any free supplies or "samples" in their office. The physician may also agree to have a discussion about less expensive regimens.
- Contact a local Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) program to see if the certified diabetes educator (CDE) is aware of any local resources or has some stop-gap supplies. A visit with the CDE might help in learning how to reuse supplies or tweaking of regimens. A local hospital may also have a patient assistance/scholarship program if the patient obtains his supplies through their pharmacy. For a listing of the DSME programs in a given area, visit [www.michigan.gov/diabetes](http://www.michigan.gov/diabetes) and click on the link to the DSME programs.
- Visit the Michigan Diabetes Outreach Network's (MDON) website [www.diabetesinmichigan.org](http://www.diabetesinmichigan.org). This site identifies the six regional DONs with their contact information. Each DON has a resource directory posted on the website with information on resources in the area, including support groups. Joining a support group may provide information from others who have had to deal with similar issues. Most also include information on medication assistance and supplies. Call your regional DON for more specific information and to discuss options.
- Contact your legislators to ask for assistance and to increase their awareness of the need for access to health care services for those who are uninsured or underinsured.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual American Diabetes Alert Day is Tuesday, March 24th

*From the American Diabetes Association*

The American Diabetes Alert Day is a one-day, “wake-up” call to inform the American public about the seriousness of diabetes. The American Diabetes Association encourages people to take the Diabetes Risk Test and find out if they are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes.

Encourage your patients, family, loved ones and members of the community to take the FREE Diabetes Risk Test.



Call 1-800-DIABETES or visit [www.diabetes.org/alert](http://www.diabetes.org/alert).

### Seeking New Members with PR Expertise!

The Communications Workgroup is looking for new workgroup members who have expertise in communications or public awareness campaigns. They would help the Workgroup develop a communications plan, identify funding sources for a public awareness campaign, and design templates to distribute information and resources to DPAC members and external audiences. If you are interested in joining this Workgroup, or know someone who may be interested, please contact Kim Walsh at [Walshk@michigan.gov](mailto:Walshk@michigan.gov)

### PATH Master Training (For Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program)

March 30-April 3, 4 ½ days  
The Henry Center, East Lansing  
No Charge to attend.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Karen Olson, [Olsonk2@michigan.gov](mailto:Olsonk2@michigan.gov).

### MDPCP Website Updated

Visit <http://michigan.gov/diabetes> to see the updated and improved Michigan Diabetes Prevention and Control Program (MDPCP) website, including programs, reports, brochures and links to such organizations as MODE, NDEP and the ADA.

### American Heart Association Offers Community Grants

The American Heart Association (AHA) Midwest Affiliate is offering Community Action Grants, up to \$5000, to fund community-based projects that advance their health priorities. Please visit their website to review the application and a listing of projects that were funded last year: <http://www.americanheart.org>.

The deadline for all applications is 5:00 pm CST on Wednesday, April 1, 2009. If you have questions, please contact Sarah Poole, Director of State Health Alliances Michigan - American Heart Association Midwest Affiliates, at [sarah.poole@heart.org](mailto:sarah.poole@heart.org) or at 616-482-1508.

**SAVE THE DATES: DPAC FULL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009  
DIABETES & KIDNEY DISEASE ADVOCACY DAY – TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009**

