Project Overview Timeline

Project Start
Fall 2017

Research and Initial Engagement

Convene Steering Committee
Dec. 17, 2017

Literature Review
Jan.–Mar. 2018

A review of research studies focused on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing (DDBHH) communities to identify best practices for working with individuals with varying levels of hearing.

Statewide Census
Spring 2018

A randomized phone survey in nine regions of the state to determine the prevalence of households in which a member identifies as part of a DDBHH community or reports any level of hearing loss. This data was used to estimate the total Michigan population of individuals who identify as a member of a DDBHH community.

Public Survey Approval
Sept. 2018

Statewide Engagement and Validation

Needs Assessment
Sept.–Dec. 2018

A comprehensive survey on circumstances where an individual with a different level of hearing might face barriers. The final needs assessment totaled 154 questions and covers demographics, communication preferences, education and employment, housing and transportation, healthcare and access to services, and priorities for Michigan in service provision. The survey was developed with a steering team of DDBHH community members and provided in both written English and with American Sign Language videos.

Data Analysis
Jan.-June 2019

Community Conversations
Fall 2019

Five to ten public meetings led by members of the DDBHH communities during which survey results will be presented to community members. A facilitator will lead the group in discussing what these results mean in the day-to-day reality of DDBHH community members and how the needs assessment results are similar to or different from their day-to-day experiences.

Project Concludes

Final Report Sent to Michigan Deptartment of Civil Rights (MDCR)
Sept. 30, 2019

Next Steps from MDCR and the Community