



MI Health Link

---

***DECEMBER 2023 BULLETIN***

---

---



## Happy Holidays from the MI Health Link Team!

The MI Health Link Team wishes you a very happy holiday season and new year!

The team was able to get together to celebrate and as a team took on a project for the Greater Lansing Food Bank. The team assembled seed packets for the food bank so that individuals who would like to start their own gardens are able to in the spring. For more information on how to participate on a similar project, please click [here](#).

## Program and Policy Notes

### MI Health Link Program, Contractual, Policy Requirements and Highlights

#### **MDHHS Expands Medicaid Coverage to Include Community Health Worker Services January 1, 2024**

To help promote preventive care and address health disparities, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has expanded Medicaid coverage for Michigan beneficiaries to include community health worker (CHW) services. This new benefit goes into effect Jan. 1, 2024.

CHWs are trained public health professionals and trusted members of the community whose goal is to address social determinants of health and serve as links between residents and the health and social resources needed to improve well-being. CHW services focus on preventing disease, disability and other chronic health conditions or their progression, and promoting physical and mental health. The expanded Medicaid coverage includes health system navigation and resource coordination, health promotion and education and screening and assessment.

“This coverage is another step towards addressing health disparities, improving health outcomes and promoting preventive care within Michigan communities,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “By integrating community health workers, MDHHS is working to enhance the overall well-being of Medicaid beneficiaries and promote a more holistic approach to health care.”

The new CHW services coverage is complementary to existing Medicaid strategies that already incorporate CHWs, including targeted case management, health homes models and Medicaid Health Plan contract requirements. In the MI Health Link Program, the goal would be for Integrated Care Organizations to ensure access to CHW services that complement care coordination offered through the health plan.

To support the implementation of this policy, MDHHS selected [Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance](#) through a competitive bid process to facilitate provider qualification assessment, certification and the development of a registry of certified providers. This registry will ensure Medicaid beneficiaries have access to qualified CHWs to deliver covered services.

For more information, about CHW coverage or other Medicaid policies, visit [2023 Medicaid Policy Bulletins \(michigan.gov\)](#).



## Beneficiary Health and Welfare:

### Helping Older Adults During the Holiday Season

The holidays are typically a happy and joyous time for most individuals. Everywhere we turn the message during the holiday season is a joyful one. The movies and music that are played reflects that all in the world is perfect. We often hear “it’s the most wonderful time of the year”, but for some that may not ring true. For many older adults, the holidays can be stressful and even depressing. Older adults may express feeling sad around the holidays due to being more aware of the passing of time and the absence of parents, siblings, and friends that have died, financial limitations, loss of independence, being separated from family and friends or loss of mobility. It’s important to pay extra attention to aging family members, friends, and neighbors during this time of year.

Here are some ideas you can do to help older adults in your life enjoy this holiday season:

- **Be inclusive.** Extend an invitation to your older family members/ friends and include them in holiday activities. If they can't come to you, bring the celebration to them.
- **Make new memories.** For older adults who live alone or do not get out of the house much, doing something new can be exciting and a great mood lifter. Consider taking them on a drive to look at holiday lights or invite them to your child's holiday programs.
- **Promote social connections.** Social connectedness is especially important during the holidays. Loneliness is a serious and difficult emotion for anyone. Think about meaningful ways you can reach out to older adults in your life.
- **Encourage reminiscing.** Talking about holiday traditions and memories can be important during the later years of life. Looking at photo albums and family videos or watching favorite classic holiday movies can encourage older adults to share their stories and experiences.
- **Increase communication efforts.** If you do not live close by, make an extra effort to communicate with your older family members and friends during the holiday season.

Human interaction, especially with loved ones, can make the holiday season a little brighter!

## Education and Support Opportunities

MI Health Link Quarterly Training: Safe Aging Through Financial Empowerment

**Thursday January 18th at 1:00PM**

*(Please note the day and time for this event has changed)*

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) MI Health Link Team is hosting a training led by Dr. Peter Lichtenberg, director of the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University and one of the country's foremost researchers in safe-guarding older adults from financial exploitation. This program includes research into how older adults make financial decisions, as well as Dr. Lichtenberg's screening tools (OlderAdultNestEgg.com) to help professionals assess client's ability to make informed financial decisions.

If you did not receive an invite and would like to attend, please contact the waiver team at [MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-MHL-Waiver@michigan.gov). Thank you!

-----  
Motivational Interviewing: Beyond the Basics

**Wednesday February 7th, 2024 10:00AM**

Michigan Center for Rural Health brings another learning experience with Dr. Bernard Showers presenting on motivational interviewing. Participants will learn how Motivation Interviewing's emphasis on change talk makes it unique. Participants will learn tangible skills for eliciting change talk with their clients, helping them to gain and enhance motivation towards making meaningful behavioral changes. Click [here](#) for more information.

-----  
Dementia Training for I/DD Service Providers Webinar

**Tuesday January 16th, 2024 1:00PM**

Join the ACL-funded National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center (NADRC) for the webinar, "Strengthening the Dementia Capable Workforce: Dementia Training for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Service Providers."

As the population of individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) ages, so does the incidence of dementia. Communities need to be prepared to serve and support this population. Education is one of the foundational components to ensure person-centered care is provided and systems can meet the unique needs of persons living with I/DD and dementia. This webinar will explore educational programs utilized when training providers of aging and I/DD services and how Ohio began to build systems to support individuals, families, and providers within local communities. Lessons learned, impact findings from educational sessions, accessible and replicable resources, and information on the overall system changes will be shared. Click [here](#) for more information or to register.



## Resource Link: One Warm Coat

One Warm Coat's mission is to provide free coats to children and adults in need while promoting volunteerism and environmental sustainability.

Since 1992, One Warm Coat has facilitated 50,000 coat drives across the country, collecting 8 million coats that have been distributed through more than 1,500 nonprofit partners, and keeping more than 19 million pounds of textiles out of landfills.. Individuals and organizations can get involved by [donating coats](#), [holding coat drives](#), and making financial donations, where [every \\$1 donated warms 1 person](#). One Warm Coat [partners with nonprofit agencies and schools](#) in communities across all 50 states to distribute coats for free to children and adults in need. One Warm Coat believes in each person's right to shelter from the elements and is committed to sharing warmth, without discrimination, one coat at a time.

Shelter from the elements is a basic human need along with nourishing food, drinkable water, and a safe place to sleep. Below are values from One Warm Coat.

- One Warm Coat believes in the basic right to protection from the cold.
- They provide coats to people in need, free of charge and without discrimination or obligation.
- They treat the people served with dignity and respect.
- They promote sustainability through the reuse and repurposing of outerwear.
- They create connections in local communities by fostering volunteerism.
- They appreciate and honor our volunteers and donors.

*To learn more about One Warm Coat and utilize their resources click [here](#).*



## Q & A: Your Questions About MI Health Link

*If you have a question about the MHL program we want to hear from you. We will work to get you the information you need.*

**Q:** Can I view previously published bulletins if I am a new subscriber?

**A:** Yes, you can view and read all previous issues at MI Health Link's website at [MI Health Link \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/MIHealthLink).

Please send any questions for future bulletins to [Integratedcare@michigan.gov](mailto:Integratedcare@michigan.gov).

## Topic Submission

If you have suggestions for topics to be addressed in future additions of the MI Health Link Bulletin, please send them to [Integratedcare@michigan.gov](mailto:Integratedcare@michigan.gov)



---

## Quick Links

[MI Health Link Website](#)

[CMS Financial Alignment Website](#)

[MI Health Link Minimum Operating Standards](#)

[MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual](#)

**Previously Released MHL Bulletins**

Previously released MI Health Link Bulletins can be found by visiting the [MI Health Link Website](#).

---

[Become a foster parent through Michigan Department of Health & Human Services foster care program.](#)



Questions? [Contact Us](#)

**SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:**

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Subscriber Help](#)

STAY CONNECTED:

