

Intersecting Social Determinants of Health Partner Convening

Wednesday, June 8, 2022, from 1:30-3:00 PM

Meeting Summary

- More than 85 people representing organizations that lead and support housing stability and food security efforts contributed to the meeting. Staff from MDHHS facilitated the meeting and breakout sessions.
- Participants were provided an overview of the overarching Strategy and an overview of the intersection of social determinants.
- Our partners from the Michigan Climate & Health Adaptation Program (MiCHAP) presented on climate as a risk multiplier.
- Participants were asked to join a breakout session most relevant to their work to discuss opportunities to identify existing efforts, barriers, and opportunities related to climate.
- Feedback from each breakout session was captured and compiled. Input will be synthesized and incorporated into the overarching Strategy.

Discussions

In breakout sessions, participants learned more about climate intersection with food security and housing stability.

Participants were asked in Breakout 1- Climate Intersection with Housing Stability:

1. How does climate intersect with your work?
2. What are opportunities to better address the impacts of climate on housing stability?
3. How has climate change made it more difficult for you to serve your community?

Participants were asked in Breakout 2- Climate Intersection with Food Security:

1. How does climate intersect with your work?
2. What are opportunities to better address the impacts of climate on food security?
3. How has climate change made it more difficult for you to serve your community?

Summaries from these discussions is below.

For questions or comments about the overall Social Determinants of Health Strategy, please contact MDHHS-SDOH-PolicyandPlanning@michigan.gov.

Breakout 1 – Climate Intersection with Housing Stability

1. How Does climate intersect with your work?

- Change in precipitation amounts and not having sufficient new infrastructure impacts housing due to homes flooding.
- Farm workers working outdoors without AC in high heat waves. Farmers may not have a chance to cool off in evening if their employer provider housing lacks AC.
- Impacts on respiratory issues due to climate change. If people are not able to live in smoke free homes, then respiratory issues could potentially be exacerbated.

2. What are opportunities to better address the impacts of climate on housing stability?

- Look into options available to help during heat waves like how they use warming centers to address the effect of freezing weather.
- Weatherization program has holistic approaches address the entire structure. What works for keeping cold air in works for keeping warm are in. As climate changes, making sure energy auditing tools are used appropriately to determine the types of measures that are installed in homes.
- Weatherization Assistance Program clarification- what is installed in a home is determined by the Energy Audit, not by the choice or discretion of the team installing measures. So, any work done on an HVAC system, for example, is called for by the energy audit, which is a tool that gets approved by the Department of Energy in advance each year.
- If AC is federally allowable expense within weatherization and with the very large amount of funds available over the next 5 years, recommended AC be considered so that low-income households have greater access.
- Starting this fall funding will be release to community action agencies for weatherization.
- Because we're talking about extreme heat, here is a Heat Health & Safety Fact Sheet, please feel free to share with your networks:
<https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Folder4/Folder22/Folder3/Folder122/Fol>

[der2/Folder222/Folder1/Folder322/Heat awareness and safety fact sheet final July 2020 .pdf?rev=b3e1987ad93a47de86866b21aa27b6fb](#)

3. How has climate change made it more difficult for you to serve your community?

- Shelters become fuller and sometimes reach compacity due to housing displacement because of flooding.

Breakout 2 – Climate Intersection with Food Security

1. How has climate impacted your life personally?

- Increased heat, lack of trees – increased temperature in home, increased cost
- Increased ticks

2. How does climate intersect with your work?

- FBCM – dramatic shifts in weather patterns during growing seasons can have an impact on what crops look like and availability to purchase them
- MASS grant – state funds to purchase directly from local Michigan farmers – have heard that the dramatic shifts in weather patterns have been impacting crop yield (reduced access and increased costs)
- Shortages, supply chain issues, increased costs
- SNAP benefits – even after the emergency expires, food costs will remain high
 - SNAP dollars are already not going as far as they were earlier in the pandemic due to the increased costs right now
 - Buying power with benefit programs is greatly reduced

3. What are opportunities to better address the impacts of climate on food security?

- With increased funding, what innovative ideas could be pursued?
 - McLaren – partnering with farmers markets in the state to sponsor the double up food bucks (get more for their dollar)
 - Urban grow associations improve access to nutritious food
- Looking to get more money into the hands of individuals
- Online marketplace with built in customer service support and credits – clients can select local fruits and vegetables, additional household and care products
- Delivering food who may not be able to get to a food pantry
 - Allowing them to select what works best for their family's needs

4. How has climate change made it more difficult for you to serve your community?

- People with physical limitations need to be able to get to the grocery store

Nation Outside (Ashley Goldon)

- Opportunities: looking into the future and see a wetter Michigan, concerned about the rights and well-being of formerly incarcerated people
- Need to consider lack of transportation and having to walk/commute in bad weather
 - Supporting getting people to and from the grocery store
- Workforce development for formerly incarcerated people – urban gardening; getting fresh, local produce to grocery stores
- Bolster these types of programs

Next steps:

- Input from these breakout sessions will be thoroughly reviewed and incorporated into the overall strategy as it is refined.
- Additional engagement opportunities will be available to provide input for the development of the innovative phase 2 Strategy. To stay updated with SDOH Strategy efforts, please subscribe to the [SDOH Newsletter](#).