

December 2023

**JOIN OUR FREE WEBINAR:
NAVIGATING RESOURCES: A DEEP DIVE INTO 211 SERVICES**

January 17th, 2024, at 1 PM.

Explore the dynamic services and profound impact of the 211 helpline in connecting individuals to critical resources and support. Register now!



Melissa Ladd Patnode



Sarah Kile



Join Webinar: Navigating Resources: a Deep Dive into 211 Services

We are offering a free webinar on January 17, 2024 at 1 PM. Join the webinar to learn strategies to reduce disparities. Explore the dynamic services and profound impact of the 211 helpline in connecting individuals to critical resources and support. This webinar is an opportunity to gain insights, network with 211 experts, and understand the pivotal role played by 211 in community well-being.

Important Dates

- **January 17:** Webinar: Navigating Resources: a Deep Dive into 211 Services [Click Here to Register.](#)
- **January 23- 26** The 2nd Annual Social Determinants of Health Summit will be held January 23-26, 2024. The live virtual session will take place January 23-25 with a half day in-person reception on January 26. [Click here to register.](#)
- **January 30:** Webinar: Filling a Program Gap – SDOH Local Programs to Address Water and Plumbing Repair [Click here to Register.](#)

The Michigan Health Information Technology

[Click Here to Register.](#)



**JOIN OUR FREE WEBINAR:
FILLING A PROGRAM GAP – SDOH
LOCAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS
WATER AND PLUMBING REPAIR**

January 30th, 2024, at 2 PM.

The collaborative pilot between SDOH, Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, and three local Community Action Agencies enhanced home repair programs by adding water and plumbing services. It was explored in a webinar detailing community needs and program outcomes. Register now!



Maddy Kamalay



Join Webinar: Filling a Program Gap – SDOH Local Programs to Address Water and Plumbing Repair

We are offering a free webinar on **January 30, 2024 at 2 PM**. During the COVID pandemic, a service gap was noted that there were not enough available funds to address water and plumbing repair issues that existed in local communities. For this reason, SDOH and Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO) worked to pilot a program with 3 local Community Action Agencies; Human Development Commission, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, and Wayne Metro Community Action Agency. This pilot augmented each agency’s portfolio of home repair and energy efficiency programs to add water and plumbing repair to their portfolios. This webinar will summarize the identified community needs, the scopes of the programs that were run and major takeaways now that the pilot is completed. [Click here to register.](#)

Rural Health Equity Initiative Update

Commission convenes its Community Information Exchange Advisory Committee

The community information exchange (CIE) [advisory committee](#) held its first convening to begin the work of implementing the recommendations of the CIE Task Force. In September 2023, the Michigan Health Information Technology Commission (HITC) approved the creation of a CIE advisory committee charged with effectuating the recommendations detailed in the CIE task force [final report](#) published in August 2023, and supporting the HITC in optimizing use of existing social care systems and services. At its December convening, advisory committee members met one another, unpacked the charge of the advisory committee, and began discussion around developing a timeline for next steps.

The advisory committee is chaired by HITC commissioner and CIE task force co-chair, Janée Tyus, who is senior program director at the Greater Flint Health Coalition Mid-Michigan Community Health Access Program. In addition, Marissa Ebersole-Wood, vice president of regulatory implementation and data governance at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, and HITC commissioner representing health care payors, will serve as vice-chair of the committee. The advisory committee is tasked with developing a proposal

On December 7, 2023, the Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH) convened with MDHHS staff to present the latest developments on the Rural Health Equity Plan. MCRH, in collaboration with a diverse advisory group, is actively formulating both short and long-term recommendations to facilitate the implementation of the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Strategy. The primary objective is to enhance and support health outcomes for rural residents.

MCRH is conducting regional engagement activities as part of this initiative, aiming to gather insights from anchor institutions and individuals, particularly those with lived experience in accessing or interacting with State-administered services. The listening sessions commenced in mid-August in specified rural areas and are scheduled to continue until the end of the month.

This month, MCRH, in conjunction with staff of the Office of Policy and Planning, along with a representative from the Office of Rural Prosperity, explored collaborative opportunities to advance health equity for rural residents.

For additional information or to express interest in participating in a survey, please contact Laura Mispelon at laura.mispelon@affiliate.msu.edu. The upcoming meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2024.

for statewide governance of CIE to establish baseline policy, standards, and core infrastructure, leveraging to the extent possible existing infrastructure in Michigan, in alignment with the recommendations of the CIE task force.

To learn more about the Health Information Technology Commission and the CIE advisory committee, please visit [Health Information Technology Commission \(michigan.gov\)](https://healthinformationtechnologycommission.michigan.gov).

Region 9 Advancing Healthy Births Request for Proposals

We are excited to share the Advancing Healthy Births Request for Proposals on behalf of the Region 9 (**Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw**) Perinatal Quality Collaboratives Leadership Team. These grants are to advance the strategic plan outlined in the [Advancing Healthy Births: An Equity Plan for Michigan Families and Communities](#) and that are aligned with [Region 9 priorities](#) to advance birth equity and promote healthy births.

We are awarding grants in the range of \$10,000 - \$100,000 and **applications are due 1/8/24**. For full details, [please review this RFP](#).

Please note, all Regional Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (RPQC) across the state have this same opportunity, however, this RFP is only available for organizations in the Region 9 counties. The other RPQCs are expected to begin to release their RFPs over the next few weeks.



Join the Poverty Task Force to discuss Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, Earned Income Tax Credit for Working Families

Join this webinar where **Brian Rakovitis, Director of Economic Inclusion for CEDAM** will present on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program which provides free tax preparation services. **Sarah Rusnell and Mikayla Anderson, both with the Office of Operational Excellence, MI Department of Treasury**, will also present on the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit for Working Families, also known as EITC. Webinar attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about this program and how they are able to access the benefits.

Webinar Details:

Date: Monday, December 18

Time: 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.

Link: [Click here to register.](#)

MDHHS expands Medicaid Coverage starting January 1 to Include Community Health Worker Services

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.

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.

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 \(michigan.gov\)](#).

To sign up for Medicaid or to check available benefits, visit [Michigan.gov/MIBridges](#).

MI Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development Launches '2024 Industry Input Survey' Asking for Feedback on Grant Programs

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) launched a '[2024 Industry Input Survey](#)' asking for feedback for its upcoming grant programs next year. The results will help shape program priorities that better reflect the needs of Michigan's food and agriculture industry. The survey closes on December 20, 2023.

The new grant programs launching next year includes over \$10 million in funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program and \$1.8 million in state dollars for supporting Michigan's food and agriculture supply chains.

Additionally, MDARD received \$2.9 million for a new program aimed at helping minority-owned food and agriculture ventures in the Governor's Fiscal Year 2024 budget. The department is working to build out this new program to support and expand minority food and agriculture businesses throughout Michigan.

The RFSI program is designed to build resilience in the middle of the food supply chain, provide more and better markets for Michigan's small farms and food businesses, support the development of value-added products for consumers, fair prices, fair wages, and job creation. Funds will support expanded capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

[Click here for the full press release.](#)

For more information on current MDARD grant programs, go online at www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants.

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



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