

February 2023



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Division of Policy and Planning hosted the Social Determinants of Health Virtual Summit on January 24-26, 2023. The goal of the summit was to connect local, state, and federal partners to address important topics focused on the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) initiatives. More than 1,000 attendees representing organizations across the state of Michigan attended the summit. The summit offered 38 presentations on topics ranging from healthy equity to multi-sector partnerships and supporting SDOH with data-driven initiatives. There was also ten Lunch and Lounge discussion sessions, including a live interactive mural creation.

On the last day of the summit, we launched [Phase II of the MDHHS Social Determinants of Health Strategy, Michigan's Roadmap to Healthy Communities](#). In Phase two of the SDOH Strategy, we are exploring:

- Community health worker expansion and alignment to support health equity.
- Community information exchange to maximize a person-centered approach that incorporates social care information, promoting streamlined access to health-enhancing, non-clinical services (e.g., social services and supports), helping to coordinate care across a variety of clinical and non-

Important Dates

- **Tuesday, March 7, 2023**, from 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
MDHHS SDOH Partner Convening
[Click here to register.](#)
- **Monday, March 20, 2023** from 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
Community Information Exchange Webinar
[Click here to register.](#)



Stay Engaged with the MDHHS SDOH Strategy

For more information about the SDOH Strategy and additional resources, please visit Michigan.gov/SDOH.

If you have additional feedback regarding the SDOH Strategy, or if you'd like your organization to be highlighted in future issues, please send us a message at MDHHS-SDOH-PolicyandPlanning@michigan.gov

SDOH Summit Mural Creation

clinical partners, and using data on existing community resources, needs, and gaps to drive policy change.

- Bridging our food security, housing stability, and built environment efforts to develop a SDOH Accelerator Plan to Reduce Chronic Disease.

[Click here to view summit sessions recordings.](#)

Thank you to all the presenters and everyone who attended the summit. We look forward to continuing to work with you and connecting to better support Michigan communities.



[Watch a time-lapse of a mural come to life before your eyes!](#) This mural was created with the theme of the SDOH summit and the input of summit attendees to the question, “What would it take to achieve health equity?”.

[Click here to view the SDOH Summit Mural.](#)

SDOH Strategy Updates: Local Health Department Planning Grant Update

On Monday, January 23, 2023, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), convened the second Local Health Department Planning Grant Status Update meeting for grantees. Grantees, composed of Local Health Departments meet bi-monthly to provide updates, receive technical assistance, and share resources. Many local health departments are using funding to develop strategies to close data and policy gaps identified in previous Community Health Needs Assessments. Community Information Exchange activities included assessing the viability of current local CIEs and identifying vendors to support the technology component of CIE. Michigan State Housing Development Authority staff, Tiffany King and Stephanie Oles were guest presenters, sharing housing resources available to residents and [Michigan’s First Statewide Housing Plan](#). The statewide housing plan is alignment with the MDHHS SDOH Strategy in advancing housing access and stability. The next status update meeting will be held in March 2023.

[Click here for a list of Local Health Department Planning Grant Awardees](#)

About the Local Health Department Planning Grant: In April 2022, Michigan released phase 1 of the 2022-2024 MDHHS Social Determinants of

Downloads

- [Phase II of the SDOH Strategy](#)
- [Phase I of the SDOH Strategy](#)
- [SDOH Accelerator Plan to Reduce Chronic Disease Resources](#)

Rural Health Equity Update

The Rural Health Equity Plan is a key structural intervention to address health equity within Phase II of the Social Determinants of Health, SDOH Strategy. The Michigan Center for Rural Health, MDHHS Policy and Planning has partnered with the Michigan Center for Rural Health, MCRH in developing the plan and creating partnerships to advance health equity. MCRH, is the lead partner in developing the plan and creating partnerships to advance health equity. MCRH, alongside a broad group of rural stakeholders will convene to form an advisory group to guide the process. The

Health (SDOH) Strategy, [Michigan's Roadmap to Healthy Communities](#). Michigan's SDOH Strategy takes a focused approach to align efforts at the state and local level for a greater impact in communities. As part of Michigan's Roadmap to Healthy Communities, funding is available to support Community Information Exchange (CIE) and Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) planning and/or implementation efforts. Funding, up to \$25,000 is available to LHDs to assess needs of local stakeholders in their community to support a successful CIE model. Additional funding, up to \$25,000, is available to support conducting a CHNA or utilizing a current CHNA to accelerate SDOH efforts related to housing stability, food security, and/or health equity. Projects must include emphasis on building and strengthening relationships with trusted grassroots organizations that have connections with our most vulnerable populations.

Rural Health Equity Plan will assess the current rural landscape and engage with rural residents and stakeholders to develop short-term and long-term rural-specific recommendations that align with the MDHHS SDOH Strategy. The recommendations will identify opportunities for improvement and assess current assistance programs and needs of rural residents. MCRH is invested in growing their community of stakeholders and identifying those who are interested in serving on the advisory group and participating in focus groups. Participate in MCRH Stakeholder Engagement Efforts by contacting Laura Mispelon, the SDOH Manager, at MCRH at laura.mispelon@affiliate.msu.edu.

Racial Health Equity Plan Update

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to inform next steps of the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Strategy and development of the next iteration of the Michigan Health Equity Roadmap. The Racial Health Equity Plan will provide MDHHS with a list of short-term and long-term racial-specific recommendations that align with the current MDHHS Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Strategy. These recommendations will identify opportunities for improvement, assess the current racial health equity landscape, engage with diverse residents and stakeholders, and provide a racial health equity lens to the MDHHS SDOH Strategy. The primary program outcomes will include forming a statewide advisory group to draft the Racial Health Equity Plan and presenting the recommended plan to MDHHS.

Grant application for the Racial Health Equity Plan (RAHEP-2023) RFP must be submitted electronically through the EGrAMS program by 3 p.m. April 11, 2023. The program period begins June 1 and ends Sept. 30, 2023.

A pre-application conference will be held to discuss this funding opportunity and provide instruction on using the EGrAMS system. The pre-application conference will be held Friday, Feb. 24 at 1 p.m., and will last approximately 90 minutes. The conference can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3DIKV5t>

For more information or to apply, visit the [EGrAMS website](#) and select "About EGrAMS" link in the left panel to access the "Competitive Application Instructions" training manual. The complete RFP can be accessed under the 'Current Grants' section under the "Policy and Planning" link and selecting the "RAHEP-2023" grant program

Community Information Exchange January Meeting Summary

On Thursday, January 19th, 2023, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), with the support of the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) and Open Referral Initiative, convened the fourth [Community Information Exchange Task Force](#) meeting. Members of the task force include representatives from community-based organizations (CBOs), health care organizations, health payers, health IT, consumers, and government entities.

At the January CIE Task Force meeting, members honed in on the key capacities that might be established in Michigan CIE infrastructure, specifically asking "In what ways might these capacities support (or potentially undermine) efforts to achieve equitable outcomes?" and "should these capacities be designed/managed/governed at a state-wide or local level?" Through these conversations, the Task Force is moving toward consensus around the key pieces of infrastructure that need to be in place to support statewide CIE in Michigan. The Task Force spent some time at the conclusion of the meeting articulating questions for MDHHS to answer in the interim report, to be published in March.

The CIE Task Force will meet in small break out groups over the course of the next month to focus on answering outstanding questions related to legal framework, consent, and how to support successful community partnerships, learning from the successes of San Diego 211.

MDHHS plans to publish an interim report of the CIE Task Force's progress and findings in March 2023. A final report will be published in late summer of 2023 following the final Task Force meeting in June.

The task force meets the third Thursday of each month through at least June of 2023.

MDHHS will publish an interim report of the Community Information Exchange Task Force's progress and findings in March 2023.

Please join us for a webinar to discuss the report, and share the findings from a state-wide survey of community-based organizations on barriers, opportunities, and readiness for CIE. The webinar will be held virtually on Monday, March 20th, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. [Click here to register.](#)

Community Health Worker Subcommittee Update

On Monday, January 30th, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), with the support of the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), convened the first Community Health Worker (CHW) Subcommittee meeting. The SDOH Steering Committee requested formation of the CHW Subcommittee to provide policy recommendations on the expansion and alignment of Community Health Worker efforts across the state. After a candidate review process to ensure substantial Community Health Worker experience and diverse perspectives from across the state are represented, 18 members have been selected and confirmed their membership on the subcommittee. The vast majority of subcommittee members are current or past Community Health Workers. The subcommittee will be working to refine goals and make recommendations to the Steering Committee on 5 broad priority areas including attention to funding, training and certification, evaluation and measuring CHW impacts, and general alignment and awareness around Community Health Workers. The second CHW Subcommittee meeting will be held on February 27th, 2023. You can learn more about our Community Health Worker efforts on our [CHW page](#).

MDHHS has also mobilized a CHW Internal Alignment Work Group, which consists of colleagues within MDHHS who have knowledge and experience in working with CHWs. That group informally

convened in August, and now has a draft charter with priorities that are supportive and complementary to the Subcommittee responsibilities. The Internal Alignment Workgroup will continue to work toward sharing of best practices, mitigation of barriers, and coordination of efforts within MDHHS, including better coordination in work with external CHW partners.

MDHHS is still recruiting members for the CHW Community Feedback Forum to provide guidance on Phase II SDOH Strategy Community Health Worker initiatives. This group is key to CHW efforts because it will engage a larger group stakeholder from the CHW workforce and CHW collaborators in providing feedback to the CHW Subcommittee and Social Determinants of Health Strategy team. You can sign-up to be a member of the CHW Community Feedback Forum by [filling out this interest form](#).



Please complete this short survey if you employ Community Health Workers!

MDHHS is seeking to gather information on organizations that employ CHWs and the communities they serve. This pilot survey intends to gather critical information about organizations with CHW programs, as well as, their ongoing CHW training initiatives and program evaluation efforts. This survey is intended to better understand the role of CHWs, strengthen the network of CHW organizations within the state, and develop an inventory for CHW programs for program and policy development.

MDHHS requests leaders fill out one survey per organization. Please [complete the survey here](#).

If you have any further questions, please contact Kehli Henry: HenryK3@michigan.gov

MDHHS Program Spotlight: Lead Safe Work Program

Michigan is investing in lead abatement services for residential homes across the state. The Lead Certification and Compliance Assurance section at Division of Environmental Health oversees the

program, called “Lead Safe Work Program,” which seeks to educate, train, and certify individuals who want to become a lead certified worker or supervisor. The program also helps establish and develop lead firms through guidance and referrals that can be provided.

Anyone interested in the program can receive a scholarship that covers the cost of training, exam, and first year renewal fees. Additionally, participants who successfully complete the program will receive guidance towards opportunities for job placement and or lead firm business development. [The program will be hosted at various sites throughout the State of Michigan.](#)

For more information you may contact Ty Liggons. Email: LiggonsT1@michigan.gov
Phone:517-275-2994

News Across State Departments

- [Gov. Whitmer Signs Executive Order to Build and Refurbish More Affordable Housing Faster](#)
- [Community Development Block Grant Update](#)
- [Update from the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office: January 2023](#)



Stakeholder Spotlight: Applying Lessons Learned in Nepal to Community Led Initiatives in Michigan featuring Dr. Richard Keidan

In this [webinar](#), Dr. Richard Keidan shares his expertise around community engagement and addressing health disparities in underserved communities. During his presentation, Dr. Keidan discusses his experience abroad, and how he has applied lessons learned from Nepal to shape community engagement frameworks in Detroit. In 2010, the Detroit 2 Nepal (D2N) foundation was established to provide sustainable support to grassroots, community-based programs in Detroit neighborhoods and remote villages in Nepal.

[Click here to watch the webinar.](#)

Community Spotlight: Gather Resources & Align Community Efforts (G.R.A.C.E.) Network



The G.R.A.C.E. Network is a dynamic partnership of 30 organizations focused on addressing the Social Determinants of Health. Community Rebuilders began the Network as an intentional effort to drive positive outcomes for families experiencing a housing crisis. Diverse Organizations on the G.R.A.C.E Network are able to work collaboratively making housing and health equity a shared priority.

The Network aligns diverse health and social service resources allowing for shared communication and closed-loop referrals to help drive community health and well-being. Further, the Network minimizes fragmentation and prevents duplication and sub-optimal outcomes. The Network has been particularly important in light of Covid-19 and the challenges presented for some of the most vulnerable in the community. This is evidenced by the resulting outcomes, 93% of the 5,949 needs that were identified in 2021 were either resolved or in the process of being addressed by Network Partners. These partners share information in real-time, coordinate services, and report back on outcomes achieved. The result is a bridge across fields and work silos by organizations that have made housing and health equity a shared priority. This collaboration reduces disparities, advances equity and increases opportunities for community members to improve their well-being.

The G.R.A.C.E. Network was started in 2019 by Community Rebuilders to align diverse services and resources and provide a coordinated approach to addressing the needs of families in crisis. The Network is driven by a shared vision of ending homelessness and improving health and equity for families in our community. By working together, the community-based organizations (CBOs) on The G.R.A.C.E Network are able to leverage their collective resources and expertise with open communication to have a greater impact in the community. This approach ensures that families and individuals receive the support they need to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals. [Click here for a current list of partners.](#)

1. In Just over 3 years in operation the Network has served 7,683 unique consumers.
2. In 2022 3,788 Needs were identified through the shared Social Determinant of Health Assessments.
 1. Over 61% of the needs have been resolved or are being addressed, 20% have been identified and are waiting on a referral, and 17% are unaddressable due to no resources in the community or the consumer leaving services before the need was resolved.

[The Gather Resources Align Community Effort Blog.](#)



Actionable Steps to Support SDOH Efforts from Summit Attendees

A survey was sent out to SDOH Summit attendees asking, **“What’s one of thing that you plan to do to support SDOH efforts in Michigan?”**.

See responses below:

- Continue and expand screening.
- Continue to partner with the community for SDOH.
- Hopefully assist in the housing crisis in my community.
- Intend to participate in SDOH community events/forums.
- Continue to work with MiHIN and through the CIE to build data exchange capacity
- Consider getting Navigator staff at PIHP cross trained as CHWs to increase skill set and outreach.
- I will continue to help the people the best I can daily with the resources I have along with their participation and willingness.
- Network with attendees that shared successful strategies & interventions to consider how they may apply to my community.
- I'm going to look for the 2 books/change strategies that Poppy reference.
- Donate to SDOH causes.
- Continue my work as a Community Health Navigator.
- Sign up to get involved in the SDOH Strategy.
- Broaden partnerships to be more inclusive.
- Build partnerships with CBOs.
- Incorporating SDOH in efforts to improve connections for older adults between service/housing providers and healthcare.
- We are doing a Grand Rounds in February for our school-based and school -linked healthcare providers about next steps with your help!
- Look into the Michigan resource directory through United Way.
- Continue to build collaborative systems change work around the common vision we have created in Eaton County.
- Bring SDOH into my daily work when serving individuals and families within the school I am working in.
- Connect with other organizations working on these efforts.
- Look at implementing screening tools.
- Present info to my Meridian CHW team that was not able to attend the Summit.
- Try to strengthen ties to other community organizations
- I signed up for all the newsletters! Very excited to get more information in the future.
- Take a closer look at the housing issues in our community. Many of our partners were also listening to the housing presentations. Need to develop a strategy to increase engagement and action by our COC in improving the housing system as opposed to doing the status quo.
- Discuss CHW roles more!

Collaboration is key to the success of the MDHHS Strategy. We all must work together-across sectors and across the state- to advance health equity and improve health outcomes. [Click here for ways you can take action to help support the implementation of the SDOH Strategy.](#)

Summer Internship Opportunity

The Internship Program at Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is designed to enhance the skills and abilities of young professionals as well as to identify and attract future talent for our organization. Interns will gain practical hands-on work experience as well as a solid understanding of Public Policy/Public Health. Our program is an excellent way for interns to get a good start on their careers by working on meaningful projects, learning valuable skills, and networking with employees throughout our organization, which could potentially allow interns to build a future career at MDHHS.

[Click here for more information on how to apply.](#)

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



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