

April 2024

## SDOH Updates



### Housing Stability Update

The month of April focuses on promoting Healthy Housing. The MDHHS Policy & Planning Office is collaboratively working to serve highly vulnerable households with resources and support to improve housing stability, SDOH, and wellbeing. Healthy housing is safe and affordable housing that promotes healthy living conditions.

The MDHHS Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Strategy, Michigan's Roadmap to Healthy Communities embraces a Health in All Policies approach to support Housing Stability in Michigan. Phase III of the SDOH Strategy outlines strategies and initiatives to address housing instability in Michigan, focusing on reducing disparities, improving housing factors influencing health, and enhancing housing access.

A notable initiative to supporting housing stability, through a health in all policies lens, is the [Good Housing = Good Health Program](#), which establishes a robust partnership between MDHHS and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). This collaboration aims to bridge housing stability gaps and connect the most impacted communities to housing resources, acknowledging the intrinsic link between stable housing and overall health outcomes. By investing in and leveraging existing housing stabilization resources and services, local health partners will serve families through education and promoting available housing resources.

The Good Housing = Good Health program is also part of the [Michigan Statewide Housing Plan's](#) overall efforts to address SDOH and housing and create healthier, more resilient communities. Throughout the program and in collaboration with MSDHA, housing stability resource webinars are hosted to equip local health partners with the tools and resources needed to effectively link eligible families to housing assistance.

[The MSDHA Housing Help Resource Guide](#) outlines a variety of available housing resources to support Michigan families. The purpose is to increase engagement and awareness to better address and align housing stability initiatives across the state.



### Lead Abatement Webinar

In partnership with [MDHHS Division of Environmental Health](#), The Policy and Planning Office hosted a lead-abatement resource webinar for participating local health partners, highlighting various lead-abatement initiatives and approaches to supporting lead-impacted families. As being housed in a safe environment is a critical element of having positive health outcomes, at an interpersonal level and community level, we wanted to ensure partners are addressing housing factors that influence health as they can pose a threat to families and/or individuals health and safety.

[Click here to review the webinar recording.](#)

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### Community Health Workers Advisory Council

To support implementation of recommendations from the CHW Subcommittee, the MDHHS Office of Policy and Planning recently seated the Community Health Workers Advisory Council (CHW-AC).

The most recent CHW-AC meeting was held on March 25, 2024, during which council members learned more about Michigan's Medicaid CHW reimbursement policy and discussed the implications of the policy. The council discussed the potential impact of the scope of the certification policy recommendations. Our next steps include expanding our knowledge base to inform their decision of scope of the certification policy. This also includes expanding out environmental scan to develop a SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of statewide CHW certification options.

The 20-member Council will meet again April 22, 2024, from 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

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### Community Health Workers Internal Alignment Workgroup

The MDHHS Office of Policy and Planning continues to utilize the expertise of the Community Health Workers Internal Alignment Workgroup (CHW-IAWG). The CHW-IAWG serves to support CHW related SDOH initiatives by coordinating internal MDHHS program alignment, through environmental scan of existing efforts, sharing of best practices, and documentation of potential options to fulfill CHW goals, objectives and priorities related to CHW expansion and sustainability. The CHW Internal Alignment Workgroup acts to increase upstream internal alignment, collaboration, sharing/implementation of best practices, and improvement of CHW initiatives within MDHHS and State of Michigan.

Per its Charter, The CHW Internal Alignment Workgroup shall consist of representatives from MDHHS involved in CHW related initiatives. Workgroup members are responsible for reviewing meeting materials in advance, actively contributing to meeting discussions, and providing guidance on issues relevant to workgroup priorities. Members may also choose to lead meetings or discussion on topics of importance to their work, and/or take responsibility for action steps that contribute to achieving workgroup goals.

The CHW-IAWG has three main goals:

- **Goal 1:** Document existing CHW efforts across MDHHS.
- **Goal 2:** Engage, articulate, and incorporate CHW perspectives from the CHW workforce within MDHHS into alignment efforts, and explore opportunities for expansion of CHWs within MDHHS programs.
- **Goal 3:** Develop sustainable avenues of internal information sharing and communication to advance alignment and expansion of CHW efforts within MDHHS and State of Michigan.

In lieu of its recent meeting scheduled for March 11, 2024, CHW-IAWG members were asked to update our CHW-IAWG Programs Inventory and Contact List. The Policy and Planning Office will use this spreadsheet to create actionable steps and identify potential areas for collaboration as we move forward with our CHW-focused work.



### Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4) Updates

Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4) Partners are continuing to develop and implement P4 programming for the Spring 2024 season. Tribal partners include: [Bay Mills Indian Community](#), [Hannahville Indian Community](#), [Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi](#), and [Pokagon Band of Potawatomi](#). The P4 Project has three objectives: (1) Reduce food insecurity, (2) Improve overall dietary health by increasing fruits, vegetables, and traditional food consumption, and (3) Improve health outcomes for Tribal communities in Michigan. Rooted firmly in the principle of cultural competence, the P4 project aims to tackle nutrition-related health disparities in Michigan Tribal communities while promoting food security and food sovereignty. This 2-year grant project meets quarterly; the first status meeting of the P4 Project FY24-25 will be in late July 2024.

[Grand Traverse Band of the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians](#) (GTB) continues to work on their P4 Bridge Funding FY24 project, with their first status meeting held in March. GTB hopes to have all P4-related purchases made within the coming weeks to ensure funds are spent before the period ends on May 31, 2024. GTB's Agriculture & Food Sovereignty Department will use P4 funds to prepare for a bison farm on GTB property in the effort to provide every tribal member in the GTB to have easy access to bison. This proposal includes community engagement by volunteering and hands-on activities outdoors. The second status meeting for GTB's P4 Bridge Funding FY24 project is scheduled for April 18, 2024.



### Launch of Food Delivery Program: Breaking Barriers to Food Security

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Policy and Planning Office is excited to embark on a groundbreaking initiative aimed at addressing food insecurity in Wayne and Kent counties. With an appropriation of \$5 million, MDHHS, in collaboration with strategic partners, is set to launch the planning stage of the Food Delivery Program. This initiative comes at a critical juncture, as the need for accessible, nutritious food for low-income families has never been more apparent.

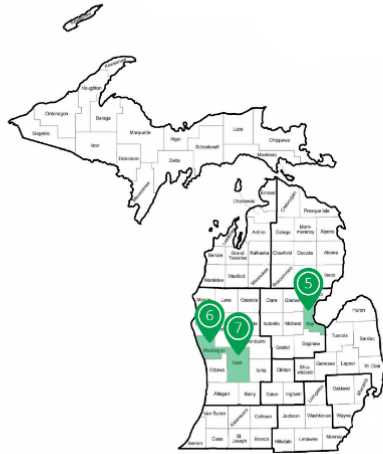
The Food Delivery Program will support vulnerable communities, particularly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits recipients and the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) population in Wayne and Kent counties. Spearheaded by esteemed partners including the Kent County Health Department, Heart of West Michigan United Way, Wayne County Health Department, United Way of Southeast Michigan, and the Michigan Food Bank Council, this collaborative effort seeks to revolutionize the delivery of food to those in need.

Initiatives like the Food Delivery Program are crucial in the fight against food insecurity. While the initial appropriation of \$5 million lays the foundation for the Food Delivery Program, long-term sustainability is critical. Partnerships with key stakeholders and ongoing research into policy levers will be instrumental in ensuring the program's continued success beyond the initial funding period. By exploring innovative strategies and leveraging community resources, we can create a sustainable framework that addresses food delivery across Michigan.

Feel free share any food delivery best practices via email to [MDHHS-SDOH-PolicyandPlanning@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-SDOH-PolicyandPlanning@michigan.gov).

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The second cohort of [SDOH Hub pilot sites](#) launched in April 2024:



- 5 United Way of Bay County
- 6 Muskegon County Health Department
- 7 Heart of West Michigan United Way

## Launch of Cohort 2 of the SDOH Hubs

[Cohort 2](#) of the [SDOH Hubs pilot](#) has successfully launched, increasing the number of active SDOH Hub sites to seven; We are looking forward to the launch of Cohort 3 on May 1. The hub sites have been working diligently to connect with local partners and identify areas of opportunity to implement community information exchange (CIE), Health in All Policies (HiAP), and community health worker (CHW) initiatives. Hub sites continue to work collaboratively to share best practices and differing approaches to addressing hub priorities. The SDOH Team has also been working closely with hub sites to assist with any technical assistance needs and helping to connect them with additional resources.

We are looking forward to convening the next SDOH Hubs Advisory Council meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> and the next Learning Community meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> to further discuss best practices to implementing a HiAP framework and ensuring ongoing alignment of hub efforts.

To learn more about the SDOH Hubs, including an overview of each hub site, please visit [www.Michigan.gov/SDOH](http://www.Michigan.gov/SDOH):

- [Cohort One Overview](#)
- [Cohort Two Overview](#)

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## SDOH Partner Updates

### Michigan Health Information Technology Commission seeks representative for consumers

The [Michigan Health Information Technology Commission](#), created by Public Act 137 of 2006, seeks an individual to represent consumers on the commission. The Michigan Health Information Technology Commission's mission is to facilitate and promote the design, implementation, operation, and maintenance of an interoperable health care information infrastructure in Michigan.

In June 2022, the HIT Commission adopted the Michigan Health Technology Roadmap - Bridge to Better Health. The HIT Roadmap's six initiatives build on the robust clinical infrastructure of existing



resources while introducing strategies to better incorporate public health and social drivers of health. The [Community Information Exchange \(CIE\) Advisory Committee](#) is a subcommittee of the HIT Commission and is charged with implementing recommendations from the CIE Task Force Final Report.

In total the HIT Commission has thirteen members, the commission membership can be found [here](#). If interested in serving on the commission, please create an account on the Board or Commission Application page [here](#) and apply.



### MI Medicaid CHW Registry

To join the MI Medicaid CHW Registry, individuals must complete CHW training from a verified vendor. At this time there are three Medicaid-approved CHW Training entities: MiCHWA, Everyday Life Consulting, and Indian Health Services. More information on the MI Medicaid CHW Registry and reimbursement policy can be found

here: [Michigan Medicaid CHW Services](#). More information on MiCHWA's training opportunities for CHWs can be found here: [MiCHWA Medicaid CHW Trainings](#).



## Building Healthy Communities

### Building Health Communities (BHC) Program

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the Building Healthy Communities collaboration of statewide partners, are currently accepting applications for the Building Healthy Communities (BHC) program for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. BHC is a schoolwide initiative designed to prevent chronic disease, improve the mental health and well-being of students and staff, and create healthy school environments that facilitate improved health, greater student attendance and improved academic achievement.

**Who's eligible?** Any public, charter or private nonprofit school in Michigan is eligible regardless of their:

- Free and reduced-price school meal percentage
- Geographic location
- Participation in other school wellness grants, programs or initiatives

There are three program opportunities to help meet the needs of Michigan schools. [We invite all Michigan schools, grades K-12, to apply for the program that best fits their school environment.](#)

- **Building Healthy Communities: Reducing Health Disparities in Elementary Schools** – focused on addressing the social determinants of health that have contributed to wide disparities in many communities across Michigan. The program offers all elementary school building withing a school district necessary resources to facilitate a healthier environment,

prevent chronic disease and improve the mental health of children in all elementary schools. Please visit <https://bhcwsu.org/> for more information.

- ***Building Healthy Communities: Engaging Middle Schools through Project Healthy Schools*** – creates a culture of wellness enabling middle school students to increase physical activity, eat healthier, improve mental health, and understand, how nutrition, activity and well-being influence their lifelong health and learning. For additional information, please visit <https://projecthealthyschools.org/building-healthy-communities>.
- ***Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness*** – This program provides a menu of healthy eating, physical activity and well-being resources that K-12 schools can choose from to make their school environment healthier and create a culture of wellness. For more information, please go to [buildinghealthycommunities.arewehealthy.com](http://buildinghealthycommunities.arewehealthy.com).

Interested schools may review the full program description and eligibility information at [www.bcbsm.com/buildhealth](http://www.bcbsm.com/buildhealth). Applicants must apply by June 30, 2024.



### 2024 Food Pantry Grant is Now Accepting Applications

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, United Dairy Industry of Michigan, Blue Cross Complete of Michigan and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation are proud to partner to address food and nutrition insecurity. Attached is information on our [Food Pantry Grant](#) which will increase the capacity of local food pantries to provide nutrient-rich fresh-food options that require refrigeration, such as dairy products, fruit and vegetables to individuals and families in their communities. The [application](#) deadline is June 21, 2024. [Click here to view a one-pager fact sheet with additional information.](#)

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



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