



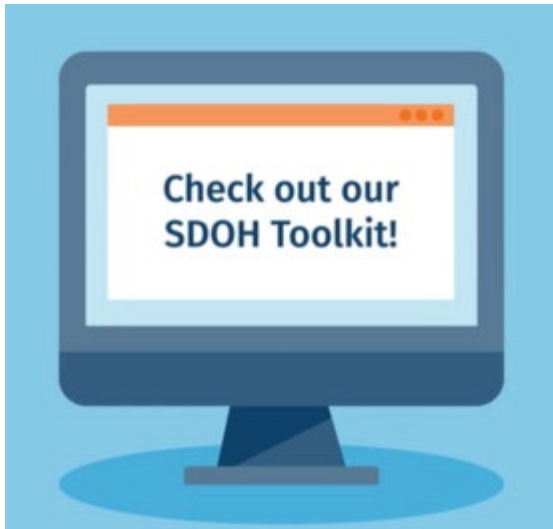
December 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of our SDOH newsletter. Our newsletter aims to provide you with updates on the initiatives and progress within this current phase, along with relevant partner updates, with the goal of fostering transparency and creating space for meaningful collaboration.

Phase III of the SDOH Strategy, which launched in January 2024, represents a significant progression in our commitment to holistic well-being. Building on the foundational achievements of Phase I, which prioritized critical areas such as food security, housing stability, and health equity, we now advance our efforts. Our latest phase synthesizes insights gained from our earlier efforts, incorporates feedback from Michigan's diverse partners, and employs a collaborative, community-driven approach to address emerging challenges.

[Click here to learn more about Phase III of the SDOH strategy.](#)

SDOH Strategy Phase III Updates



SDOH Summit Updates and SDOH Month Activities

While MDHHS will not be hosting an SDOH Summit in 2025, we are excited to announce that we will still be celebrating Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Month this January! MDHHS will use 2025 as a dedicated evaluation year to assess our initiatives and build on our SDOH work, with plans to bring back the SDOH Summit in 2026.

Join us in recognizing SDOH Month!

Throughout January, we invite partners to host their own events, webinars, or awareness

activities to promote health equity and SDOH work across Michigan. Use the hashtag **#MISDOHMonth2025** to connect with others and show your support. More information will be shared in December.

We also encourage you to explore the [SDOH Month Toolkit](#), which offers resources like graphics, suggested posts, talking points, and ideas to help you get people involved. Whether you're posting on social media, writing a newsletter, or hosting an event, these resources will help you highlight the importance of SDOH.

Click the link below to explore the toolkit:

<https://bit.ly/SDOHTOOLKIT>

FREE WEBINARS FOR SDOH MONTH JANUARY 2025

Celebrate SDOH Month this January!



*Let's work together
to improve the
factors that affect
our health.*



Free Webinars for SDOH Month 2025

This January, join the MDHHS Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) team for a series of engaging and informative webinars designed to spark collaboration, innovation, and action in addressing social needs and advancing health equity. These sessions are free and open to all, offering valuable insights for healthcare providers, community organizations, policymakers, and anyone passionate about creating healthier communities



Webinar 1: Scaling and Sustaining SDOH Hubs: Key Recommendations from the Advisory Council

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 2:00–3:00 PM ET

Please join us for an insightful webinar as the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hubs Advisory Council presents a comprehensive set of recommendations to support scalability and sustainability of SDOH Hubs. In this session, Advisory Council members will share actionable strategies within the priority areas of alignment, measurement, engagement, support, and advancing equity. Gain

valuable insights into creating more meaningful partnerships, improving community well-being, and building stronger pathways to address social needs and improve health equity through the innovative SDOH Hub framework. This webinar is particularly beneficial for healthcare organizations, community-based organizations, policymakers, and businesses in the social services sector, as it offers practical approaches to forming impactful partnerships and addressing social determinants that influence health outcomes. [Click here to register.](#)



Webinar 2: Community Health Worker Integration: Advancing Equity in Michigan

Date & Time: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 1:00–2:00 PM ET

Learn about the **Community Health Worker Integration to Improve Equity (CITIE)** initiative, a groundbreaking effort to reduce health disparities. CITIE aims to train and integrate Community Health Workers (CHWs) in communities most affected by health inequities, supporting recommendations from the CHW Subcommittee.

Discover how this collaborative initiative is laying the foundation for improved health equity through pilot projects launched in 2024. [Click here to register.](#)



Webinar 3: SDOH Hubs: Cultivating Strong and Resilient Communities

Date & Time: Thursday, January 30, 2025, 2:00–3:00 PM ET

Join us for an engaging webinar on Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hubs, where we will dive into the critical role they play in addressing social, economic, and environmental factors to improve health and advance equity. This session will bring together state partners and community leaders to discuss how SDOH Hubs serve as central points for integrating services and resources to enhance social and health care

delivery, tailored to the specific needs of communities. This webinar will be especially valuable for public health officials, healthcare providers, community-based organizations, and policymakers, as it highlights collaborative strategies and innovative models that can improve outcomes and ensure equitable access to essential resources. Learn more about how local partners are collaborating for a more holistic approach and what's on the horizon for the SDOH Hubs initiative. [Click here to register.](https://michigan.gov/SDOH)

Produce Prescription Pilot Program Update

November marks the start of Reporting Period #3 for the Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4). P4 Project FY24-25 tribal partners include: [Bay Mills Indian Community](#), [Hannahville Indian Community](#), Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP), and [Pokagon Band of Potawatomi](#).

Partners meet regularly throughout the P4 Project grant period to bolster relationships and inspire cross-cohort collaboration. Interactive status meetings provide an opportunity to share accomplishments, opportunities, and other P4-related happenings in a supportive and dynamic environment. P4 Project FY24-25 status meetings take place quarterly; the second of these six quarterly meetings was held in November 2024.

Bay Mills hosted a series of Dish Bag Workshops in which participants learned about the cultural and economic significance of Dish Bags used at feasts, pow wows, and other gatherings. Workshop participants also discussed a Spirit Dish, the importance of feasting for one's ancestors, and how Semaa (tobacco) is offered to the fire to Honor ancestors and give thanks. Hannahville is celebrating the success of their recent fishing trip to Shag Lake; one Hannahville community member said it was the first time they had been fishing in 20 years!

Participants of Hannahville's Food Farmacy have made good use of the program vouchers, stocking up on fresh produce to feed their families and prepare for winter on the reservation. NHBP continues to develop and expand operations at Pine Creek Farms to increase its

capacity to serve community members; Limestone concrete slabs have been poured to erect critical new infrastructure for Food Sovereignty efforts. These new additions will help to serve NHBP's educational classes, including a gazebo/outdoor kitchen, greenhouse, and shed; materials to erect the new structures at Pine Creek Farms will be completed using Tribal Job Bank employment.

Pokagon Band has worked to install Aerogarden units in each classroom at their Early Learning & Development Academy, *Zagbëgon* (which means "sprouts" in Potawatomi). A new Hydroponic lettuce tower will be installed at the Pokagon Health Services rotunda, supplying residents with fresh greens for consumption during the winter months.

Success Story: Traditional Tea Station

At Bay Mills Health Center (BMHC), the Traditional Tea Station is more than just a place for a warm drink—it's a bridge to health, history, and culture. Recognized as a healthy alternative to sugary sodas and juices, traditional Native American teas provide a low- to zero-calorie, caffeine-free option that connects community members to their heritage.



The journey began with the installation of the first Traditional Tea Station at Waishkey Bay Farm. However, securing funding to expand the initiative to the BMHC lobby was a challenge. Thanks to the P4 Project, Bay Mills was able to purchase essential equipment, including a water/ice machine, a hot water machine, and a variety of traditional teas, officially launching the tea station.

Building on this momentum, the P4 Project is now funding the creation of a traditional tea garden on the BMHC grounds. This garden will ensure a sustainable source of traditional teas for generations to come.

By addressing beverage consumption and offering healthy alternatives Bay Mills found a way to combat obesity, diabetes and heart disease through food.



Health in All Policies Interagency Workgroup relaunches, adopts 2025 workplan

Health in All Policies is a collaborative approach to improving health outcomes, by integrating health and healthy equity into decision-making and policymaking across sectors. In December, the Health in All Policies Interagency Workgroup relaunched with partners from thirteen departments, including representatives from the Michigan Poverty Task Force and the Racial Disparities Task Force. The workgroup convenes departmental leadership who will serve as key advisors on the strategic direction of initiatives and guide the state's adoption of a Health in All Policies approach to policymakers statewide. The objective of the workgroup is to foster a shared understanding of health and health equity across departments. The workgroup will meet quarterly through 2025 and will focus on aligning departments, engaging interagency partners, and supporting effective collaboration. [You can learn more about Health in All Policies here.](#)



Community Information Exchange Advisory Committee invites Stakeholders to CIE Professional Learning Community

The Health Information Technology Commission (HITC) CIE Advisory Committee convened on November 19 to continue its work to address and implement recommendations of the 2024 [CIE Task Force](#). Commissioner Ebersole-Wood will step down from her role as Vice Chair but will continue to serve as the Health IT Commission Co-Chair. Commissioner Chin will serve as Vice Chair in 2025. The Community Information Exchange Professional Learning Community (PLC) aims to create a collaborative space for professionals in the CIE space, by fostering knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning. The group will focus on learning opportunities, including the CIE Task Force findings and recommendations, project presentations from across the state and best practices for CIE. The PLC will cancel the December 2024 meeting and will reconvene for monthly meetings starting January 2025. [You can register for future sessions here.](#)

MDHHS launches Michigan Technical Assistance for Health Information Exchange

MDHHS launched the Michigan Technical Assistance for Health Information Exchange (MiTAHIE) to develop statewide structured technical assistance and training for health and social care providers. To increase person-centered care coordination across a variety of clinical and non-clinical partners, MiTAHIE will work to provide support to prioritized providers, including community-based organizations and skilled nursing facilities. The project aligns with the COVID-19 Racial Disparities Taskforce's recommendations to enhance data collection efforts, allowing us to make more informed decisions and close racial health disparity gaps.

During the first phase of the project, MiTAHIE will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to ensure technical assistance and training meet providers where they are and expand their capacity to serve Medicaid beneficiaries. Michigan 2-1-1 will reach out to its resource directory providers via its listserv to invite them to complete the needs assessment survey. Insights from these organizations are essential to the process and will guide future efforts!

We need your help! Provide feedback on the draft MDHHS food donation webpage survey

The MDHHS Office of Policy and Planning has drafted a food donation webpage to share basic food donation standards. People and organizations continue to be confused about food donation guidelines- and miss the opportunity to donate. Through this webpage we aim to provide plain language descriptions of liability and labeling rules to increase food donation.

[This short survey](#) will ask you to review screenshots of components of the draft food donation webpage and ask for your comments, thoughts, and feedback.

The audience for the webpage is Michiganders aiming to reduce their personal food waste and governmental and/or nongovernmental organizations, such as food banks or food pantries, focused on preventing food waste. This short survey will ask you to review screenshots of a draft webpage- links and videos will not be interactive in the survey format. [Please complete the survey here.](#)



SDOH Hub Updates

The SDOH Hubs continue to advance key initiatives to address social determinants of health and reduce disparities across communities. Many Hub site partners continue to collaborate

to develop and implement Community Information Exchange (CIE), to enhance information sharing among providers and partners and allow for more coordinated and personalized services. The Hubs are also prioritizing programs that address critical disparities, such as the Community Health Worker (CHW) Integration to Improve Equity (CITIE) Initiative, which will train and integrate CHWs into communities disproportionately burdened by health inequities.

As part of SDOH Month 2025, MDHHS will host two webinars that will highlight key recommendations and strategies for cultivating strong, resilient communities:

- **"Scaling and Sustaining SDOH Hubs: Key Recommendations from the Advisory Council"** on January 28, 2025, 2–3 PM. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **"Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hubs: Cultivating Strong and Resilient Communities"** on January 30, 2025, 2–3 PM. [Learn more and register here.](#)

To learn more about the SDOH Hubs, please visit Michigan.gov/SDOH. For an overview of each Hub site's activities, key partnerships, and priorities, please see the [SDOH Hub site profiles](#).

Priorities

To support the stated purpose of the SDOH Hubs Advisory Council, five priorities have been identified:



Alignment



Measurement



Engagement



Support



**Advance
Equity**

SDOH Hubs Advisory Council- Accepting Nominations in January 2025

On December 19, 2024, the MDHHS SDOH Team will host the sixth and final SDOH Hubs Advisory Council meeting of the year to finalize emerging recommendations and plan next steps. During the pilot phase, this council guided the implementation of SDOH Hub projects and shaped recommendations in five key areas: Alignment, Engagement, Measurement, Support, and Advancing Equity. These recommendations, informed by council discussions and surveys, will be refined and published in a Winter 2025 report.

Additionally, the Policy and Planning team will release a January press announcement for applications to join the 2025 Advisory Council, encouraging broad participation to ensure representation from Michigan's diverse communities.

To learn more about the SDOH Hubs Advisory Council, please visit the [Advisory Council webpage](#).

SDOH Hubs Learning Community

The SDOH Hubs Learning Community, composed of Hub site grantees, will reconvene January 2025, starting the year with our first session dedicated to streamlining processes to enhance support for the Hubs using the Hub Implementation Guide. Based on member feedback, these status meetings will shift to quarterly sessions, held on the second Tuesday of every three months from 3:00–4:30 PM. 2025 Quarterly Meeting Dates are as follows: January 14, April 8, July 8, and October 14.



Community Health Worker Advisory Council Update

To support implementation of recommendations from the CHW Subcommittee, the MDHHS Office of Policy and Planning convenes the Community Health Workers Advisory Council (CHW-AC). The 10th and final CHW Advisory Council Session is scheduled for December 16, 2024, from 3:00-4:30 PM EST. The 20-member council, comprised of former and current CHWs, has explored various pathways and considerations for CHW qualification criteria to consider in the development of a statewide policy. The council approached these goals with a health equity lens, reaching a majority consensus on a set of recommendations which will be published in the spring of 2025 in the 2024 CHW Advisory Council Report.

The Community Health Worker Community Feedback Forum

The Community Health Worker Community Feedback Forum (CHW-CFF) advises the State of Michigan and its established CHW Advisory Council on the development of policies and programs to support and sustain the CHW workforce, including recommendations regarding CHW recruitment, training, retention, capacities, and roles, among other critical considerations. The CHW-CFF met quarterly from 2023-2024, bringing together community members, as well as state and local community partners, to inform policy and program recommendations to support the CHW workforce in Michigan.

The fifth CHW-CFF occurred on November 12, 2024, and focused on reviewing the Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance [Community Health Worker Employer Survey 2024](#) results and highlighting the MDHSH Office of Policy and Planning's CITIE Initiative and HEEL project expected to launch in 2025.

Moving forward into 2025, the CHW-CFF will convene biannually. The next forum is scheduled for May 13, 2025, from 10:00-11:30 AM. Stay tuned for details and a link to register in the coming months.

Michigan Racial Health Equity Think Tank (MiRHETT)

The Michigan Racial Health Equity Think Tank (MiRHETT) - Solving for Racial Health Equity aims to eliminate racial health disparities in Michigan by uniting cross-disciplinary experts to create actionable strategies. Supporting the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) strategy, MiRHETT will better support the social care needs of marginalized and racially diverse Michiganders. Through MiRHETT, a cross-disciplinary “Think Tank,” participants will collaborate and share knowledge from their unique backgrounds to address and improve disparity gaps for racial minorities in Michigan. The initiative is focusing on evaluating existing recommendations, developing strategies to support marginalized and racially diverse residents, and establishing 3-5 metrics to address disparity gaps for racial minorities.

The fourth session opened with a review of community agreements and a focus on understanding systems change and mental models. Participants examined how systems change frameworks can guide public health efforts and explored the role of mental models in shaping perceptions, influencing decision-making, and prioritizing issues. The session incorporated a Public Health Framework for reducing health disparities and engaged participants in discussions about addressing underlying causes.

Through these discussions, participants deepened their understanding of the critical frameworks and perspectives necessary for driving equity in public health and to review the below foundational documents which will guide the implementation strategy on further advancing recommendations from final reports of:

- Black Leadership Advisory Council,
 - Michigan Coronavirus Racial Disparities Task Force,
 - Michigan Poverty Task Force,
 - MDHHS Health Equity Report, and the
 - Rural Health Equity Plan.
-



Tackling food insecurity through the Food Delivery Service Program

Food Delivery Service Program

MDHHS is providing funding to support a Food Delivery Service Program (FDSP) to mitigate transportation barriers, increase grocery access, and address food security needs in Kent and Wayne Counties. FDSP partners include: [Heart of West Michigan United Way](#), [United Way for Southeastern Michigan](#), and [Wayne County Health Department](#).

In partnership with private grocery entities, FDSP partners will support food delivery services to community residents receiving food assistance in Kent and Wayne counties who are facing

transportation barriers. MDHHS will work with FDSP partners to develop recommendations to support sustainability and scalability of Food Delivery Program in Michigan.

FDSP partners will assemble for regular status meetings throughout the grant period, meeting as both regional partners and as a combined cohort. FDSP Kent County partners convened on December 9, 2024; FDSP Wayne County partners convened on December 10, 2024. The next FDSP Partner Collaboration meeting will be held on January 13, 2025.

Corktown Health Program

Corktown Health is a medical center for all people with a broad vision of health equity for all. Specializing in giving care to the LGBTQ+ community, Corktown, named as a 2024 LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equity Leader is one of only two organizations in Michigan to be recognized by the Human Rights Campaign for its demonstrated commitment to equitable and inclusive care for the LGBTQ+ community.

Corktown along with multiple leading LGBTQ+ organizations across the state of Michigan teamed up for a funding opportunity, Corktown: **LGBTQ+ Health and Social Services Disparities Request for Proposals**, focused on addressing health disparities within the LGBTQ+ community.

Community organizations have submitted proposals that aim to:

- Identify and understand specific health disparities affecting LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Develop innovative interventions or programs to reduce these disparities.
- Promote inclusivity, equity, and culturally competent care.

The deadline to submit proposals closed in August and applications were reviewed by 18 coalition members representing the existing 18 sub-recipient organizations. Awardees have been notified of their acceptance and will begin working on their projects in the new year.

SDOH Partner Updates

Grant Opportunity: Great Lakes Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Program

The Minneapolis Foundation, in collaboration with the Midwest Environmental Justice Network (MWEJN), NDN Collective, and RE-AMP Network, is proud to announce the launch of the *Great Lakes Environmental Justice Thriving Communities grantmaking program*. This groundbreaking initiative is now open for applications, offering a powerful new tool to tackle pressing environmental challenges across the Great Lakes region.



About the Program

Over the next three years, this nonpartisan program will distribute \$40 million to fund impactful environmental and public health projects in communities across Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and 36 federally recognized tribal nations. This funding is designed to empower communities to address critical issues such as:

- Environmental health
- Air, soil, and water quality
- Healthy homes
- Access to healthy food
- Stormwater and green infrastructure
- Emergency preparedness and disaster resilience
- Environmental job training

Eligibility

The grant program welcomes applications from:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Local and tribal governments
- Institutions of higher education

that are actively working to improve environmental and public health in the Great Lakes region.

Application Timeline

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until November 2026. To be considered in the first review batch, submit your application by **January 31, 2025**.

Why This Matters

This grant represents a tremendous opportunity to make a lasting impact. By supporting projects that promote healthier, more resilient communities, we can address environmental justice challenges and help foster thriving communities across the Great Lakes region.

Help Spread the Word

We invite you to share this funding opportunity with organizations in your network. Together, we can ensure these resources reach the communities that need them most.

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

NEW Funding Opportunity: Justice Squared

Just Leaders for a Just Health System (JUSTICE SQUARED) invites healthcare organizations, patients, and community leaders to engage in a collaborative, humble, and courageous journey to confront structural racism in healthcare together.

In this two-year program, teams will receive tools and hands-on guidance from experts in racial justice and systems change as they work to make organizational policies and practices more equitable. Proposals are due January 15, 2025.

[Click here to learn more and apply.](#)

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



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