



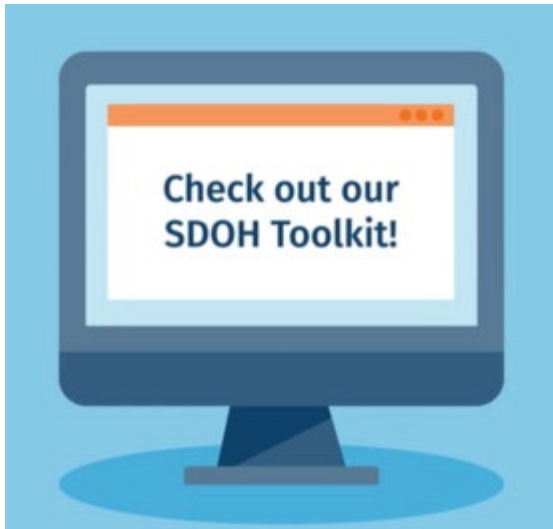
November 2024

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>



Keynote Highlights from the Civitas Networks for Health 2024 Annual Conference

Dr. Phil Levy facilitated the panel with Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist and Policy and Planning Office Director Ninah Sasy at the Civitas Networks for Health 2024 Annual Conference on October 1. The panel focused on efforts to advance social care across the state, including the [Social Determinants of Health Hubs](#) and the [Community Information Exchange Advisory Committee](#).

Panelists highlighted the continued commitment to community voice and collaboration among diverse partners to ensure a

holistic approach when addressing social needs. Director Sasy spoke passionately about efforts under the SDOH Hubs to bring together a collection of community partners and collaboratives to work together to understand and address the factors influencing health and well-being in communities.

The session also emphasized the need to better connect health care and social care settings through community information exchange so individuals can receive the care they need. The panel discussed how a wide variety of organizations provide health, human, and social services to Michigan residents, but often use different data systems that do not speak to one another, creating barriers to critical resources and gaps in service delivery. The CIE Advisory Committee has brought together a range of stakeholder perspectives- including community-based organizations, healthcare, and social care partners- to implement statewide community information exchange and improve access to social care services across the state.



SDOH Hubs Update

The [SDOH Hubs](#) are advancing several key initiatives to address social determinants of health and reduce disparities across communities. One core focus is ongoing Community Information Exchange (CIE) planning and implementation, which aims to create a more connected ecosystem of resources and support for individuals and families. Through CIE efforts, we are building a framework that enhances information sharing among providers and partners, allowing for more coordinated and personalized services. The Hubs are also prioritizing programs that address critical disparities, such as the [Food Delivery Service](#)

[Program](#), which provides food access and delivery support to vulnerable populations, ensuring that basic needs are met for individuals who may face barriers to food security.

Additionally, some of the Hubs will continue to focus on housing support, offering resources to secure stable, healthy housing for those facing housing insecurity. This range of initiatives represents a comprehensive approach to supporting priority populations, addressing their immediate needs while laying a foundation for longer-term health and well-being improvements.

SDOH Hubs Advisory Council

On October 24, 2024, the MDHHS SDOH Team convened the SDOH Hubs Advisory Council for their fifth meeting to discuss next steps for the council and begin the process of revising emerging recommendations.

During the pilot phase of the SDOH Hubs, MDHHS engaged this council to guide the implementation of the SDOH Hub pilot projects and develop recommendations for future iterations of the SDOH Hub work. Throughout these meetings, council members participated in robust discussions around five priority areas: Alignment, Engagement, Measurement, Support, and Advancing Equity. Through these discussions and additional feedback from survey responses, a series of recommendations emerged to help guide future iterations of SDOH Hub efforts, which will be refined and published in a brief report in Winter 2025.

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

SDOH Hubs Learning Community

On November 12, 2024, the SDOH Hubs Learning Community convened for their fifth meeting. During the meeting, partners from the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) facilitated a focus group that will continue the work of the [Michigan's State Health Assessment \(SHA\)](#) and contribute to the data and information that advises the action steps in the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). The Learning Community will reconvene in the new year to continue to share best practices, barriers, and opportunities for alignment and collaboration.

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 on November 6, 2024.

Bay Mills has hosted a variety of classes this fall to encourage thoughtful consumption of autumn-harvest yields and promote proper preparation for the upcoming winter months. These cooking & preservation classes were open to all Bay Mills tribal members and included topics such as Applesauce, braided corn, canned chicken, smoked fish, and smoked turkey. Ingredients for classes were supplied mainly by the Bay Mills Farmer's Market.

As a component of their Traditional Lifeways programming, Hannahville hosted a community fishing trip to Shag Lake, located just outside Gwinn, Michigan. Over 58 Hannahville residents—including children, parents, adults, and elders—participated in the trip, with a mission to conserve indigenous knowledge and secure food for the Hannahville community through traditional fishing practices.

Building upon the progress made with FY23 P4 Bridge Funding investments, NHBP has been able to plan for and purchase several long-term crops for cultivation at Pine Creek Farms. The farm—NHBP's hub for Food Sovereignty efforts—now hosts two different species of blueberries, five diverse species of cherries, and a dedicated pumpkin patch tended to by the Tribal Youth Program & Nanokashi (Hummingbird) Youth Group.

Pokagon Health Services has partnered with Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to host quarterly food preservation classes for all Pokagon Band tribal members. These DNR-facilitated courses teach essential food safety and overwintering skills, such as hot water canning and freeze-drying methods. Pokagon Band continues to host their collaborative MSU Extension educational cooking class series, "Cooking Matters", with high satisfaction and participation rates from Pokagon Band tribal members.



The CHW Community Feedback Forum (CHW-CFF) brings together community members, as well as state and local community partners, to inform policy and planning recommendations to support the CHW workforce in Michigan. The CHW-CFF was held on November 12, 2024, from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM.

Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA) was a guest speaker and presented the results from the 2024 CHW Employer Survey. The survey was funded in partnership with MDHHS. Forum participants also learned about CHW-related programs within the MDHHS Office of Policy and Planning as well as engaged in a survey to inform the development of a health literacy curriculum for CHWs.

To view the recording of this feedback forum, click [here](#)! Passcode: 9Uw9@dL.



Community Health Worker Advisory Council Update

To support implementation of recommendations from the Community Health Worker Subcommittee, the MDHHS Office of Policy and Planning convenes the Community Health Workers Advisory Council (CHW-AC). On October 28, 2024, at 3:00 pm, members voted on final recommendations to best support the CHW workforce in Michigan. These recommendations include identifying a pathway for a statewide CHW certification that builds upon the existing Medicaid reimbursement policy, MMP 23-74. Council members also voted recommendations for CHW

qualification criteria if a statewide CHW certification is developed beyond the existing Medicaid reimbursement policy. Recommendations, along with findings from the CHW Advisory Council activity in 2024 will be included in the CHW Advisory Council report to be published in early 2025.

The 20-member Council will meet again on November 18, 2024, from 3:00 – 4:30 pm.



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

The Community Information Exchange Professional Learning Community (PLC) invites professionals working on CIE initiatives to join them on November 21, 2-3 p.m. The CIE Professional Learning Community (PLC) aims to create a

collaborative space for professionals working on CIE initiatives 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 meet monthly through 2024. You can register for the November session and all future sessions [here](#).

Michigan Racial Health Equity Think Tank (MiRHETT)

The **Michigan Racial Health Equity Think Tank (MiRHETT)** is dedicated to eliminating racial health disparities in Michigan by bringing together cross-disciplinary experts to develop actionable strategies. The initiative focuses on evaluating existing recommendations, creating new approaches to support racially marginalized and diverse communities, and establishing 3-5 key metrics to address gaps in racial health equity.

The **second and third MiRHETT sessions** were held on **October 18** and **November 1**, respectively. These sessions focused on fostering authentic relationships, creating a safe space for difficult conversations, and finalizing the community agreements. Participants also reviewed various foundational documents and discussed the **systems change framework**, which will guide the development of MiRHETT's strategy for addressing racial health disparities.



Strengthening Housing Stability for Healthier Communities: Q4 Highlights from the Good Housing = Good Health Program

In the fourth quarter of the Good Housing = Good Health program, July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024, local health partners

actively engaged with residents to identify needs and connect them to vital resources that enhance both housing and health. Communities served over 1,000 households, connecting residents to essential housing resources. Local health partners worked closely with community organizations to prevent evictions, help families access income-based housing, manage utility bills, and transition families from substandard to safe housing. Educational efforts focused on increasing awareness of available housing resources and guiding families toward long-term housing and health stability.

More than 900 households received housing stabilization support, and follow-up assessments revealed significant progress in helping individuals gain access to reliable housing resources. These efforts were further strengthened by engaging families in trusted, familiar settings like health departments, which helped build trust and encourage participation in available services

Community Health Workers (CHWs) played a critical role in providing case management, education, and resource referrals. Over 2,141 hours were dedicated to outreach, with CHWs conducting SDOH screenings in accessible locations to better reach families in need. As the

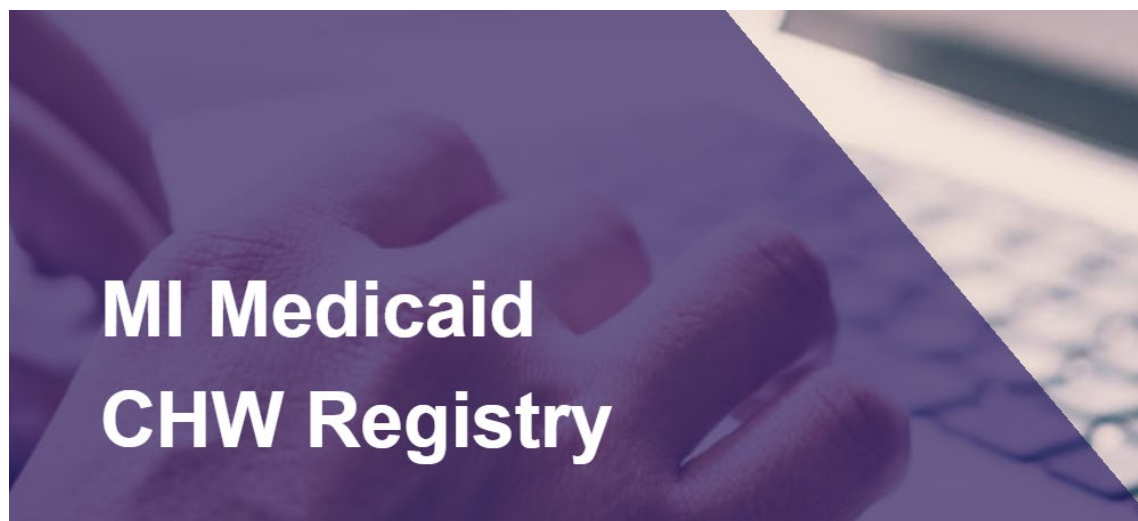
role of CHWs becomes increasingly vital, local health partners are pursuing partnerships to enhance CHW training and integration.

Community information exchange (CIE) initiatives focused on understanding existing systems, education, and project planning. Local health departments are working with partners to improve referral processes and develop systems like online resource directories, mobile apps, and electronic referrals. Local health partners continued to implement and operate closed-loop referral platforms that collect referrals and follow up with resources for addressing housing needs.

Multi-sector collaboration has been key in improving housing stability across diverse communities. By engaging with community partners, local health partners promoted available resources through education and program awareness. Local health partners established or expanded 258 partnerships with housing and SDOH stakeholders

Michigan communities remain committed to strengthening the housing network and supporting families by increasing access to resources and improving housing stability.

SDOH Partner Updates



Updates to the MI Medicaid Community Health Worker (CHW) Registry: Streamlined Application & Enhanced Access

MDHHS is excited to announce updates to the [MI Medicaid Community Health Worker \(CHW\) Registry](#)! The registry now offers a more streamlined application process and a user-friendly electronic interface, making it easier for CHW applicants to become approved providers.

The MI Medicaid CHW Registry is a database of Community Health Workers (CHWs) who have met qualification criteria required to provide CHW services to Medicaid beneficiaries in Michigan. Before registration with the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing

System (CHAMPS) for Michigan Medicaid reimbursement, a CHW must be verified and added to the MI Medicaid CHW Registry.

The Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA), in partnership with Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA), is the designated vendor to provide verification and credentialing services, and maintenance of the registry.

For a direct link to the TA webinar for the updated registry, visit:

<https://somedhhs.adobeconnect.com/pxteyuiibmgis/>

For the MI Medicaid CHW Registry application, visit: <http://mimedicaidchw.org/>

For more CHW Medicaid policy information and additional resources, visit:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/medicaid/community-health-workers>.

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.](#)

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program FY23 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Application Now Open

The application period for Fiscal Year (FY) 23 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) funding is now open. The application can be accessed on the Michigan.gov SLCGP website [FY23 Application For SLCGP Funding](#) or here - [FY23 SLCGP Application](#) If you are interested in submitting for a subgrant award, we encourage you to review the guidance documentation and attend one of the information sessions below, prior to submitting your actual application.

\The.application.cannot.be.saved.and.finished.later; .It.is.highly.recommended.that.you. complete.your.answers.on.a.separate.document.first?then.transfer.those.answers.to.the. final.application;.\

The application guidance document can be found here - [FY23 Application Guide](#)

The FY23 application period is open Oct. 1, 2024, thru Dec. 30, 2024.

The deadline to submit your application is Dec. 30, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

To help support you through the application process and answer any questions you may have, we will be holding several information and Q&A sessions.

SLCGP Information Sessions

Monday, Nov.18, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

[Meeting Registration Link -](#)

Michigan's State and Local Cybersecurity Grant program manager is available to assist with this application process. Questions can be sent to DTMB-CIP-SLCGP@Michigan.gov or to Michelle McClish McClishM@michigan.gov.

About the State and Local Cybersecurity Program (SLCGP) The goal of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) is to help states, local governments, rural areas, and territories address cybersecurity risks and threats to information systems. The program enables DHS to make targeted cybersecurity investments in state, local, and territorial government agencies, thus improving the security of critical infrastructure and resilience of the services that state, local, and territorial governments provide to their communities.

How can the FFY23 funding be used?

The Michigan State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Advisory Board has developed eight programs to distribute the funds. Applicants are eligible to apply for all programs but are not guaranteed to be funded. Separate applications must be completed for each project area you are requesting funding:

1. **Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR) Managed Detection & Response (MDR) Extended Detection Response (XDR) or Advanced Endpoint Protection:** Where jurisdictions can receive funding to purchase subscriptions for EDR/MDR/XDR licensing vendor selected utilizing entities established procurement policies and within grant performance and spend period time frames.
2. **Cybersecurity Assessments:** Where jurisdictions can receive funding to purchase an independent cybersecurity assessment OR penetration testing for the organization utilizing existing MiDEAL negotiated contractors or another contracted vendor following the organization's established procurement policies and within grant performance and spend period time frames.
3. **Multifactor Authentication (MFA):** Supports Required Element #5 – where jurisdictions can receive funding to purchase authentication devices, MFA software, or other systems/hardware supporting MFA, such as identity and access management (IAM) systems
4. **Advanced Backup Solutions:** Where jurisdictions can receive funding to purchase backup software, cloud services, backup servers, storage devices, or other services that support recovery and reconstitution of entity backup data

5. **Migration to .gov Domain:** Where jurisdictions can receive funding to pay for services that support the migration of the organization's domain to a .gov internet domain. Managed service provider (MSP) services to pay support vendors to perform migration tasks to a .gov domain.
6. **Managed Service Provider (MSP) Costs:** Where jurisdictions can receive funding to pay managed service providers for cybersecurity services that mitigate risk, improve cyber resiliency, and perform cybersecurity work where an organization does not have onsite staff to support.
7. **Cybersecurity Awareness Training:** Where jurisdictions can receive funding to purchase subscriptions for cybersecurity awareness training for employees to better understand cyber threats, best practices, incident response, compliance, and policies. KnowBe4, Proofpoint, SANS Institute & Infosec IQ are examples of vendors providing security awareness training.
8. **Cybersecurity Professional Training for IT/Security Staff:** Where jurisdictions can receive funding to purchase professional cybersecurity training for those responsible for mitigation risk and maintaining resiliency in the organization's environment. Example trainings include CompTIA, CySA+, PenTest+ Certification Training, SANS Institute Enterprise Cloud Security Architecture, Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), and other security training and certifications that will increase the skills and knowledge of systems and security IT administration teams.

Questions about eligibility can be sent to DTMB-CIP-SLCCP@michigan.gov

We welcome and encourage you to send any questions you have to DTMB-CIP-SLCCP@michigan.gov

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



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