



October 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



Michigan Health Information Technology Commission shares update on Bridge to Better Health IT Roadmap

The Michigan Health Information Technology Commission presented at the Michigan Health Information and Management Systems Society Conference on October 8 on Michigan Health Information Technology-Bridge to Better Health, the “HIT Roadmap.” In June 2022, the Health IT Commission adopted the HIT Roadmap that lays out a strategy to build a robust clinical infrastructure of existing resources while introducing initiatives to better incorporate public health and social drivers of health to address health disparities.

During the session, entitled “On the Road(map) Again,” HIT Commission Co-Chairs Marissa Ebersole-Wood and Dr. Michael Zaroukian, alongside HIT Commissioners Janée Tyus and Jessica Robinson shared updates on the implementation of the roadmap and its six core initiatives: identify and empower leaders, enhance health data utility, address Michigan’s digital divide, improve onboarding and technical assistance, protect public health, and adopt standards for social care data fields. HIT Commissioner Ninah Sasy joined virtually to welcome the audience and kick off the session.

The Health IT Commission meets quarterly in-person and virtually, to learn more visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/doing-business/commissions-boards/hitcomm>.

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 October 17, 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 October session and all future sessions [here](#).



SDOH Hubs Update

The SDOH Hubs Learning Community convened for their fourth meeting on September 10 to discuss efforts to integrate Community Health Workers (CHWs). Partners highlighted successes, identified barriers and solutions, and discussed opportunities for future CHW efforts. The next Learning Community meeting will take place in November. The SDOH Hubs Advisory Council will meet on October 24 to refine recommendations for future iterations of the Hubs initiative.

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](#). These profiles provide valuable insights into the specific focus areas of each Hub and are an excellent resource for understanding how they are addressing the unique needs of their communities. We encourage all partners and stakeholders to explore these documents to stay informed and engaged with our ongoing efforts.

Produce Prescription Pilot Program Update

October 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 will be held on November 6, 2024.

Bay Mills facilitated programming for over 160 individuals this past quarter through a variety of P4 activities and nutritional education materials. Staff organized a scavenger hunt for community members during Family Fun Day at the Bay Mills Farmers' Market; the scavenger hunt sent participants around to different vendors to learn about different vegetables and highlight the seasonal produce available at the market. Over 400 tribal members were served this past quarter through Hannahville's P4 activities, with an additional 100 who participated in their nutrition education programming. Hannahville's Food Farmacy program continues every Thursday at their Farmers' Market with a 75% redemption rate of their Food Farmacy vouchers! NHBP identified and hired on seasonal help for their community agriculture needs, including a carpenter and multiple gardeners to ensure Pine Creek Farms continues to thrive throughout the seasons. As an extension of Pine Creek Farms' Food Sovereignty mission—and using the P4 Project guidelines as inspiration—NHBP developed a Toddler and Youth Cooking Class curriculum to further promote nutritional competency in the youngest generations. Pokagon Band has 39 active participants in their Food Farmacy program; participants receive monthly visits from the Dietician and Health Center staff to go over educational materials in alignment with their health goals. An additional 37 tribal members attended Pokagon Band's recent food preservation workshops, in which participants learned methods for preserving and maintaining the nutritional value of jams, green beans, and pickles.





Community Health Worker Community Feedback Forum Update

The Community Health Worker Community Feedback Forum (CHW-CFF) meets quarterly and brings together community members, as well as state and local community partners, to inform policy and program recommendations to support the CHW workforce in Michigan. 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 fifth CHW-CFF will take place on November 12, 2024. During the meeting we, will review the Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance [Community Health Worker Employer Survey 2024](#) results and implications on the workforce. If you are interested in participating in this forum, click [here](#) to register!

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 most recent CHW-AC meeting was held on September 23, 2024, during which council members met to refine their recommendations for MDHHS regarding the development of a state-wide CHW Certification policy. The CHW Advisory Council broke into two working groups focusing on making recommendations for two items in the CHW AC Action Plan. The first group focused on completing a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis that included four proposed pathways for a state-wide CHW Certification policy. The second group focused on refining the criteria for CHW qualifications including but not limited to training, experience, continuing education requirements and considerations for unique circumstances. Advisory council working group members reported back their final recommendations to the larger council which will be put toward a final vote to reach majority consensus. MDHHS is also conducting optional one-on-one interviews with Advisory Council members to inform the CHW-AC report and next steps for the council moving forward.

The 20-member Council will meet again on October 28, 2024, from 3:00 – 4:30 pm.



Community Health Worker Integration to Improve Equity (CITIE) Initiative Update

The CITIE Initiative aims to implement Community Health Worker (CHW) pilot projects through an innovative, collaborative approach that trains and integrates CHWs into communities that are disproportionately burdened by health disparities. CITIE pilot projects work towards advancing MDHHS the

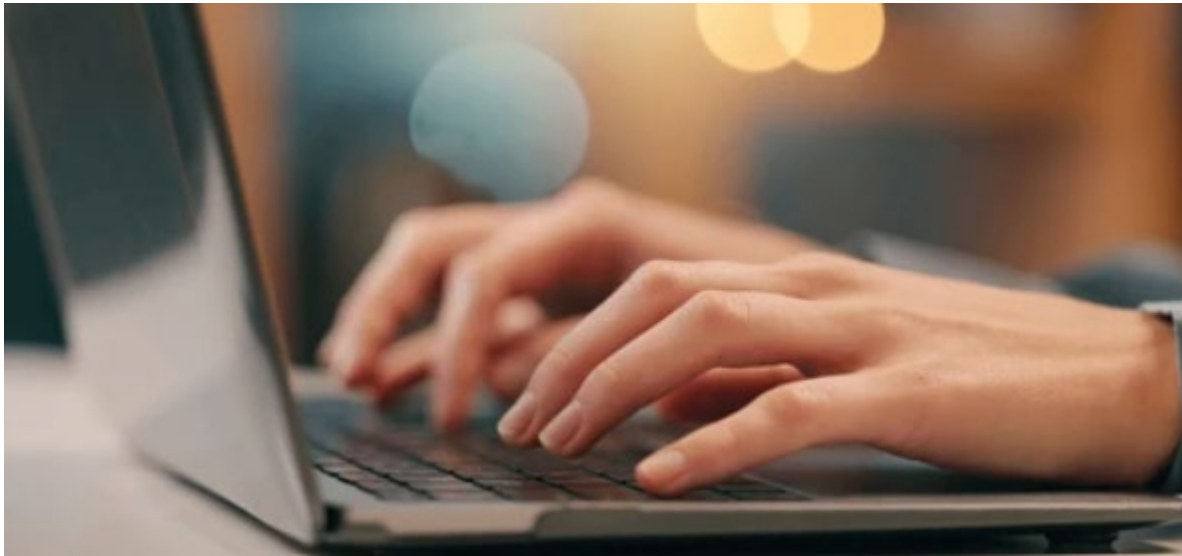
SDOH Strategy through demonstrating the positive impact CHWs have on health outcomes in priority populations experiencing health inequities. The Mission of CITIE is to empower CHWs as catalysts for change, working to dismantle the barriers that perpetuate health disparities. Through compassion, cultural competence, and community-centered care, CITIE aims to create healthier, more equitable communities.

MDHHS Office of Policy and Planning partnered with the [Women's Health Partnership](#) and the United Way of Southeast Michigan to establish a new CITIE pilot project which launched on October 1, 2024. This project seeks to improve health outcomes by increasing awareness and utilization of health screening services through CHWs, leading to early detection and management of health conditions and reducing healthcare disparities. Through training and integrating CHWs into communities and within United Way of Southeast Michigan, this project will screen, refer, and enroll eligible individuals for life-saving services including breast and cervical cancer screening, educational and quality of life resources for breast cancer survivors, and heart disease risk and health coaching.

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. The initiative focuses 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 first workshop was convened on October 4, 2024, and covered facilitator and cohort participant introductions, grounding participants, and examining the scope of work for the life course of the think tank. The next session will occur on October 18, 2024, with a focus on creating a shared vocabulary and co-creating community agreements; sessions will continue through March 2025. The website for MiRHETT is in development and will be updated with meeting summaries in the coming months.



Social Determinants of Health Strategy Evaluation Request for Proposal (RFP)

The MDHHS Office of Policy and Planning is pleased to announce the launch of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the evaluation of the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Strategy. The evaluation aims to assess the impact and progress of SDOH initiatives and identify opportunities for advancing health equity through the SDOH Strategy.

We invite qualified organizations and individuals with expertise in public health and evaluation methodologies to submit proposals.

How to Submit a Proposal:

1. Visit michigan.gov/SIGMAVSS and sign up as a vendor.
2. Once registered, search for the RFP number: **RFP-491-250000000002-1**.
3. Follow the instructions to complete your proposal submission.

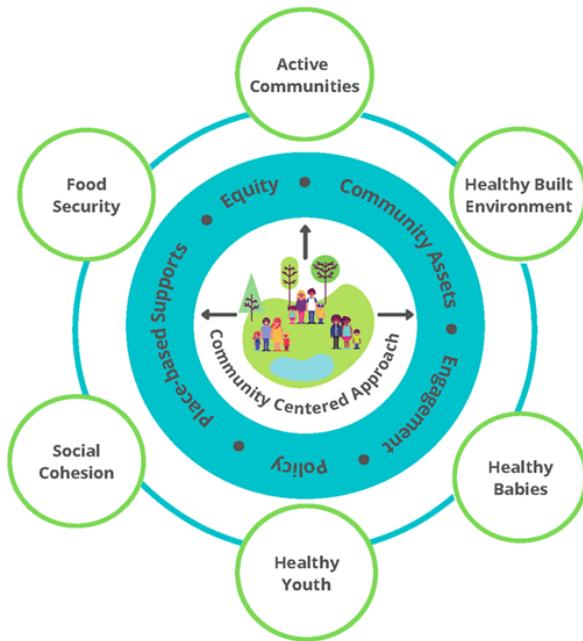
For more information on the RFP, please visit www.michigan.gov/SIGMAVSS.

Proposals will be accepted beginning Friday, October 4, 2024. The application deadline is Friday, November 8, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

We look forward to your contributions in shaping our approach to addressing the social factors that influence health outcomes!

For questions regarding this RFP opportunity, contact Haringn@michigan.gov.

SDOH Partner Updates



A Funding Opportunity to Reduce Health Disparities

On behalf of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Physical Activity and Nutrition Unit, we are excited to announce the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Healthy Community Zones grant funding.

Healthy Community Zones (HCZ) is a place-based, racial and health equity initiative that provides funding to communities disproportionately affected by chronic diseases, poor health outcomes, food insecurity and physical inactivity. HCZ will support communities in implementing community-led initiatives to reduce racial

disparities and to develop comprehensive long-term strategies that address inequities in the places where people are born, grow, live, work, learn, and age. Funding is open to local public, private or nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations including organizations supporting tribes and people with disabilities in three communities:

1. Chippewa County
2. Saginaw County
3. City of Detroit

Total available funding is \$9,100,000. MDHHS estimates thirty (30) awards with a maximum of \$500,000 and minimum of \$50,000.

To apply to the Request for Proposals (RFP), visit the [EGrAMS website](#). On the left panel, under the “Current Grants” section, click “Public Health Administration.” Select “HCZ-2025” from the list of grant programs.

MDHHS will hold a pre-application conference on Monday, October 7, 2024, from 10:00 am – 12:00 to discuss this funding opportunity and provide instruction on using the EGrAMS system. This [webinar can be accessed online](#). At the conclusion of the conference, this same link can be used to access the recording of the webinar.

More information is available online at www.michigan.gov/HCZones.

Please send questions to: MDHHS-HCZ@michigan.gov.



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