



September 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 Hubs In-Person Gathering

On September 6, the MDHHS SDOH Team hosted an SDOH Hubs In-Person Gathering in Lansing to bring together Hub lead organizations, Advisory Council members, and community partners. The event served as an opportunity to connect with everyone to highlight the successes of the Hubs pilot and discuss the future of this work.

Hub partners shared updates on their progress and plans for the next phase of implementation and an SDOH Hubs Advisory Council panel shared their insights on emerging recommendations. In the afternoon, we heard from a panel discussing progress on Community Information Exchange (CIE) and Community Health Worker (CHW) efforts and regional breakout discussions prompted robust discussions on local efforts.

We are grateful to all of the partners that were able to attend and look forward to the impact the discussions will have on these efforts.

SDOH Hubs Update

SDOH Hub pilot sites continue to make progress in implementing a broad scope of activities to address SDOH and advance health equity in their communities. Partners are starting to prepare for the next phase of implementation, beginning on October 1, by working together to align efforts and identify priorities for fiscal year 2025.

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 met on August 22 to discuss health equity efforts and is working to develop recommendations for future iterations of the Hubs initiative.

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





Statewide Stakeholders Gather in Lansing to Explore CIE in Action

A group of diverse stakeholders with a range of Community Information Exchange (CIE) experiences convened on September 6 to learn more about the Community Information Exchange Advisory Committee, engage in small group peer-to-peer learning sessions, and network with CIE partners across the state to create new connections and strengthen existing partnerships.

During the workshop, CIE leaders from across the state, including Michigan 2-1-1 and the Michigan Health Information Network, shared their work in small groups to build understanding of the Michigan CIE landscape. Participants broke out into small, facilitated discussion groups to learn more about the core elements of CIE- network partners, shared language, integrated technology, resource directories, and community care planning- and share knowledge on implementation of the core elements.

You can hear more about key findings from the CIE in-person Workshop at the next CIE Professional Learning Community on September 19, 2-3 p.m. We'll also be learning more from the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance, a partnership of health and community providers across northwest Michigan. The CIE PLC aims to create a collaborative space for professionals working on CIE initiatives by fostering knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer

learning. The PLC will meet monthly through 2024. [You can register for the September session and all future sessions here.](#)



MDHHS SDOH Community Influencer Program Cohort 2 Kicks Off

On August 14, 2024, the second cohort of the MDHHS Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Community Influencer Program gathered for their orientation at the AC Hotel in Lansing, MI. This event marked the beginning of an exciting journey for our new community influencers, who are ready to make a difference in Michigan's health landscape.

What is the Community Influencer Program?

The SDOH Community Influencer Program brings together Michigan residents from diverse backgrounds who provide essential feedback to MDHHS on Social Determinants of Health Strategy programs. By amplifying community voices, influencers help ensure these programs are impactful and relevant to Michigan residents. This collaboration helps bridge the gap between state strategies and the needs of our communities.

Orientation Highlights:

- An overview of the Social Determinants of Health and MDHHS's SDOH Strategy and the 3 phases was explained to the influencers.
- Clear roles and responsibilities of community influencers were outlined, emphasizing the importance of their feedback in shaping SDOH initiatives.
- The session concluded with networking time and a dinner, allowing influencers to connect with one another.

Stay tuned for more updates and inspiring stories from our Community Influencer Program as we continue this important work together.

Good Housing = Good Health Update

The Good Housing = Good Health program has been instrumental in linking vulnerable households to essential housing assistance. By leveraging community health workers (CHWs) and promoting existing resources, families can better access services that improve housing conditions and overall health outcomes. Stay tuned for more updates in October 2024.

For more information about the Good Housing = Good Health program, visit Michigan.gov/SDOH.

Produce Prescription Pilot Program Update

September marks the final month of Reporting Period #2 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](#), and [Pokagon Band of Potawatomi](#).

Grantees meet regularly throughout the P4 Project to strengthen partner relationships and inspire cross-cohort collaboration. Status meetings provide an opportunity to share successes, barriers, and other P4-related accomplishments in a supportive and dynamic environment. P4 Project FY24-25 status meetings take place quarterly; the first of these six quarterly meetings was held in July 2024.

Bay Mills hosted a dish bag making workshop for residents to use when packing homemade lunches and participating in community meals. An elder provided sewing instructions and a historical transcription to include with each Feast Bag—a special sentiment due to the verbal nature of Native American oral history. Hannahville's Design Group began working on the Greenhouse kitchen, which will be used for their upcoming canning and food preservation classes later this fall. NHBP accommodated the third convening of the Michigan Intertribal Food Sovereignty Coalition (MIFSC), during which attendees united to strategize and synergize tribal Food Sovereignty efforts across the state. Pokagon Band (PBP) recently held a Fathers' Dinner, with specialized programming and nutrition education materials targeted to community dads. PBP also provided grounds for the 2024 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations, which is hosted each summer by one of the nine tribes of Potawatomi, providing an opportunity for members of all tribes to come together and celebrate their Potawatomi heritage.





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 August 26, 2024, during which council members discussed various statewide CHW certification options with a special focus

The 20-member Council will meet again on September 23, 2024, from 3:00 – 4:30 pm.



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 fourth CHW-CFF took place on August 13, 2024, and covered updates on MDHHS Office of Policy and Planning initiatives and collected feedback from forum participants to support the CHW Advisory Council's efforts to explore options for a state-wide certification policy that builds upon the recent Medicaid CHW Services Policy (MMP 23-74).

The CHW-CFF is open to CHWs and CHW allies across the state. If you are interested in participating in future forums, [click here to register!](#) The next CHW Community Feedback Forum will take place on November 12, 2024, from 10:00 am – 11:30 am.

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 bringing together cross-disciplinary

experts to develop actionable strategies. MiRHETT provides a collaborative platform where public health and community leaders engage in virtual workshops and discussions to advance health equity. The initiative centers on reviewing current recommendations, creating an implementation strategy to support marginalized and racially diverse communities, and establishing 3-5 key metrics to address racial disparity gaps.

MiRHETT applications are closed, and MDHHS is in the process of reviewing and finalizing the participant list for MiRHETT. Think tank sessions will commence in October 2024 and continue through March 2025.

SDOH Partner Updates



Waste to Wonder 2024 Initiative

EGLE to host Renewable Energy Academy for local officials to expand large scale, renewable energy access across Michigan

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is thrilled to announce we will be hosting the [Renewable Energy Academy](#) (REA), a series of free workshops in select regions across Michigan providing **local officials, zoning administrators, planning commissioners, planning staff, etc.**, with information to proactively prepare for the new siting landscape required under [Public Act \(PA\) 233](#). Timing is important, as PA 233 becomes effective on **November 29, 2024**.

The REA will provide attendees with a five-hour long deep-dive into local planning and zoning for large, utility-scale solar, wind, and battery storage systems. The academy will cover the basics of grid-connection, as well as specific zoning pathways communities can consider under PA 233. The academy will not focus on policy. It will provide neutral guidance and an opportunity to discuss zoning options that best reflect each community's interest in expanding access to renewable energy with EGLE staff.

REA Agenda

Each REA runs from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and is immediately followed by an optional "office hour" session with EGLE staff. Lunch is complimentary and REA topics that will be covered include:

- Basics of renewable energy.
- Planning and zoning for renewable energy technologies.
- PA 233, zoning pathways and "workability" options.
- Guided activities.

- Guest speaker insights from the [University of Michigan, Center for EmPowering Communities.](#)
- Question and answers throughout

Register Now for Upcoming REA Sessions

September 5, 2024

[Southeast Michigan Council of Governments \(SEMCOG\) Region](#)

Hilton Garden Inn, Great Lakes Ballroom, 27355 Cabaret Drive, Novi, Michigan

Maximum of 3 attendees per community are allowed. One representative per municipality shall register all planned attendees through one form.

October 8, 2024

[West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission \(WMSRDC\) Region](#)

Muskegon Community College, 221 Quarterline Rd., Muskegon, Michigan Maximum of 4 attendees per community are allowed. One representative per municipality shall register all planned attendees through one form.

October 28, 2024

[Southcentral Michigan Planning Council \(SMPC\) Region](#)

Delta Hotels by Marriott Kalamazoo Conference Center, 2747 South 11th St., Kalamazoo, Michigan Maximum of 4 attendees per community are allowed. One representative per municipality shall register all planned attendees through one form.

The **Region II Planning Commission** REA session is still being scheduled. Please check the [REA Webpage](#) for updates on registration options for that session.

Rx Kids Kalamazoo

Rx Kids is the nation's first citywide parent and infant cash prescription program. Rx Kids aims to provide all pregnant people in participating cities with no-strings-attached cash of \$1,500 during pregnancy and \$500 each month throughout the baby's first year, the most economically vulnerable and developmentally important time in a family and child's life.

Launched in Flint in January 2024, the [Rx Kids](#) team is now expanding this historic, life-changing, community-partnered pilot with other Michigan communities. **Earlier this year, the City of Kalamazoo was selected as an expansion site.**

The Kalamazoo Community Foundation holds the local **Rx Kids Kalamazoo Fund** and is thrilled to play a critical role in an innovative and impactful program that aligns so closely with our mission, vision, and strategic goals.

If you wish to make a grant suggestion from your KZCF Donor Advised Fund (DAF) to the Rx Kids Kalamazoo Fund, you can do so via [Kalamazoo Connect](#). Instructions on how to do so can be found [here](#).

Interested in making a gift of stock or other appreciated asset? Please contact a member of our Philanthropic Services & Development Team to learn more: [Email the Team](#) or call 269-381-4416.

If you have questions about the Rx Kids program or KZCF's role in the project, please contact Alyssa Stewart, Chief Community Impact Officer, at astewart@kzcf.org.

PitchMI Applications Close Monday, September 16



Last month, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the call for applications for PitchMI, a statewide shark tank-style pitch competition for startups.

The Michigan Growth Office will invest \$100,000 in one innovative solution that transforms the way Michiganders get from point A to point B safely, affordably and efficiently.

The PitchMI competition is scheduled to take place Thursday, October 24 at 2:30 p.m. during the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification's inaugural MI Future Mobility Conference at Newlab in Detroit.

The deadline to apply for PitchMI is Monday, September 16 at 11:59 p.m. ET. [Click here to apply.](#)

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



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