



***Launched in October 2023, GH2 is a collaborative initiative led by MDHHS and***

## **Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to strengthen housing stability and improve health outcomes across Michigan.**



Through housing navigation, educational support, and community outreach, GH2 has helped connect residents, especially those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 to essential housing and social services. [The evaluation](#) and [corresponding infographic](#) highlight the program's impact on improving housing access, preventing housing loss, and promoting overall wellbeing. Investments in community health workers (CHWs), community information exchange (CIE), and partnership building played a key role in delivering holistic support to households in need.

### **The program concluded on September 30, 2024, serving over 9,000 eligible households.**

Local health partners who participated include Allegan County Health Department, Barry-Eaton Health Department, City of Detroit Health Department, Ingham County Health Department, Kent County Health Department, Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance (including the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department (DHD), Central Michigan DHD, DHD #2, DHD #4, DHD #10, Grand Traverse County Health Department, and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan), Muskegon County Health Department, Western Upper Peninsula Health Department, the Thumb Alliance (including Sanilac, Huron, Lapeer, and Tuscola County Health Departments), the Greater Flint Health Coalition, and the Wayne County Health Department. Thank you to our partners for their support in building healthier, more resilient communities across the state.

To learn more about the Good Housing = Good Health Program, please visit the [Good Housing Good Health](#) webpage:

[GH2 Webpage](#)

### **SDOH Hubs: Statewide Progress and Next Steps**

**Michigan's SDOH Hubs initiative brings together community members, local organizations, and cross-sector partners to advance health equity by addressing the**

***root causes of health disparities. Launched in January 2024, these community-led pilots are shaped by local priorities and supported by MDHHS and contracted partners.***

The SDOH Hubs initiative continues to grow its impact across the state. Partners recently submitted quarterly status reports for the second quarter of the calendar year, offering a clear picture of the progress being made statewide.

Key achievements this year include solidifying governance structures, most Hubs now have steering committees and directors in place, while advancing community information exchange (CIE) efforts that have served **3,950 households** and **facilitated 3,027 referrals** with **resolution rates between 66–91%**, among those reported. Those who reported quantitative data for community health worker- (CHW-) related progress have **reached over 7,200 residents, making 4,372 referrals with resolution rates of 66–78%**. Health in All Policies (HiAP) efforts are also gaining traction, with **grantees reporting 17 grassroots organizations engaged** and **more than 250 families supported** in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, for example, and multi-sector legislative forums convened to advance cross-sector solutions.

From this work, several emerging themes have surfaced: clarifying governance roles is the most common technical assistance need; data stewardship and secure sharing infrastructure remain top priorities; and strong communication and engagement strategies are essential to keep partners aligned.

At the same time, challenges persist, including CIE technology interoperability issues, CHW funding instability and billing integration gaps, and ongoing unfamiliarity with HiAP and political engagement barriers.

Looking ahead, the Hubs will focus on standardizing metrics for cross-region comparison, strengthening data and governance infrastructure, embedding equity by centering community voice, and pursuing long-term sustainability through diversified funding and policy alignment.

### **SDOH Hubs Learning Community**

The third round of regional quarterly meetings with SDOH Hubs is now underway, offering partners an opportunity to expand on the updates shared in their quarterly status reports. This round focuses on taking a “big picture” view, reflecting on lessons learned, identifying opportunities for cross-pollination of ideas among grantees, and exploring ways to collectively address barriers and share resources.

Insights from these discussions will also help shape future shared learning opportunities, ensuring they are grounded in the real-world experiences of the Hubs. The next statewide Learning Community meeting is scheduled for October 14.

## Region 10 Grantee Spotlight: United Way for Southeastern Michigan

**LIVE UNITED**



United Way  
for Southeastern Michigan

The United Way for Southeastern Michigan (UWSEM) continues to play a vital role in advancing the Connect4Care community information exchange (CIE) collaborative governance structure while delivering direct support to community members through its Social Navigation team.

In the past quarter, UWSEM actively engaged in inaugural committee meetings as part of Connect4Care's collaborative governance, helping set group norms, clarify roles, and establish priorities for the year ahead. They also maintained strong communication with partners and "affinity groups" to support integration projects that strengthen connections across systems.

On the ground, United Way's Social Navigators, CHWs providing holistic, person-to-person support, served **314 households** this quarter and **provided 461 referrals to essential resources**. Between April and June 2025, the Social Navigation program **received 299 referrals, facilitated 353 food interventions, and served 420 unique clients**. Through initiatives like Ride United, they also removed transportation barriers, connecting residents to food, housing, legal, and employment resources, empowering individuals to overcome challenges and move toward stability.

From building stronger statewide collaboration to delivering hands-on assistance, UWSEM's work embodies the mission of the SDOH Hubs. To learn more, visit: [United Way for Southeastern Michigan](#).

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The Policy and Planning Bureau has announced the Community Health Worker Integration to Improve Equity (CITIE) 2026 Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO). The purpose of this program is to improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities disproportionately burdened by health inequities. This program will expand the capacity of community-based organizations (CBOs) in areas with pronounced disparities by advancing the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce. This will be accomplished through grantees working collaboratively with CBOs on CHW training, professional development, capacity building and integrating CHWs into communities and care teams to address non-medical barriers to health within priority populations in Michigan. This funding allows for the use of wage subsidies for CHWs. CITIE will provide \$200,000 to support the CHW workforce, which is essential to improving health outcomes in local communities.

For more information or to find the GFO, visit [www.egrans-mi.com/mdhhs](http://www.egrans-mi.com/mdhhs) and on the left hand menu option, scroll to the “Current Grants” Section and then click on “Policy and Planning” and select the “CITIE-2026” grant program.

[CITIE Webpage](#)

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## **FDSP Project Expands with New Partners and Food Truck Program**

This month marks month eleven of the Food Delivery Service Program (FDSP) for Fiscal Year 2025. The FDSP project seeks to mitigate transportation barriers, increase grocery access, and address food security needs of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in Wayne and Kent counties, whose populations disproportionately experience barriers to food access. Funded partners include the Heart of West Michigan United Way in Kent County, and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan and Wayne County Health Department in Wayne County.

Throughout the past month, all three organizations have made immense progress in their work:

- The Heart of West Michigan United Way and United Way for Southeastern Michigan released a request for proposal (RFP) in May, asking organizations that have experience in delivering food to the public to apply to be part of the program, which closed in mid-July. Eight community-based organizations (CBOs) were selected, with work and implementation for both projects set to begin in October 2025. Selected CBOs will help expand the impact that the Heart of West Michigan United Way and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan will have in Kent and Wayne counties respectively, ensuring that more community members are aware of the FDSP program and are able to sign up for it.
- Additionally, the Wayne County Health Department is working closely with the Eastern Market of Detroit to begin their food truck program, which will identify populations within Wayne County that are experiencing limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables and increase access to those communities via food trucks. They are in a planning phase of the program and hope to begin implementing the food truck program in September or October of 2025.

With all three grantees working towards strengthening their partnerships with local organizations, they hope to maximize impact the FDSP can have on their community and take the program further. Stay tuned for future updates within our newsletter!





## HEEL Training Series Tackles Health Literacy and Language Barriers Across Michigan

The MDHHS Bureau of Policy and Planning, in collaboration with the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) and the Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance, aims to address the significant gap in health literacy, particularly among Medicaid members and racial/ethnic minority populations. The Health Equity through Enhancing Literacy (HEEL) project, a Closing the Disparity Gap initiative, focuses on advancing health literacy, community information exchange capacities, and increasing digital equity by strengthening the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce. This project goal is to advance outcomes identified in the SDOH [Accelerator Plan for Preventing Chronic Disease](#).

Last month, MSMS hosted the first module of their Moving Health Literacy Together training series, “Health Literacy Fundamentals” on July 17th. This training series consists of four 90-minute modules, aimed to equip CHWs and health professionals with a comprehensive understanding of health literacy and its critical role in improving health outcomes. Each module will be offered both live and on demand and offer a certificate of completion, continuing education credits, and training handouts for participants. Participants also receive an online toolkit which provides resources that help CHWs, physicians, healthcare professionals, and their staff overcome communication challenges arising from patients' literacy levels or language and cultural barriers.

Module 1 covered the importance of health literacy in addressing disparities, the social and cultural factors that influence it, and how professionals can advance health literacy within their communities. A total of 36 individuals, 24 of which were CHWs, participated in the first interactive training module creating a lot of excitement for upcoming modules in the series.

The second module, to be held live on August 20th, explores health literacy's impact on health outcomes as a social determinant of health. Please use the direct link to register for Module 2 of the HEEL Training Series. This training is **free**, but registration is required. See registration link below for more details:

### Moving Health Literacy Together:



### [Module 2 - Health Literacy as a Social Determinant of Health](#)

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

1:00 - 2:30 PM EST

## Objectives

- Define social determinants of health (SDOH) and its impact.
- Define health equity.
- Describe the impact of health literacy on health disparities and equity.
- Identify multi-level strategies to address health literacy as a means to improve health equity.



## SDOH Partner Updates



Governor Gretchen Whitmer has [proclaimed August as Community Health Worker \(CHW\) Appreciation Month](#) to recognize and celebrate the essential role CHWs play in supporting health across Michigan. These workers serve as a vital link between communities and the health care system, delivering culturally competent care, increasing patient trust and satisfaction, and improving access to quality health services, especially in rural and underserved areas. Governor Whitmer and Lt. Governor Garlin



Gilchrist praised CHWs for their dedication and contributions, highlighting their impact in helping more Michiganders live healthy, prosperous lives.

[Read the Proclamation](#)

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### **CITIE Spotlight: Washtenaw County Health Department Strengthens the CHW Workforce**

*Throughout this fiscal year, to support the SDOH Strategy's efforts to close gaps in health disparities, MDHHS has supported three Community Health Worker Integration to Improve Equity (CITIE) mini projects with multisectoral partners to focus on training and integrating CHWs into priority populations.*

In recent newsletters, the SDOH team has highlighted our CITIE partners to elevate the amazing work they are doing. This month, we would like to recognize the Washtenaw County Health Department (WHCD), who is using their CITIE funding to support their CHW workforce improving health outcomes in areas with a high social vulnerability index, specifically focusing on housing and harm reduction.



Throughout the project period, the Washtenaw County Health Department has worked diligently to support their CHWs through providing opportunities to receive training to expand their ability to address the Social Determinants of Health in their community. Thus far in the project, the WCHD's has already trained health department CHWs and CHW supervisors and provided professional development:



Two CHWs were trained in MiCHWA's Behavioral Health CHW micro-credential.



Three CHWs and one CHW Supervisor attended fair housing training.



One CHW attended the MDHHS Harm Reduction Summit.



One CHW attended a National Alliance on Mental Health training.



One CHW and CHW supervisor went to a conference focused on supporting immigrants.



One CHW attended the National CHW Unity Conference.

Our three CITIE mini projects for fiscal year 2025 have done amazing work to support the CHW workforce and priority populations including supporting seniors, immigrants and refugees, and high SVI areas in Washtenaw County. We're looking forward to expanding our CITIE work in fiscal year 2026 through launching a Grant Funding Opportunity!

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### **Corktown Health Leads with Policy, Partnerships, and Prevention**

Throughout the Spring and Summer of 2025, [Corktown Health](#) and its subrecipients have contributed significantly to increasing access to health services, enhancing mental health supports, increasing preventive care, reducing stigma and discrimination and strengthening community networks and fostering a sense of belonging among LGBTQ+ individuals across Michigan. Below are a few examples of how they have addressed inequities for members of the LGBTQ+ community, across two of the three [MDHHS Social Determinants of Health Strategy's](#) Phase III priority areas: Health in All Policies and Closing Disparity Gaps.

Since the program launched on February 1, 2024, there has been a focus on developing inclusive health policies, which will have a lasting impact on providing equitable services for Corktown Health and subrecipient communities. In total, 172 health policies have been created by the grantee and subrecipients and 409 continuing education trainings have been provided, both of which aim to reduce stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings. This project has had a large reach serving 20,291 clients across the state of Michigan as of July 31. Additionally, 3,433 SDOH screenings have been completed, and 12,308 mental health sessions have been provided by Corktown Health and its partners.

During the past quarter, the LGBTQ+ Health and Social Services Disparities Coalition, along with its Steering Committee and RFP Subcommittee, continued oversight and

support of five community partnership projects, designed to address health disparities and promote social connection. The following funded partnerships, announced in the January newsletter update have completed their projects:

- [MiGen](#) and [Stonewall Sports Detroit](#); a local chapter of a national non-profit organization promoting community and philanthropy through LGBTQ+ sports leagues.
- [Stand with Trans](#) and [Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health \(MOASH\)](#); a non-profit organization that provides sexual health education, advocacy, and services for youth in Michigan.
- [Grand Rapids Pride Center](#) and [Nuii Waav Brotherhood](#); a community-based organization serving transgender men in Detroit, Michigan.
- Corktown Health and Team Abad; which services transgender women in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.
- Corktown Health and [The Corner Health Center](#); which provides primary care, specialty care, and other support services for youth and young adults who identify as LGBTQ+, and transgender.

In addition to completing projects with the five community-based organizations above, Corktown Health engaged in community outreach at multiple PRIDE events, providing on-site preventive health screenings and distributing hygiene kits to promote health equity, meeting individuals where they are.

This quarter also marked the one-year anniversary of the [Corktown Institute](#) a dedicated training and education arm of the organization focused on building LGBTQ+ cultural competence across healthcare and human services sectors. Since its launch, the Institute has steadily grown its portfolio of in-person and virtual training opportunities. More recently, since April 1, 2025, Corktown has issued 15 training certifications to clinicians who completed trainings on LGBTQ+ 101, 102, PrEP, and LGBTQ+ Older Adults. These effort support Corktown Health's ongoing commitment to fostering inclusive, evidence-based, and trauma-informed care, while reducing systemic discrimination within healthcare systems.

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**Health Information Technology: HIMSS Michigan Chapter Conference**

## HIMSS MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Registration is now open for the HIMSS Michigan Chapter Conference! The conference will take place on September 9th at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan, with pre-conference activities on September 8th.

Check out this conference if you are interested in learning more about health IT and how technology reduce administrative burdens to support holistic care.

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### **Pathway to Health Equity: MSMS Curriculum Nears Launch**

As part of the Pathway to Health Equity grant, the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) continues to develop the curriculum for Michigan's physicians, residents, and medical students to address implicit bias, health equity, and justice in medicine. Over the past few months, the MSMS partners have continued working with subject matter experts in developing training content for the course and preparing to launch virtual trainings this summer. Nine virtual modules will be developed and one in-person training is being planned for September.

The Policy and Planning Bureau's SDOH team at MDHHS has been working with MSMS to ensure they have the support needed to complete the curriculum. Upon completion of this project, MSMS will offer a free statewide curriculum including nine modules of training including accredited continuing medical education and certification.

Stay tuned for further updates in upcoming newsletters for more information on the progress of the Pathway to Health Equity curriculum and where to register!

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## Attention all Graduate Nursing Students!



The Michigan Nursing Research (MiNR) Journal Club is a statewide collaborative approach to integrating social determinants of health (SDOH) into research. Graduate nursing students are invited to be part of this **FREE** synchronous, online, monthly journal club over the course of 6 months, beginning in Fall 2025.

The purpose of the **MiNR Journal Club** is to address a gap in SDOH research knowledge and application in nursing research initiatives to enhance health outcomes, contribute to the expanding knowledge base, and champion health equity through nursing research that is skillfully inclusive of SDOH concepts. **All graduate nursing students in the State of Michigan are welcome and encouraged to apply.**

Six (6) Continuing Education Credits (CEs) will be given for full participation, courtesy of the Office of Nursing Programs within the Policy and Planning Bureau of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information and to apply [CLICK HERE](#) or go to

[https://umich.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2ofzW6LlvbCxjv0](https://umich.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2ofzW6LlvbCxjv0)



*Sponsored by the Taubman Health Sciences Library, University of Michigan Library.*

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**Making Health Care More Affordable: \$839,000 in Safety Net Grants Support  
Statewide Health Clinics**



*Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Cross Complete of Michigan improve access to affordable health care, providing 45 grants to support Michigan's uninsured and underinsured.*

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (Blue Cross) is proud to commemorate its 21-year commitment to improving access to affordable health care in Michigan by announcing the 2025 *Strengthening the Safety Net* grant recipients. Together, Blue Cross and Blue Cross Complete of Michigan are awarding \$839,000 to support 45 safety net health care clinics across the state, enabling them to provide free or low-cost primary care, dental and mental health services to Michigan residents.

[Read the full press release.](#)

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**SDOH Strategy Website**



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