

Strengthening Michigan's CHW Workforce: 2024 Advisory Council Final Report and Next Steps

A strong and thriving Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce is an important component of the MDHHS SDOH Strategy, as CHWs bridge individuals to health and social services. To support implementation of recommendations from the 2023 Community Health Worker Subcommittee, the MDHHS Bureau of Policy and Planning convened the Community Health Worker Advisory Council (CHW-AC) from February 2024-December 2024, to develop recommendations for developing a statewide CHW certification policy that builds upon the existing Medicaid reimbursement policy, [MMP 23-74](#).



The final recommendations from the CHW Advisory Council are included in the [2024 CHW Advisory Council final report](#).

The 2024 CHW Advisory Council and final report have laid the groundwork for continued efforts to develop a statewide certification policy for Michigan's CHWs.

For a summary of the report's recommendations, check out the [one pager](#)!



A key focus of the Community Information Exchange work is to center consumer experiences and create processes for community members to participate in decision-making. The Community Voice Subgroup will help guide the CIE Advisory Committee on state-level policy development and effective implementation of CIE.

The Community Voice Subgroup will convene consumers, caregivers and guardians of services from a CIE, individuals representing an organization implementing CIE strategies, and other health information and CIE players to center community member experiences in systems-level decision-making and create trustworthy mechanisms by which consumers' feedback can be heard. The Community Voice Subgroup will meet virtually six times per year for 90 minutes, starting in late calendar year 2025.

The Community Voice Subgroup application will open July 14, 2025. Please submit an application for consideration **by August 15, 2025:**

[Apply for the Community Voice Subgroup](#)

Learn more during the Community Voice Informational Webinar

The Community Voice Informational Webinar will take place on July 24 from 11 AM-12 PM, to provide a space for prospective applicants to learn more about the subgroup, understand the roles and expectations of participants, and ask questions. The webinar will provide key information about the subgroup application and recruitment process. The webinar will include a 35-minute presentation on the Community Voice subgroup and application process, followed by a 25-minute Q & A session. Arthur Hampton, a key member of the Community Voice Planning Team, will facilitate and support the webinar session, alongside MDHHS staff. Register for the Community Voice Informational Webinar:

[Register for the Community Voice Webinar](#)

MSMS Developing Statewide CME Curriculum on Implicit Bias and Justice

As part of the *Pathway to Health Equity* (PHE) grant, funded by a legislative appropriation through [Public Act 121 of 2024](#), the [Michigan State Medical Society \(MSMS\)](#) is developing a statewide curriculum designed to equip Michigan's physicians, residents, and medical students with essential training on implicit bias, health equity, and justice in medicine. The expected outcome of this project is to develop a comprehensive, statewide curriculum offering at least nine hours of accredited continuing medical education (CME), complete with certification opportunities.

Since March 2025, MSMS has been working closely with subject matter experts to develop the course content and prepare for the launch of the virtual training sessions expected to launch later this fall. Stay tuned for further updates in upcoming newsletters, where we will continue to share updates in the progress and rollout of the training!

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 (CIE) 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](#).

Since January 2025, HEEL partners have made key developments, building curriculum for CHWs and health professionals and creating materials for individuals with language barriers, among other activities. Thumb Public Health Alliance partners have made advancements working with partner organizations to translate materials and to discuss the needs of the Hispanic population and non-English speaking individuals throughout the state.

The HEEL Training Series consists of four 90-minute modules, aimed to equip CHEs and health professionals with a comprehensive understanding of health literacy and its critical role in improving health outcomes. Each 90-minute webinar 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.

The Module 1 webinar, held on July 17, will soon be available on demand. Please see the information below to register for Module 2 of the HEEL Training Series, scheduled for August 20. This training is free, but registration is required.



Moving Health Literacy Together: Module 2 - Health Literacy as a Social Determinant of Health

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

1:00 - 2:30 PM EST

Approved for 1.5 AMA PRA Category Credit(s)[™]

[Link to Register](#)



P4 PILOT ADVANCES TRIBAL-LED

NUTRITION AND HEALTH EQUITY

EFFORTS ACROSS MICHIGAN

July marks month ten of the fiscal year 2025 Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4). This program was created in recognition of the immense disparities in food nutrition seen in our tribal communities in the state of Michigan and at the national level.

Only 26% of Native communities are within one mile from a supermarket, compared to 59% of all people living in the United States. This makes it very difficult for people living in Native communities to benefit from federal and state food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program. ([Source 1](#), [Source 2](#))

The P4 Project centers itself around food sovereignty. This not only gives our tribal partners the resources to provide quality and nutritious foods for their community but grants them the ability to teach how to cook healthy and traditional dishes with the food a swell. In the past few months, our tribal partners have made incredible progress in this effort:

- The **Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi**, with the aid of Michigan State University, is hosting collaborative cooking classes and monthly early learning sessions to teach how to prepare traditional dishes with fresh protein and vegetables such as tilapia, beans, corn and rice.

- The **Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi** have continued their Lunch and Learn program where they teach their community how to cook new and traditional foods such as milkweed soup and pico de gallo using dried corn. The tribe has also established a tea and herb garden where they began teaching their community about traditional herbal medicine.
- The **Bay Mills Indian Community** recently obtained their temporary license to begin Diabetes Prevention Program and will begin classes for that program on July 8. They have also given away 138 garden kits to help community members grow their own fresh foods.
- The **Hannahville Indian Community** has impacted over 300 community members through their Food Farmacy Program where community members are given the opportunity to obtain free fresh and healthy foods through the Massie Farmers Market. Similar to Bay Mills, Hannahville has also given away garden kits to their community, focusing on the importance of growing your own food as a way to fight colonialization.

Each unique Tribal partner is taking the necessary steps to create a successful P4 project and bring the best results to their community. By September 2025, MDHHS is hoping to have supported lasting change in not only Tribal health in Michigan, but in Tribal relations amongst P4 partners and the state. Through this program, we are proud to have collaborated with Tribal partners to tackle a common issue for the first time in the state of Michigan. With continued support, MDHHS can continue to work toward closing the gap in health disparities for our Tribal partners for years to come.

SDOH Hubs Convening Bodies Continue to Support Statewide Efforts

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.

SDOH Hubs Learning Community

On Tuesday, July 8, 2025, partners from across Michigan's SDOH Hubs came together for the most recent Learning Community meeting, an ongoing space dedicated to shared learning, regional alignment, and strategic planning. The meeting brought together diverse voices committed to advancing health equity by addressing the root causes of health disparities in their communities.

The session opened with a discussion on the development and implementation of local governance structures, with a particular focus on how these efforts will be reflected in the upcoming Q2 progress reports. This conversation helped clarify expectations and surfaced helpful insights for partners at different stages of implementation.

The MDHHS team also provided updates on the initiative's three cross-cutting priority areas: Community Information Exchange (CIE), Community Health Workers (CHWs), and Health in All Policies (HiAP). Partners shared early examples of innovation and impact from the field, underscoring the creativity and commitment driving local work in each of these areas.

Looking ahead, the meeting included a forward-focused discussion on preparing for fiscal year 2026. In a facilitated dialogue, partners explored opportunities for greater alignment across regions, reflected on shared challenges and evolving priorities, and discussed how existing tools and documentation could guide next steps in both implementation and evaluation.

SDOH Hubs Advisory Council

The SDOH Hubs Advisory Council convened on June 26 to continue advancing alignment and sustainability efforts across Michigan's SDOH efforts. The meeting spotlighted regional successes, provided updates on core program areas, and advanced critical conversations around long-term funding strategies.

Some of the regional highlights included:

- Region 1: Partners will launch their Community Information Exchange (CIE) at the end of July, featuring an enhanced website and local resource directory.
- Region 4: Continues to lead Food Delivery Service Program (FDSP) implementation, supporting food access in Kent County.
- Region 6: Launched ThumbCares.org, a new online directory developed in collaboration with 211 and local community providers.
- Region 10: Partners are actively building infrastructure to enhance referrals to critical screening services.

The Advisory Council reviewed the braided funding approach currently supporting SDOH Hub Pilots, strategically blending federal and state resources to maximize reach. Potential future funding mechanisms were also explored, with group discussions exploring three strategic topics: public sector and policy-enabled financing mechanisms, private sector and healthcare-driven financing mechanisms, and philanthropic, community-based, and blended financing mechanisms.

The SDOH Hubs Advisory Council will convene again on August 28 to discuss advancing a technical assistance strategy.

To learn more about the SDOH Hubs Advisory Council, we invite you to read their most recent [report with recommendations to support sustainability](#) and visit [the SDOH Hubs Advisory Council web page](#).



SDOH Partner Updates

CITIE in Action: Southeast Michigan SRC Advances CHW Training and Outreach for Aging Communities

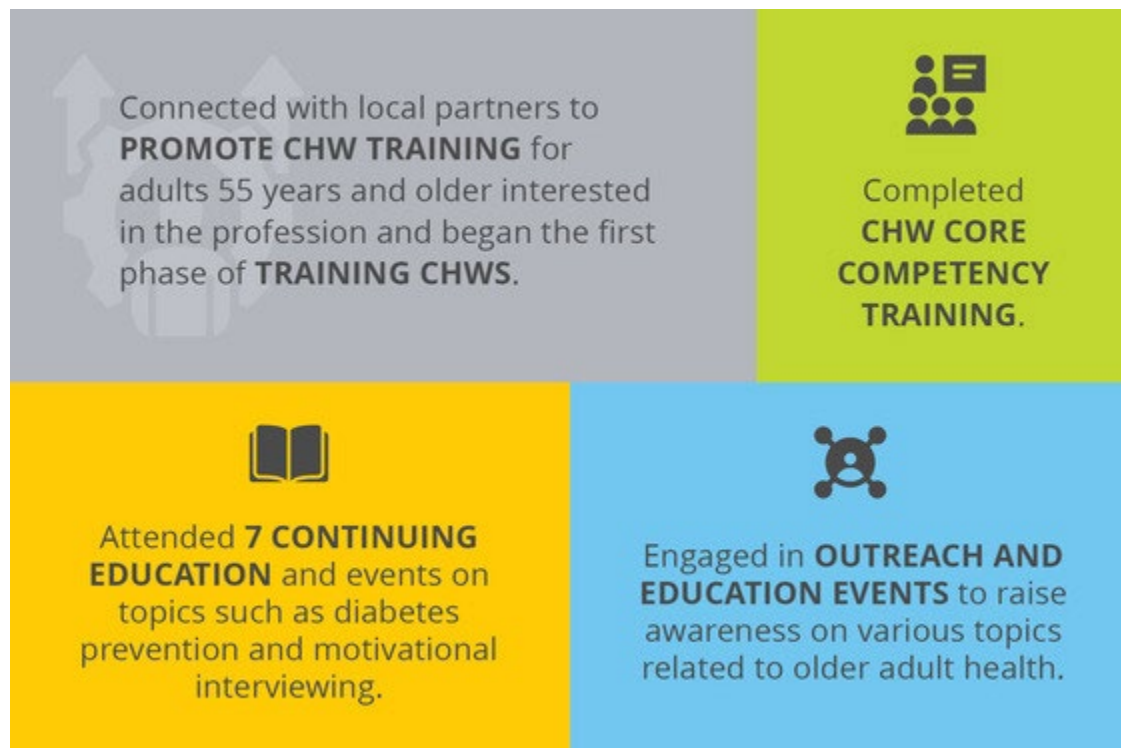
To support the SDOH Strategy's efforts to close gaps in health disparities, the Community Health Worker Integration to Improve Equity (CITIE) initiative supports projects with multisectoral partners to focus on training and integrating CHWs into priority populations.



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 [Southeast Michigan Senior Regional Collaborative](#) (SRC), who is using their CITIE funding to create a collaborative framework for advocacy, diversity, awareness, and action that addresses the safety and quality of life for older adults, individuals with disabilities and caregivers in Southeast Michigan.

Throughout the project period, SRC CHWs will receive training and professional development opportunities to enhance their capabilities, fostering leadership development, and strengthening connections. They will assess the ongoing needs of the SRC network in addressing the social determinants of health that impact chronic disease among older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers. CHWs will focus on outreach, education, and building trust with those that they serve.

This project launched in April 2025 and over the past three months the SRC's CHWs have:



Stay tuned for next month's newsletter to learn more about our other CITIE projects!

[SDOH Strategy Website](#)



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