



March 2025

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



The [SDOH Hubs](#) are advancing initiatives to address social determinants of health and reduce disparities, including the development of a Community Information Exchange (CIE) to improve information sharing and service coordination. They also prioritize equity-focused programs like the CHW Integration to Improve Equity (CITIE) Initiative, which trains and integrates Community Health Workers into underserved communities. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/SDOH or explore the [SDOH Hub site profiles](#) for details on activities, partnerships, and priorities.

SDOH Hubs Advisory Council Sets Priorities for 2025 and Beyond

The SDOH Hubs Advisory Council will continue its crucial work in 2025, guiding the scalability and sustainability of SDOH Hubs through expert insight and strategic direction. With a Health in All Policies approach, the Council focuses on alignment, measurement, engagement, technical and financial support, and advancing health equity. These priorities helped shape 42 recommendations in 2024, laying the foundation for long-term success and impact in 2025. At the first meeting on February 27, members reviewed a welcome survey and voted to prioritize key recommendations from the 2024 council, shaping an action plan to drive implementation. [Click here to read the full SDOH Advisory Council Recommendations Report](#). For a concise overview of these recommendations and their impact, [click here](#).

Sustainability remains central to this work, ensuring lasting improvements in health equity and the continued evolution of SDOH Hubs. The Advisory Council meets bi-monthly via Zoom on the fourth Thursday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, with adjusted scheduling in December: April 24, June 26, August 28, October 23, and December 11. Stay engaged as we move forward- to learn more about the SDOH Hubs Advisory Council, please visit the [Advisory Council webpage](#).

SDOH Hubs Regional Meetings

In 2025, the SDOH Hubs will increasingly adopt a regional approach to implementation where feasible. To support this shift, MDHHS has begun hosting quarterly regional meetings with grantees to share best practices, address challenges, and explore collaboration opportunities. These meetings will also highlight grantee updates in key areas, including community information exchange (CIE), community health worker (CHW)-led initiatives, and health in all policies (HiAP). Insights gained from these discussions will help shape conversations within the SDOH Hubs Advisory Council, Learning Community, and technical assistance efforts, ensuring the success of hub sites.

The SDOH Hubs Advisory Council meeting dates are listed above; the SDOH Hubs Learning Community meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every three months. 2025 Quarterly meeting dates are scheduled for April 8, July 8, and October 14.

MDHHS launches interactive Public Health Data Dashboard

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has launched the Michigan Public Health Data Dashboard, providing policymakers with a data-driven snapshot of public health trends in each State House and State Senate district. This comprehensive, publicly accessible resource can equip lawmakers, local officials, advocacy groups and the public with key health metrics, enabling them to identify challenges, allocate resources effectively and craft policies to improve health outcomes across Michigan. The public health metrics currently include:

- Health outcomes, including mortality data, blood lead levels, low birth weight and more.
- Health behavior trends, including binge drinking, smoking and teen births.

- Social and economic factors, including housing costs and unemployment.
- Physical environment trends, such as pre-1980 housing.
- Clinical care trends, such as rates of prenatal care.

For each metric, there will be an estimate to compare whether a particular Michigan legislative district is doing better than, similar to or worse than statewide average. Additional metrics will be added in the future in order to present an up-to-date view of public health across Michigan.

The Michigan Public Health Data Dashboard was developed in response to a recommendation from [PHAC](#) to increase availability of public health information specifically for legislators and other policymakers. PHAC is a group of Michigan public health experts who provide expert guidance to MDHHS.

The dashboard can be found at Michigan.gov/HealthStatistics and will be routinely updated as additional information becomes available.

Health In All Policies Interagency Workgroup convenes for Quarter 1 meeting

Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a transformative, collaborative approach to advancing health and health equity. HiAP ensures that policies have a neutral or beneficial impact on communities and engages numerous stakeholders to ensure that policies are comprehensive, holistic and consider health in all aspects. In February, the Health in All Policies Interagency Workgroup held the first quarterly meeting with partners from thirteen departments, including representatives from the Michigan Poverty Task Force and the Racial Disparities Task Force. The workgroup convenes departmental leadership who will serve as key advisors on the strategic direction of initiatives and guide the state's adoption of a Health in All Policies approach to policymakers statewide.



The HiAP-IW supports cross-agency, statewide initiatives to increase collaboration. In February, the HiAP-IW heard updates on the interagency Food Donation and Food Surplus Initiative that's working to reduce food waste in Michigan. The initiative presented early policy ideas to external stakeholders at the *Future of Food Rescue in Michigan* event, which was hosted by Forgotten Harvest and the Michigan Sustainable Business Forum. The Food Donation and Food Surplus Workgroup also launched a [food donation standards webpage](#), to serve as a resource to individuals, businesses and food recipient organizations to advance understanding of food donation protections in Michigan. For more information on food donation in Michigan, visit our webpage [here](#).

The HiAP workgroup will continue to meet quarterly through 2025 and will focus on aligning departments, engaging interagency partners, and supporting effective collaboration. Learn more about a Health in All Policies approach and how we're implementing a HiAP framework here: michigan.gov/HealthinAllPolicies



The Community Information Exchange Advisory Committee convenes for Quarter 1 meeting

The Community Information Exchange Advisory Committee (CIE AC) is tasked with developing a proposal for the statewide governance of CIE, leveraging to the extent possible existing infrastructure in Michigan. The CIE Advisory Committee has made progress on priority areas and remained supportive and aligned with activities happening in the broader CIE ecosystem.

On March 11, the CIE Advisory Committee convened to discuss priority area updates, including the key findings and next steps for the Community Voice Planning Team, which focused on understanding the current landscape of community voice bodies and developing an approach for integrating community voice into CIE governance. In addition, the committee members received updates on the Michigan Technical Assistance for Health Information Exchange (MiTAHIE), which is currently in phase two of the planning project. Phase Two concentrates on survey analysis, focus groups and informational interviews, in partnership with Altarum, the Michigan Public Health Institute and the Center for Health and Research Transformation. Learn more about Community Information Exchange efforts in Michigan [here](#).

Advancing LGBTQ+ Health Equity: Corktown Health Expands Services and Policy Impact Across Michigan

Corktown Health's grant program is working to counteract the disparities in health and social services in the LGBTQ+ community. Throughout this grant period, Corktown has awarded 17 community-based organizations across the state to provide direct services, improve facilities and systems, and provide education and training. Corktown Health and their subrecipients have continued to improve access to care and empower individuals to live healthier lives. In the last month, Corktown Health delivered culturally competent medical care to 769 patients and provided dental services to 377 patients in the LGBTQ+ community. If you include each subrecipient who has been administered funding by Corktown Health, 4,961 individuals were served in the month of February, making that a total of 12,745 since February 1, 2024.

Corktown Health and their subrecipients continue to make significant progress addressing health inequities for, members of the LGBTQ+ community, across all three of [MDHHS Social Determinants of Health Strategy's](#) priority areas, including Health in All Policies. During the most recent reporting period, 29 new policies were implemented to reduce stigma and discrimination, increasing the total number of policies developed since the program's launch to 49.

Michigan Racial Health Equity Think Tank (MiRHETT) Expands Efforts to Address Disparities in Michigan

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 9th MiRHETT session was held on March 7, 2025. The cohort has decided to extend the initiative by adding two additional sessions to allow for continued work on MiRHETT's metrics and implementation plan for addressing racial health disparities in Michigan. The next convening of MiRHETT is scheduled for March 28, 2025. The remaining sessions will continue to focus on developing a detailed implementation strategy to address racial health disparities in food insecurity, behavioral health, and workforce needs, using the foundational documents as a guide. MiRHETT participants will present their proposed strategies/metrics to MDHHS upon the completion of the program. Participants will continue to stay engaged with MDHHS SDOH Team throughout the summer of 2025 to provide feedback and stay informed on the department's efforts to activate the proposed strategy.

Expanding Grocery Access: MDHHS Funds Food Delivery Services for SNAP Recipients in Kent and Wayne Counties

MDHHS is providing funding to support a Food Delivery Service Program (FDSP) to mitigate transportation barriers, increase grocery access, and address food security needs of SNAP recipients in Kent and Wayne Counties. The FDSP program launched in April of 2024, and partners include Heart of West Michigan United Way, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, and Wayne County Health Department.



Each FDSP partner is working to mitigate transportation barriers in ways tailored to the unique needs of their communities. The Heart of West Michigan United Way has worked with Instacart to connect **42 individuals to Instacart's Plus membership**, a membership that provides no cost delivery for an annual or monthly fee. Currently, the Heart of West Michigan is working with MDHHS and Instacart to see how the annual/monthly fee can be covered using FDSP dollars. Additionally, The United Way of Southeastern Michigan funded eight agencies that operate a wide variety of food delivery programs in Wayne County, known as the Community of Practice (CoP). With the convening of the CoP, the United Way hopes to create a more aligned CIE system for food delivery. Lastly, the Wayne County Health Department will carry out their FDSP, using Fresh Food Trucks, in collaboration with the Eastern Market. The program entails deploying one or more vehicles (Fresh Trucks) that will offer a variety of fresh produce to serve locations across these communities. In doing this, the Local Health Department plans to **serve the 43 communities of Wayne County** covering 673 miles.



Combating Food Deserts: MDHHS Allocates \$3 Million to Support Michigan Grocers and Retailers

MDHHS, through [Senate Bill No. 747](#), has allocated three million dollars over the next three years to the [Midwest Retailers Association](#) to aid grocers and food wholesale and retail merchants in Michigan in combating food deserts. This project launched on March 1, 2025, and is working with the department to prepare disseminate funds to local retailers through a

request for proposals (RFP). Stay tuned for programmatic updates, an announcement of the RFP, program eligibility criteria, and other relevant information in future SDOH newsletters!



Empowering Black Entrepreneurs: Grassroots Giving Hosts Successful Business Mixer & Workshop Series

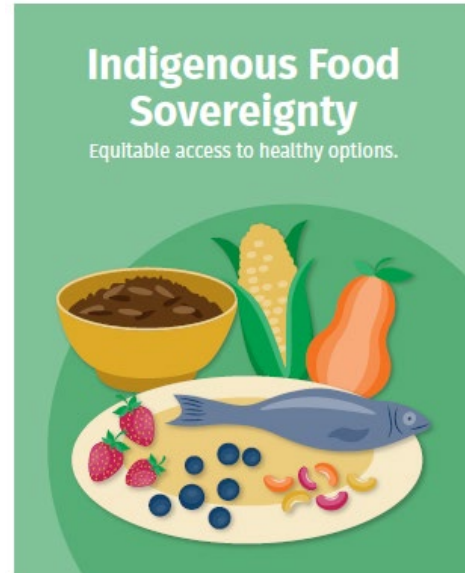
Building off a successful workshop in January, Grassroots Giving hosted their second workshop as a part of their “Black Business Mixer” series which took place on Thursday, February 27th in East Lansing. The mixer included a workshop with finance expert Darla Bishop on managing business & personal finances bringing out roughly 25-30 guests. The event also provided networking opportunities with Black entrepreneurs & professionals and shared out tips & strategies to help black businesses grow and secure financial success.

Grassroots Giving will host a morning of connection, empowerment and wellness during the March Black Business Mixer which will take place on Saturday, March 29th. [Click this link to learn more about the event and register for an opportunity to mix, mingle and be inspired!](#)

Celebrating National Nutrition Month and the Impact of the P4 Project

March also marks the third month of Reporting Period #4 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. The next P4 Project status meeting, the fourth of six quarterly meetings, will take place in April 2025.



SDOH Partner Updates

2025 Behavioral Health Initiative is now open

The Health Fund's Behavioral Health grant program aims to improve access to effective mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services for Michigan residents. We're seeking proposals for projects that address four priority areas:

- Implementation of innovative care delivery models
- Multisector responses aimed at developing and strengthening local systems of care for mental health and SUDs and supporting efficient entry to treatment
- Use of innovative technology to improve access to care and/or quality of care
- Implementation of team-based approaches to care, including integration at the point of care, sharing health information among providers, and increased provider consultation

For more details about our goals, proposal criteria, and the application process, [please view the RFP](#) or join us for an **RFP overview webinar on Thursday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m. (ET)**. [Click here to register](#).

Concept papers are highly recommended and due by email to grants@mihealthfund.org on **April 2**. Full proposals are due at 5 p.m. (ET) on **May 7**.

You can find more informational resources — including [past grants](#) and [frequently asked questions](#) — on our website.

For full details, view the [Request for Proposals \(RFP\) document here](#).



GRANT RANGE \$50,000 to \$500,000

CONCEPT PAPERS DUE April 2, 2025

APPLICATIONS DUE May 7, 2025

AWARDS ANNOUNCED Sept. 2025

Michigan Leaders Highlight Digital Equity at Global Conference

The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) took the global stage at the [2025 HIMSS Global Health Conference & Exhibition](#) to showcase Michigan's efforts in bridging the digital divide. The *Bridging Michigan's Digital Divide: Advancing Digital Equity and Health IT* panel highlighted the critical role of high-speed internet in healthcare access, telehealth, and digital literacy.

State leaders shared insights on Michigan's innovative collaborations, including the Michigan Health Information Technology Commission's advocacy for digital equity and the newly launched

Michigan Inclusive Training, Technology, and Equity Network (MITTEN) program. The goal of these initiatives is to expand high-speed internet access and ensure that Michiganders have the necessary digital skills to support their health and well-being.

Learn more about Michigan's work to expand high-speed internet at Michigan.gov/MIHI.



Now Accepting Applications: 2025 Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyles Initiative Grants

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund is now accepting applications for the 2025 Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyles (NHL) Initiative. This grant opportunity aims to improve food access, strengthen local food systems, promote physical activity, and enhance built environments to support the health of Michigan's children and older adults. Eligible organizations, including nonprofits, Tribes, and local government entities,

can apply for grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000.

Concept papers are strongly encouraged and due by **March 20, 2025**, with full applications due by **May 1, 2025**. Award announcements will be made in September 2025.

For full details, view the [Request for Proposals \(RFP\) document here](#).

To learn more and apply, visit: mihealthfund.org.

MDHHS Opens Applications for Capacity Connect Initiative Funding

The MDHHS Capacity Connect Initiative (CCI) is now accepting applications for its two-year, direct funding awards to build capacity for food and nutrition service providers!

The CCI is designed to empower local food and nutrition providers who have not traditionally delivered services within the Medicaid system by offering tailored technical assistance, direct funding, and strategic support.

The CCI will be providing direct funding to eligible organizations to build their capacity for the delivery of Medicaid [In Lieu of Services](#) (ILOS) food and nutrition services. Awardees will receive no less than \$50,000 and up to \$150,000 for a two-year period (July 1, 2025, and ends September 30, 2026) as well as supportive learning opportunities and individualized technical assistance.

Submit direct funding applications [here](#), through Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

To learn more about CCI and the direct funding opportunity, please visit the [CCI Webpage](#).

MDHHS will host an informational session to provide details on what the CCI will offer and answer questions from interested applicants at 11:00AM EST, Wednesday, March 12. More details,

including a registration link, to follow. A recording of the session will be placed onto the CCI webpage.

Questions? Interested applicants may submit questions and requests for clarification about this funding opportunity via this [form](#) before 5:00PM EST on April 2, 2025. Questions submitted by the deadline will be addressed in a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document, updated regularly on the CCI webpage. MDHHS is not responsible for technical issues that delay question submission and encourages early submissions.

MDHHS is excited to support local food and nutrition service providers as they begin their ILOS journey!

MIHI awards \$10.6M to 13 organizations across Michigan to improve digital access statewide

The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) awarded nearly \$10.6M to 13 organizations who will serve as regional hubs providing digital skills training, device distribution programs, online accessibility, access to affordable broadband service and other activities.

“When we expand access to affordable, fast internet, we connect Michiganders with jobs, healthcare, education, opportunity, and so much more,” said **Lt.**

Governor Garlin Gilchrist II. “Today’s announcement of \$10.6 million in grants to 13 organizations will help more Michiganders access the tools they need to thrive in a digital world. We are committed to bringing resources to bear and making historic investments across Michigan to ensure that no matter where someone lives or works, they can access high speed internet and reach their full potential.”

The Michigan Inclusive Training, Technology and Equity Network (MITTEN) program aims to bridge the digital divide by establishing regional resource hubs to provide essential support for digital inclusion. The initiative is rooted in community input gathered during a statewide MI Connected Future listening tour and is designed to equip Michiganders with the skills and resources necessary to thrive in a connected world.

“We are dedicated to making Michigan a place where all residents can reach their full potential,” said Labor and Economic Opportunity Director **Susan Corbin.** “Michiganders need both access to high-speed internet and the devices and skills to do so. The MIHI team is working across the state with these selected organizations to help make Michigan more prosperous for all.”

The selected organizations, listed by [prosperity regions](#), are:

Region 1c: Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (\$857,909)



Region 2: Grow Benzie (\$857,870)

Region 3: Northwest Michigan Consortium (\$446,023)

Region 4a: Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency (\$857,909)

Region 4b: West Michigan Works! (\$857,908)

Region 5: Central Michigan University (\$854,304)

Region 6: Regents of the University of Michigan – Flint (\$746,405)

Region 7: Ingham County (\$857,909)

Region 8: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (\$857,909)

Region 9: Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (\$857,909)

Region 10: Tejara (\$820,080)

Detroit: United Way of Southeastern Michigan (\$857,909)

Grand Rapids: Hispanic Center of Western Michigan (\$857,909)

MIHI is committed to addressing any gaps in coverage through a third round of applications in the near future. The 13 hub organizations were awarded as subgrantees for the MITTEN program to support implementation of the [Michigan Digital Equity Plan](#).

This funding is provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Digital Equity Act. To learn more about the MITTEN program and digital resources in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/MIHL.



Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Launches 2025-2026 Building Healthy Communities Program

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the Building Healthy Communities collaboration of statewide partners*, are [currently accepting applications](#) for the [Building Healthy Communities](#) program for the 2025-2026 school year.

Building Healthy Communities is a schoolwide initiative designed to reduce obesity, prevent chronic disease, and improve the mental health and well-being of students and staff. The program creates healthy school environments that support healthy choices and improve student attendance and academic achievement.

Who's eligible?

Any public, charter or private nonprofit school in Michigan is eligible regardless of their:

- Free and reduced-price school meal percentage

- Geographic location
- Participation in other school wellness grants, programs, or initiatives

How to apply?

- There are three program opportunities to help meet the needs of Michigan schools. More information is attached.
- Interested schools may review the program descriptions, application deadlines and eligibility information at bcbsm.com/buildhealth.

*Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Michigan, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association, Michigan Fitness Foundation, Michigan Recreation and Park Association, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Virtual, OK2SAY, SHAPE Michigan, United Dairy Industry of Michigan, University of Michigan School of Kinesiology, University of Michigan Project Healthy Schools and Wayne State University Center for Health and Community Impact are working together to improve student health and transform school environments through Building Healthy Communities.

Spring into Health at the Detroit Delta Health Resource Fair!

Join the Detroit Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for the Detroit Delta Health Resource Fair on **Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 10 AM – 2 PM** at the Delta Service Through Detroit Foundation, Inc. This free event will feature health screenings, wellness workshops, exercise demonstrations, and more! Don't miss this opportunity to connect with community health resources and services.

[Click here to register.](#)



Spring into Health
with the
Detroit Delta HEALTH RESOURCE FAIR

Lab Work Vision and Hearing Screening

SATURDAY APRIL 19 2025 10AM - 2PM

DSTDFI
Delta Service Through Detroit Foundation, Inc.
24760 W. Seven Mile Detroit, MI 48219

FREE EVENT

Featuring:

- > Healthy Cooking Demonstration
- > Hustle Line Dances
- > Exercise Demonstration
- > Mental Health Workshop
- > Women's Health Sessions
- > Massage Therapy

Participating Partners Include:

All About Women's Health • Alzheimer's Association • American Cancer Society • American Diabetes Association • Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program • City of Detroit Health Dept. • City of Detroit Police Dept. Corewell Health • CVS | Aetna • DST-DAC Diaper Drive • Detroit Medical Center • Exact Sciences • Glass Chiropractic Care • Helping Women Period • Henry Ford Health • Henry Ford OptiMeyes • MOTTEP • Michigan Rehabilitation Services • PACE of Southeast Michigan • Wayne State University Mobile Health Unit

REGISTER AT: bit.ly/DACHealthResourceFair

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Stephanie L. Williams, President