

Subscribers of SDOH-Strategy (7182 recipients)



April 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

SDOH Hubs Update

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.

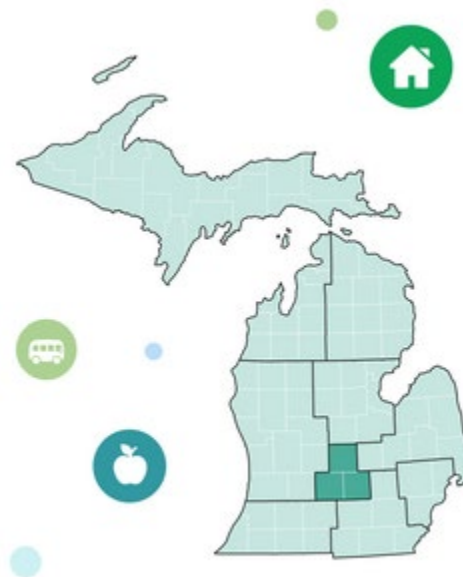
SDOH Hub Site Launch

REGION 7: SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Ingham County Health
Department
in partnership with the
Capital Area Health
Alliance (CAHA)

 Launching: April 1, 2025

 Geographic Jurisdiction:
Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton counties



SDOH Hubs Regional Expansion & Engagement

April marked the official launch of the Region 7 SDOH Hub (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties), led by the Ingham County Health Department, in partnership with the Capital Area Health Alliance. The kickoff meeting on April 1 set the foundation for collaborative SDOH work in South Central Michigan.

Partners will focus efforts on establishment of the Hub site, supporting Community Information Exchange (CIE) planning and implementation in the region, and implementation of holistic interventions that address SDOH utilizing a Health in All Policies framework.



SDOH Hubs Advisory Council Final Report

The 2024 SDOH Hubs Advisory Council announces the publication of their final report, which details a set of 42 meaningful and actionable recommendations – outlined under each of the council’s priorities of alignment, measurement, engagement, support, and advancing equity – to support the scalability and sustainability of SDOH Hubs. It also outlines proposed next steps to prioritize recommendations and support their implementation. As these recommendations are implemented, MDHHS recognizes the need for agility and adaptability in the face of ever-evolving community needs. This will allow space for continued discussions with partners across sectors to ensure implementation of these recommendations is impactful and sustainable.

Read the full report here: [2024 SDOH Hubs Advisory Council Final Report](#)

Review a one-page summary of the report here: [2024 SDOH Hubs Advisory Council Recommendations Overview](#)

The next SDOH Hubs Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for April 24, continuing implementation of priority recommendations from 2024 with a strong focus on sustainability.

To learn more, please visit [the SDOH Hubs Advisory Council web page](#).

Learning Community

The second quarterly SDOH Hubs Learning Community meeting was held on April 8, bringing together grantees and partners to share updates from the financial management team, discuss project spending templates, and explore site visit planning with advisory council members.

Quarterly status reports are now being completed to provide a clear overview of Hub progress and highlight the impact of these efforts. These reports will offer valuable insights into the key initiatives being led by SDOH Hub partners, track milestones, and showcase the tangible results of this work. By sharing this information regularly, we aim to keep everyone informed, foster transparency, and ensure we're aligned in achieving our goals. Updates from these reports will be shared in upcoming newsletters and synthesized to develop updated [SDOH Hub profiles](#).



Rural Health Equity Final Report Now Available

The [Rural Health Equity Final Report](#) is now available on our website!

As part of our SDOH Strategy, MDHHS funded our partners at the Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH) to connect with rural partners across the state. MCRH developed the rural health equity plan with the goal of better understanding the needs of Michigan's rural communities in the context of our SDOH Strategy priorities and develop a rural health equity plan. In this final report, MCRH provides a summary of the work that was done and some actionable community-driven recommendations to better serve rural Michiganders.

MDHHS and the Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH) will present the findings from the Rural Health Equity Plan (RHEP) at the upcoming Rural Health Equity Conference in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

During this interactive session, attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Share ideas for implementing the RHEP recommendations,
- Exchange resources to support activation efforts, and
- Explore how Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hubs in rural areas can incorporate these recommendations into their local initiatives.

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.



Local Food Infrastructure (LFI)

MDHHS, through [Senate Bill No. 747](#), has allocated three million dollars over the next three years to the Midwest Retailers Foundation (MIRF) to aid grocers and food wholesale and retail merchants in Michigan in combating food deserts. The Local Food Infrastructure project in collaboration with other food security efforts underway within the Bureau of Policy and Planning help to support the SDOH Strategy priority efforts of making healthy

foods more accessible to Michigan residents. MDHHS and MIRF met on March 7 to launch this project.

The Local Food Infrastructure program will combat food deserts in Michigan by partnering with local retailers to provide refrigeration units, supplies of fresh healthy foods to communities with limited access, and tracking software to support retailers in tracking sales. MIRF is currently working to finalize the request for proposals to apply to participate in this unique project.

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



Michigan State Medical Society Launches Statewide Health Equity Training for Medical Professionals

The Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) has been awarded a \$500,000 appropriation to support developing a statewide curriculum for Michigan’s physicians, residents, and medical students to address implicit bias, health equity, and justice in medicine. The Pathway to Health Equity project officially launched on March 18, 2025, with MDHHS hosting a Kick-Off meeting with partners at MSMS. Training our health professionals on these important topics will enhance care for those disproportionately burdened by health inequities. This work supports our overall SDOH Strategies efforts to close gaps in health disparities throughout Michigan.

The MSMS subject matter expert is currently developing a comprehensive curriculum that will be provided via virtual training aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of a wide range of medical professions, including physicians, occupational therapists, medical researchers, dental professionals, residents and medical students. These educational initiatives are designed to strengthen public health practices and support ongoing professional development.

Stay tuned for further updates in upcoming newsletters, where additional information will be shared regarding the progress of the training.

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

Strengthening Michigan's CHW Workforce Through CITIE Initiatives

Supporting the CHW workforce is a key component of the SDOH Strategy as seen through our SDOH Hubs, many of whom are prioritizing CHW-related efforts to address community health-related social needs and through the work done by the CHW Subcommittee that convened in 2023. As recommended by the CHW Subcommittee, the CHW Integration to Improve Equity (CITIE) initiative was established within the Policy and Planning Bureau to support Michigan's CHW workforce.

The CITIE initiative establishes partnerships between the Policy and Planning Bureau and multisectoral partners to better serve MDHHS priority populations. CITIE projects seek to train and integrate CHWs into communities disproportionately burdened by health inequities. The SDOH Team is excited to announce the launch of three new CITIE projects on April 1st with the below partners:

- Southeast Michigan Senior Regional Collaborative
- Hispanic Center of Western Michigan
- Washtenaw County Health Department

Each of the new CITIE partners will be working to train and integrate their CHWs either through an MDHHS-approved core competency training or other training and professional development opportunities to enhance their CHWs' ability to address SDOH needs in their communities. Some CITIE partners will also be working to reduce health disparities through providing services to community members. Stay tuned for project updates and successes of our CITIE grantees.



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.



Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4) Update

April marks month seven 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, due to low access to healthy food options combined with poverty, and lack of access to food and nutrition programs. In fact, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 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.

To solve these issues, the P4 Project centers itself around food sovereignty, not only giving our tribal partners (Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Bay Mills Indian Community, and Hannaville Indian Community) the resources to provide quality and nutritious foods to their community that they need to live a healthy life but granting them the ability to teach how to cook traditional dishes with the food a swell. In the past few months, our tribal partners have made incredible progress in this effort:

- For example, the **Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi** was able to teach 30 community members about the Tapping Ceremony for Sugar Bush, consisting of prayers, song, origin stories and education on how to pick healthy trees to traditionally tap for syrup.
- Another great example is the **Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi**. In their P4 program, they have launched a new 5-month long cooking series called “Cooking with Toddlers” and have steadily increased participation in another cooking series they launched a while ago called “Cooking with the Tribal Youth,” making sure to incorporate their four sacred foods: wild game, 3 Sisters (green beans, corn, squash), strawberries, and wild rice.
- For the **Bay Mills Indian Community**, they held a Community Health Staff Family Secrets Cooking Class Series in February, covering Sour Dough Bread making; Salmon and Pike Fish Patty making; Walleye baking; and 3 Sisters Skillet making.
- Lastly, the **Hannaville Indian Community** has been using P4 resources to continuously expand and improve their Green House so it can provide the community with fresh grown produce for the Tribal school and local organizations

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.

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. MiRHETT has been convening for the past six months to build a trusting and authentic space that allows for meaningful discussion on how best to support Michigan’s racially marginalized and diverse communities. Through regular meetings facilitated by the Michigan Public Health Institute, MiRHETT has reviewed existing recommendations, grounded themselves in the Systems Change Framework, and worked collaboratively to prioritize recommendations

that can have an immediate impact on racial minorities and begin thinking about how best to implement actions that will have meaningful change.

With just two MiRHETT sessions remaining, the participants are developing final implementation strategies to guide MDHHS Policy and Planning Bureau in its efforts to “close the disparity gaps” seen throughout Michigan. In the cohort’s final convening in May, participants will present their final implementation strategies and metrics to measure success.

MiRHETT, together with the Rural Health Equity Plan, will build a foundation to guide MDHHS in approaches to addressing SDOH for communities disproportionately burdened by health inequities across the state.

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

Through a legislative appropriation, MDHHS is providing funding to support the Food Delivery Service Program (FDSP), a pilot initiative aimed at mitigating transportation barriers, increasing grocery access, and addressing the food security needs of SNAP recipients in Kent and Wayne counties. Launched in April 2024, the FDSP is a collaborative effort with partners including the Heart of West Michigan United Way.



In Michigan, nearly 1.2 million people and hundreds of thousands of families struggle with easy access to healthy and fresh foods, with children, seniors, and communities of color impacted at extremely high rates. This is due to grocery stores being miles away from neighborhoods and families having little to no access to a form of transportation, whether it be by car, bus, or rail. At the same time, Michigan disposes more than [1 million tons of food waste](#) each year through municipal systems alone (ex. Grocery stores, restaurants, and schools), much of which could be recovered or recycled to help make Michigan and Michiganders healthier.

To help offset the food disparity and food waste statistics in Michigan, the Heart of West Michigan United Way, United Way of Southeastern Michigan, and Wayne County Health Department is tailoring their work on the FDSP to the unique needs of their communities. Recently, the Heart of West Michigan United Way worked with Instacart to connect **Michiganders to Instacart’s Instacart 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 funding. 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 Community Information Exchange system for

food delivery in the Southeast Michigan region. Lastly, the Wayne County Health Department is working on carrying 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.

Each of the three FDSP organizations are working in collaboration with other partners to help move the project forward. Similar to the Heart of West Michigan United Way, MDHHS hopes that the United Way of Southeast Michigan and Wayne County Health Department can partner with private businesses in the future and is working internally to ensure that the organizations can easily do so if they would like. Private-public partnerships are great to have because it allows for public entities to complete projects for their communities in the most efficient and successful way, by utilizing the private sector's specialized skills and established systems that are needed within the project. The future of private-public partnerships in the FDSP is a continued conversation, but it is one that both the FDSP partners and MDHHS are excited to have. To learn more about the project, please click [here](#).



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.

Community Influencer Program Update

As we get closer to the end of FY25, we near closer to the culmination of the second iteration of the Community Influencer Program. Over the last several months, our influencers have received a live look inside MDHHS Rural Health Equity work, Community Information Exchange (CIE) and Health in All Policies (HiAP) initiatives, as well as food delivery efforts such as our Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4) and Food Delivery Service Program (FDSP). Along with improving awareness of these initiatives and programs, influencers also leave with resources to share within their communities, hoping to support positive social determinants of health.

In our most recent Community Influencer convening, influencers learned about the heart of the **Bridging Aging and Disability Network Initiative**, which in identifying and raising awareness of

the programs and services that serve the older adult and developmental disability populations, where those services are provided separately, or where the services overlap. In this meeting partners from [the Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports](#) and the **Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council** shared a range of aging network supports (e.g., **Older Americans Act (OAA) Services**) as well as physical and developmental disability supports (e.g., **Michigan Disability Rights Coalition**). As both partners shared ongoing initiatives and opportunities to engage and resources, influencers were able to see firsthand the overarching bridging project.

The last convening for this year's Community Influencer Program will be in May, where influencers and MDHHS Policy and Planning Bureau will share lessons learned, discuss the next iteration of Community Influencers, and share more resources for our influencers to take back to their communities. The event is tentatively scheduled for May 21, 2025.

Economic Mobility Project Supports Black Business Growth and Connection

The Economic Mobility Project is focused on building a community of knowledgeable, connected, thriving, and diverse businesses that support one another, increases capacity and learning opportunities for Black businesses and addresses systemic inequalities and biases. "Black Business Mixer" sessions and workshops hosted by Grassroots Giving allow businesses to network while simultaneously strengthening the communities they represent. As Grassroots Giving and The Mobility Collective continue to provide spaces for businesses to connect and learn, MDHHS will emphasize the need for reporting to show the connection to workforce development, SDOH strategy, and supporting minority-owned businesses.



MDHHS-Health Management and Policy Capstone Teams Partner with MDHHS to Advance SDOH Work

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the University of Michigan School of Public Health's Health Management and Policy (HMP) graduate program have maintained their long-standing collaboration by hosting two capstone teams of graduate students.

Eight graduate students pursuing their master's in health services administration or

public health have been working closely with MDHHS to support the Health in All Policies Interagency Workgroup and Community Health Worker Advisory Council. The teams have

developed key resources to support implementation of Michigan's Roadmap to Healthy Communities, Michigan's [Social Determinants of Health Strategy](#).

The teams worked closely to develop two key resources. MITerm, a terminology compendium, houses and organizes key terms, sourced from departmental strategic plans. In February, the team presented their findings to the Health in All Policies Interagency Workgroup, an interagency group of departmental leadership from thirteen agencies across the state. MITerm will remain an internal tool that can support alignment of state-level initiatives, bridge cross-sector communication barriers, and advance cross-agency partnership.

Additionally, the team expanded upon a national landscape analysis of community health worker (CHW) certification policies developed by the CHW Advisory Council to further enhance the knowledge base. As part of this effort, the team produced a white paper outlining their findings to support the CHW Advisory Council, the analysis provided in the white paper will inform the CHW Advisory Council's consideration of a pilot CHW certification policy for MDHHS and its potential role in shaping future statewide policy.

MDHHS will continue to build on the HMP team's work, expanding the MI Term resource with additional terms. The students will share their final reports with MDHHS by April 18, 2025.

SDOH Partner Updates



Join April's Black Business Mixer

Join us for April's Black Business Mixer on Saturday, April 26th, featuring a dynamic panel discussion and valuable networking opportunities! Don't miss this chance to connect with fellow entrepreneurs, share resources, and help build a stronger, healthier, and more connected Black business community in Lansing. Click this [link](#) to learn more about the event and register.

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.

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/MIHI.



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.](#)

The poster for the "Spring into Health Detroit Delta Health Resource Fair" features a vibrant yellow and red color scheme. At the top right, a photograph shows two healthcare professionals, a man and a woman, smiling while examining a patient's blood pressure. The main title "Spring into Health" is written in a large, stylized purple font, with "with the Detroit Delta HEALTH RESOURCE FAIR" in a smaller, bold purple font below it. To the right of the title, the event date and time are prominently displayed: "SATURDAY APRIL 19 2025 10AM - 2PM". Below this, the acronym "DSTDfI" is shown, followed by the full name "Delta Service Through Detroit Foundation, Inc." and the address "24760 W. Seven Mile Detroit, MI 48219". A circular badge on the left side of the poster indicates "Lab Work Vision and Hearing Screening". The text "FREE EVENT" is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a list of featured activities is provided: "Healthy Cooking Demonstration", "Hustle Line Dances", "Exercise Demonstration", "Mental Health Workshop", "Women's Health Sessions", and "Massage Therapy". To the right of this list, a section titled "Participating Partners Include:" lists various organizations such as "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", and "Wayne State University Mobile Health Unit". At the bottom left, the Detroit Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is mentioned, along with the name of the president, Stephanie L. Williams. A QR code is located at the bottom right, and a registration link "REGISTER AT: bit.ly/DACHealthResourceFair" is provided in the center bottom.

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



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