

Subscribers of SDOH-Strategy (7022 recipients)



February 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 Updates

The [SDOH Hubs](#) are advancing initiatives to address social determinants of health and reduce disparities, including the development of Community Information Exchange (CIE) initiatives 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 Month Webinars

In recognition of SDOH Month 2025, MDHHS hosted two webinars in January that highlighted key recommendations and strategies for cultivating strong, resilient communities: "Scaling and Sustaining SDOH Hubs: Key Recommendations from the Advisory Council" and "Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hubs: Cultivating Strong and Resilient Communities." The webinars were a success, each garnering participation from over 150 registrants; you can access the meeting recordings using the following links:

[Scaling and Sustaining SDOH Hubs: Key Recommendations from the Advisory Council](#)

[Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Hubs: Cultivating Strong and Resilient Communities](#)



SDOH Hubs Advisory Council

On January 8, 2025, MDHHS released a [press announcement](#) for applications to apply for the 2025 SDOH Hubs Advisory Council, encouraging broad participation to ensure representation from Michigan's diverse communities. MDHHS received over 300 applications!

A team of reviewers applied a standardized scoring rubric and engaged in a comprehensive review session to identify candidates for seating on the advisory council. The selection process prioritized diversity in expertise, geographic representation, and lived experience, among other factors, to ensure a well-rounded council. After

thorough evaluation, 24 applicants—including 11 returning members from the 2024 Advisory Council—were invited to join. Invitations were sent on Friday, January 31, and the first convening of the 2024 Advisory Council is scheduled for February 27. In 2025, the Advisory Council will continue its vital role in supporting the scalability and sustainability of SDOH Hubs by providing guidance, expertise, and strategic direction. They will soon vote to prioritize recommendations from the 2024 council for implementation. This decision will guide the next steps in the process, ensuring that the most critical actions are addressed first.

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

SDOH Hubs Learning Community

The SDOH Hubs Learning Community, which is composed of Hub site grantees, convened its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, from 3:00-4:30pm. The primary goal of the session was to review and provide feedback on the SDOH Hubs Implementation Guide, a practical resource for hub site implementation.

The Learning Community will serve as a platform for hub sites to exchange best practices, addressing barriers, and exploring opportunities for collaboration. Meetings are held quarterly on the second Tuesday of every three months, with upcoming sessions scheduled for April 8, July 8, and October 14.

Celebrating Our SDOH Mini-Grant Recipients!

We are excited to share the recipients of the MDHHS Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) mini-grants! We received many outstanding submissions, and after a competitive review process, the top-scoring projects selected for funding include:

- **North Country Community Mental Health** will use the funding to support safe storage of medication by purchasing mini medication refrigerators.
- **The Corner Health Center** will expand healthcare, wellness, and educational services for patients.
- **Northwest Initiative** will provide nutrition education services to improve food security and health outcomes.
- **National Kidney Foundation of Michigan** will strengthen community engagement by funding food and participation stipends for community members attending quarterly in-person meetings.

Congratulations to our grant recipients! These projects demonstrate the power of community-driven initiatives in addressing social determinants of health and advancing health equity across Michigan.



Help Us Improve SDOH Month!

Thank you for being part of Michigan's SDOH Month! We want to hear from you on what worked well, what could be improved, and what you'd like to see next year. Your feedback will help us make future SDOH Month campaigns even more impactful.

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey:
[SDOH Month Feedback Survey](#)

Your input is invaluable, and we appreciate your time!



Community Information Exchange (CIE) Advisory Committee invites CIE professionals to CIE Professional Learning Community

The Community Information Exchange Professional Learning Community (PLC) invites professionals working on CIE initiatives to join them on February 20th from 2-3pm. The CIE Professional Learning Community (PLC) aims to create a collaborative space for professionals working on CIE initiatives by fostering knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning. During the February meeting, Henry Ford Jackson Hospital will speak on their efforts in advancing CIE in their region through the Jackson Care Hub. The PLC will meet monthly through 2025. [You can register for the February session and all future sessions here.](#)

Community Health Worker Integration to Improve Equity Initiative

On January 29, 2025, the Policy and Planning Bureau hosted a webinar entitled the Community Health Worker Integration: Advancing Health Equity in Michigan webinar. The webinar focused on the Community Health Worker Integration to Improve Equity (CITIE) initiative. Participant were informed about the amazing work being done by community and state project partners to improve health equity for the communities they serve. Through training and integrating CHWs into communities disproportionately burdened by health inequities, the CITIE initiative hopes to improve health outcomes for Michigan residents. A recording of the webinar is available for viewing at: <https://youtu.be/ev7dvRFPfAA>. A follow up [Q&A document can be found here.](#)

The image is a YouTube video player thumbnail. At the top left is the MDHHS logo. The title 'Community Health Worker Integration: Advancing Equity in Michigan' is prominently displayed in white text on a dark blue background. Below the title are two circular profile pictures of the speakers: Tiwanna Hatcher on the left and Shannon Patrick on the right. A large red play button is centered over the text. Below the speakers' names and titles, the MDHHS logo is shown again. At the bottom left, it says 'Watch on YouTube' with the YouTube logo. In the top right corner, there are icons for 'Watch later' and 'Share'. A small video inset in the top right corner shows a person's face.

Community Health Worker Integration: Advancing Equity in Michigan

January 29, 2025

Tiwanna Hatcher
Strategy & Engagement Section Manager
Policy and Planning Bureau

Shannon Patrick
Senior SDOH Strategy Advisor
Policy and Planning Bureau

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Watch on YouTube

Michigan Racial Health Equity Think Tank (MiRHETT)

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 seventh MiRHETT session was held on January 31, 2025. This session focused on reviewing the below foundational documents and beginning the development of the final implementation strategy.

- Black Leadership Advisory Council final report
- Michigan Coronavirus Racial Disparities Task Force Final Report
- Michigan Poverty Task Force Final Report
- The MDHHS Health Equity Report
- The Rural Health Equity Plan Interim Report

Over the course of the project, participants have reviewed and discussed how the systems change framework will guide the development of MiRHETT's strategy for addressing racial health disparities. The three remaining sessions will focus on developing a detailed implementation strategy to address racial health disparities in food insecurity, behavioral health, and SDOH workforce needs, using the referenced foundational documents as a guide.



The Mobility Collective

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURE, KNOWLEDGE AND CONTRIBUTIONS WITHIN THE GLOBAL MOBILITY
LANDSCAPE

Economic Mobility Project

In recognition of challenges faced by Black and Minority-owned businesses, the MDHHS Policy and Planning Bureau, in collaboration with [The Mobility Collective](#), a nonprofit association for Black Professionals in the Talent Mobility Industry, kicked off the Economic Mobility Project in January 2025.

To build a diverse and knowledgeable community to network, gain learning opportunities, and increase equity, the Mobility Collective and [Grassroots Giving](#), an organization dedicated to supporting black-owned businesses and fostering connections between organizations and the surrounding community, will host six workshops for businesses to participate in through September 2025.

The first workshop of the Economic Mobility Project occurred in January 2025. Taking place in East Lansing, the workshop titled, “Mission, Vision, Values, and Networking” highlighted the importance of establishing a company’s mission, vision, and values. Featuring speaker Marsheda Patrice Ewulomi, Esq., founder and CEO of Ewulomi Works LLC, the working session allowed attendees to reflect on a case study and discuss their business’ strengths and weaknesses when it comes to articulating value.





Health Equity through Enhancing Literacy (HEEL)

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, will focus on advancing health literacy, community information exchange capacities, and increasing digital equity by strengthening the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce. This project will also advance outcomes identified in the SDOH [Accelerator Plan for Preventing Chronic Disease](#).

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the HEEL project in January 2025. Partner kickoff meetings occurred throughout January and a collaborative partner meeting will be held in February to discuss status updates, challenges, and any opportunities for collaboration throughout the project period.

Produce Prescription Pilot Program Update

February marks the second month of Reporting Period #4 for the Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4). P4 Project FY24-25 tribal partners include: 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. P4 Project status meetings take place quarterly; the third of these six quarterly meetings will be held in February 2025.

Bay Mills has been hosting monthly planning meetings to determine opportunities for education outreach and future collaborations. Bay Mills' key partnerships this quarter are with the Waishkey Bay Farm at Bay Mills Community College, MSU Extension Office, and the Bay Mills Community College Education Department.

Hannahville has conducted many educational trainings and strengthened connections this quarter through their P4 programming efforts. Hannahville's cook-alongs continue to reach hundreds of people via Facebook Live videos: participants are taught the history and importance of traditional meals while learning the skills and methods of traditional food preparation.

The NHBP Food Sovereignty Taskforce has been resurrected from its previous formation with continued efforts to combat food insecurity. The group meets regularly to reset goals, visions, and

identify action items to move forward with community-led Food Sovereignty efforts. Initial members of the Taskforce include representatives from the NHBP departments of Food Sovereignty, Community Health, Culture, Environmental Health, Human Resources, and Tribal Council.

Pokagon Band has been strengthening external partnerships to further their Food Sovereignty efforts. Most notable has been Pokagon Band's relationship development with Wrights and Dussel food market, from which their main contact is a passionate advocate for Food Sovereignty with a wealth of agricultural knowledge and 12 years working and living in the agricultural field. This contact has been able to work with both large agribusinesses and small producers; the contact holds a bachelor's degree in Crop and Soil Science and a minor in Natural Resources and Commercial Horticulture. As a long-term resident in the Pokagon Band service area, this contact is proving crucial to building lasting relationships for sustained impact in the Pokagon Band community.



What is Health in All Policies?

Health is significantly influenced by our homes, schools, communities, and environments. Access to reliable transportation, high-quality food, stable employment, and safe housing significantly impact health and well-being, yet the way in which we approach addressing systematic issues at the state-level are often siloed and sector-specific.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, through a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach, is working to improve health outcomes by incorporating health considerations into decision-making across all sectors and policy areas. A HiAP

approach emphasizes the need to assess the health and equity implications of projects and initiatives in non-health sectors.

A HiAP approach emphasizes mobilizing relationships and building multi-sector collaborative relationships to move upstream and change the way that we, at the state, relate to one another in work.

Learn more about a Health in All Policies approach and how we're implementing a HiAP framework here: michigan.gov/HealthinAllPolicies

SDOH Partner Updates

Now accepting nominations for 2025 Civic Hub grants

The Trust is now accepting nominations for its 2025 Civic Hub grants. This year, the Trust for Civic Life plans to award \$8 million in total funding to Civic Hubs working in rural communities. The nomination forms and grants criteria are available online [here](#).



What Nominators Need to Know

- Nomination.deadline; Monday, March 3, at 5 PM ET
- 8680.funding; \$8M in total funding
- Awards.available; ~20 Civic Hub grants
- Award.amounts; \$300,000-\$500,000 each
- Eligibility; Please ensure your nominee is [eligible for this grant](#)
- Timeline; The 2025 Civic Hub grant cycle will run from February and be finalized by September.
- New.option; Civic Hubs with strong existing local pipelines will have a new option to receive additional funds to regrant Civic Experiments in their regions.

Need More Info?

Please check our [2025 Civic Hubs FAQs](#) if you have questions about your nomination.

Disability Health Care Equity grant applications due March 1st

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the University of Michigan Center for Disability Health and Wellness are partnering to advance disability health care equity. Safety net medical and dental providers interested in improving access to care and quality with and for patients with disabilities should apply by March 1st for a grant of up to \$5,000. Please visit the [website](#) to learn more and apply.



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