

SDOH Talking Points for Partners

These talking points are designed to support our partners in advancing awareness and action around Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). They can be utilized to engage stakeholders, inform policy discussions, and drive collaborative efforts toward achieving health equity. Whether you're incorporating them into presentations, policy briefs, or community outreach initiatives, these talking points are here to help you create meaningful change in the communities you serve.

1. What are Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)?

- Social Determinants of Health are the non-medical factors that affect people's health and well-being. They include our living, learning, working, and playing environments.
- Examples include access to quality education, safe housing, nutritious food, job opportunities, and healthcare services.

2. Why SDOH matter to our community?

- SDOH has a significant impact on the health outcomes of our community members. For instance, people who lack access to healthy food or live in unsafe neighborhoods are more likely to experience health problems.
- Addressing these factors can help reduce health disparities and improve overall community health.
- Everyone should have the same chance to be healthy, no matter where they live or how much money they have. By addressing these factors, we can work towards making health equity a reality for all of us.

3. What are the key areas of SDOH?

- **Food Security:** Reliable access to enough nutritious food to lead a healthy and active life. Food security is essential for overall health and well-being.
- **Housing Stability:** Safe, affordable, and stable housing is critical to maintaining good health. Housing instability can lead to increased stress and poor health outcomes.
- **Health Equity:** Ensuring everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Health equity involves addressing barriers like poverty, discrimination, and lack of access to resources.
- **Economic Stability:** A stable income allows individuals to afford essentials like food, housing, and healthcare, which are critical for good health.
- **Education:** Access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities that lead to better job prospects and healthier lives.
- **Healthcare Access and Quality:** Access to timely, affordable, and quality healthcare services is essential for managing and improving health.
- **Neighborhood and Built Environment:** Living in safe, clean, and supportive environments is essential for good health. Access to resources like parks for physical activity, grocery

stores with healthy food options, and reliable public transportation can significantly impact our overall well-being and quality of life.

- **Social and Community Context:** Social connections, supportive networks, and community engagement contribute to a sense of belonging and well-being.

4. How is MDHHS addressing SDOH?

MDHHS SDOH Strategy: Michigan's Roadmap to Healthy Communities

The 2022-2024 MDHHS SDOH Strategy, known as *Michigan's Roadmap to Healthy Communities*, is the main way we are addressing Social Determinants of Health across the state. This strategy is being implemented in three phases and builds upon existing efforts to address the social determinants of health, with a focused approach to align efforts at the state and local level for a greater impact in communities. Phase III of the strategy launched in January 2024 and focuses on:

- **Innovative Solutions:** Developing and implementing new approaches to tackle SDOH-related challenges.
- **SDOH Hubs:** Establishing regional centers that connect people to resources addressing their specific SDOH needs.
- **Health in All Policies (HiAP):** Ensuring that health considerations are included in policy-making across various sectors to support healthy communities.
- **Closing the Health Disparity Gap:** Targeting efforts to reduce and eliminate differences in health outcomes among different populations, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to achieve their best possible health.
- **Sustainability:** Building on existing health equity partnerships to create lasting change and ensure that our efforts continue to benefit communities in the long term.

5. How can I get Involved?

- **Sign Up for Our Newsletter:** Get updates and information about SDOH by subscribing here: [SDOH Newsletter](#).
- **Visit Our Website:** Find more details about the SDOH Strategy and resources at Michigan.gov/SDOH.
- **Partner with Your Local SDOH Hub:** [Connect with local hubs](#) to support SDOH initiatives in your area.
- **Make a Difference:** Join us in addressing the social factors that impact health and help improve our community for everyone.