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May 2023

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## SDOH Strategy Updates

### Racial Health Equity Plan Update

The RFP for the Racial Health Equity Plan opened February 24 and closed April 11, 2023. A diverse team of MDHHS staff convened to review and score applications, with Altarum Institute being awarded the grant, with program start date of June 1, 2023. The purpose of the program is to fund resources supporting implementing the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Strategy and the development of the next iteration of the Michigan Health Equity Roadmap by examining marginalized groups impacted by longstanding system barriers to achieving health equity along with stakeholders and diverse residents in Michigan.

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### The Community Health Worker Subcommittee Update

The Community Health Worker Subcommittee convened for their fourth meeting on April 17 to discuss and prioritize sustainable funding mechanisms for CHWs. You can learn more about the Subcommittee and its priorities by visiting the website:

[SDOH Strategy – Community Health Workers](#)

We are also pleased to announce that the MDHHS Policy and Planning Office will be convening a CHW Community Feedback Forum (CHW-CFF) in the next few weeks. The CHW-CFF will bring together community members as well as state and local community partners to inform policy and program recommendations to support the CHW workforce in Michigan. There are several ways to participate in the CHW-CFF and provide feedback, including virtual Community Feedback Forums, surveys, and focus groups. If you are interested in joining the CHW-CFF, please fill out the interest form below:

### Important Dates

- **Wednesday, July 19, 2023** from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM MDHHS SDOH Partner Convening  
[Click here to register.](#)



### Introducing the MDHHS SDOH Sub-Brand Logo

MDHHS Communications and External Affairs announced a new sub-brand logo system for its programs and services. Over the years, separate and disconnected logos were created, causing confusion and diluting the impact of the MDHHS brand. Consistency is critical to building trust and a positive reputation.

MDHHS Communications worked with Brogan and Partners to develop a brand system that builds from the current MDHHS logo. The new system establishes sub-

brands that easily identify a program as part of MDHHS services. Note that the MDHHS department logo remains the same.

Because of this change, the new SDOH sub-brand logo will be used on all SDOH promotional materials going forward. This new system will bring clarity and recognition to MDHHS programs and services.

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## Community Information Exchange April Meeting Summary

On Thursday, April 20, 2023, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), with the support of the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) and Open Referral Initiative, convened the seventh Community Information Exchange Task Force meeting. Members of the task force include representatives from community-based organizations (CBOs), health care organizations, health payers, health IT, consumers, and government entities.

At the April CIE Task Force meeting, the task force heard from Crystal Corpi and Steph White from the MDHHS MiBridges team. [MiBridges](#) is our statewide web application for reaching temporary assistance. Of particular interest to the CIE Task Force are the capacities MiBridges has to support community referral partners to provide client referrals, including to food assistance, housing and shelter, utilities support, transportation, childcare, etc. MiBridges can support community partners to directly receive client referrals and to access a directory of clients they have assisted through MiBridges.

The group spent the remainder of the April meeting working toward refining final recommendations on the development of statewide CIE capacities. MDHHS published the [Community Information Exchange Task Force Interim Report](#) in early March detailing its work toward five key objectives. The CIE Task Force's final objective is to generate actionable and operationalizable recommendations and articulate potential pilot scenarios. The final set of recommendations will provide guidance as to the prioritized capabilities for CIE, the appropriate balance between statewide and regional/local capacities and roles, prospective principles, and processes for governance, incentives and adoption support for CBOs, guidance for legal agreements, and a roadmap for implementation.

Prior to the April meeting, the CIE Task Force Executive Committee fielded a survey to its members on a drafted set of recommendations. The group spent the remainder of its April meetings in breakout discussions reviewing concerns and/or questions and objections to the drafted final recommendations, as well as proposing revisions and alternatives to the objectives.

The CIE Task Force final report will be published in late summer of 2023 following the final Task Force meeting in June.

The task force meets the third Thursday of each month through at least June of 2023.

**About CIE:** The Community Information Exchange (CIE) is a localized effort to create and sustain the technology and relationships required to support the social needs of both individual and community. CIE maximizes a person-centered approach by ensuring social care information is collected only as needed and is stored safely. CIE also promotes streamlined access to health enhancing non-clinical services (e.g., social services and supports), helping to coordinate care across a variety of clinical and non-clinical partners, while using data on existing community resources, needs, and gaps to drive policy change.

[Community Information Exchange Taskforce](#)

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## MI-HOPE Phase 3 funding submission

MSHDA is pleased to announce the MI-HOPE Phase 3 statewide competitive funding round to obtain subrecipient agencies for an energy-efficiency program is now open.

**The deadline for agency submissions for MI-HOPE Phase 3 funding is June 16, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

The third funding round will provide up to \$8 million dollars statewide via the Michigan Housing Opportunities Promoting Energy-Efficiency (MI-HOPE) program. The program is an extension of the Neighborhood Enhancement Program. MI-HOPE is a federally-funded program utilizing United States Department of the Treasury American Rescue Plan (ARP) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). This funding will be made available statewide based on a formal subrecipient award structure to 501(c) nonprofit agencies and units of government, with award determinations based on competitive funding rounds and subsequent obligation and expenditure performance. The minimum funding request amount is \$50,000 and the maximum request amount is \$500,000 per agency.

Please follow the instructions outlined on the [MSHDA website](#) to complete the submission requirements.

If you have any questions regarding accessing and/or completing the application process, please send an email to [MSHDA-MI-HOPE@michigan.gov](mailto:MSHDA-MI-HOPE@michigan.gov).

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Announces Public Input for 2024 Rural Development Fund Grants Guidelines

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) today announced a public input opportunity for the Rural Development Fund Grants Program. To ensure effective program priorities, MDARD is asking for public input by emailing your comments to [mda-grants@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-grants@michigan.gov) by June 6, 2023.

The grant funds, established by Public Act 411 of 2012, aim to promote the sustainability of land-based industries (food and agriculture; forestry; mining, oil and gas production; and tourism). Currently established priorities include infrastructure development, workforce training, business development, and rural capacity building that benefits rural communities.

Eligible counties include those with a population no greater than 70,000 residents or micropolitan statistical areas. In accordance with Public Act 411, preference is given to projects in Marquette County.

All interested parties may visit [www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants](http://www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants) for more information on the Rural Development Fund grants and review the 2023 guidelines.

Public comments can be sent to [mda-grants@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-grants@michigan.gov) until June 6, 2023, at 5 p.m. Please use the subject line of "Rural Development Public Comment". The input received will be considered when developing final grant guidelines for the 2024 program.

For more information on MDARD's Agriculture Development Grants Programs, please visit their website at [www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants](http://www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants).

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## Gov. Whitmer Takes Action to Help Michiganders Save Money, Stay Covered During Medicaid Eligibility Redetermination Process

Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued an executive directive instructing all State of Michigan departments to work together to lower health care costs by helping Michiganders keep Medicaid coverage or find affordable health insurance as Medicaid eligibility renewals begin again this summer. This Directive builds on the work already being done by the Michigan Department of

Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) to ensure all affected Michiganders have the information they need to stay covered and save money.

Nationwide, Medicaid beneficiaries will have to renew their coverage to comply with [federal legislation](#). This may result in thousands of Michiganders transitioning away from Medicaid. In Michigan, annual renewals will begin again in June 2023 and will continue through May 2024. During this period, MDHHS will review the Medicaid eligibility of more than 3.1 million Michiganders, and those who are no longer eligible for benefits must take action to maintain healthcare coverage to protect themselves and their families.

To help Michiganders through this process, actions taken by the state so far include:

- Communication with impacted Michiganders by mail, text message, and targeted advertising campaigns.
- The launch of two new websites by [MDHHS](#) and [DIFS](#) to provide information to consumers about redetermination and alternative health insurance options.
- The addition of staff to the MI Bridges Help Desk and Customer Service lines to help Michiganders navigate the transition.
- Outreach to employers to help ensure that individuals are informed about their employer-based health insurance options, including the existence of a special enrollment period for those affected by redetermination.

Effective immediately, Governor Whitmer's executive directive instructs all state departments to cooperate with and assist MDHHS and DIFS as required, including working together to distribute information to Michiganders regarding the redetermination process and how to renew eligibility, and sharing necessary data to conduct outreach, subject to all applicable protections.

If you are a Medicaid beneficiary, you should take the following steps to prepare for redetermination:

- Make sure your address, phone number and email address are up to date at [michigan.gov/MIbridges](https://michigan.gov/MIbridges). You can also call your [local MDHHS office](#). If you do not have an online account for MI Bridges to access your Medicaid case or report changes, visit [www.michigan.gov/MIbridges](https://www.michigan.gov/MIbridges) to sign up for an account. You can also locate organizations that can help you by [searching for community partners](#).
- Report any changes to your household or income. You can report changes at [michigan.gov/MIbridges](https://michigan.gov/MIbridges) or by calling your local MDHHS office.
- If you get a renewal packet, be sure to fill it out, sign the forms and return it by the due date with any proof needed. **NOTE:** If you do not complete and return the renewal, you may lose Medicaid coverage.

For more information about Medicaid eligibility renewals, visit [Michigan.gov/2023BenefitChanges](https://michigan.gov/2023BenefitChanges). For more information about coverage options for those losing Medicaid coverage, visit [Michigan.gov/StayCovered](https://michigan.gov/StayCovered) or call the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services at 877-999-6442, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To view the full executive directive, click the link below:

## Lifeline Program Recertification Notice

Recertification is an annual requirement for Lifeline subscribers. Universal Service Administrative Co, USAC, conducts recertification to ensure that active Lifeline subscribers, including those who also participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), are still eligible for the Lifeline benefit. Starting Monday, May 1, 2023, USAC will initiate automated eligibility database checks to verify the eligibility of subscribers due for recertification in 2023. This process will occur over the course of a few months.

- Subscribers who pass the automated check will complete the 2023 recertification requirement and will not need to take any action for their 2023 recertification. Subscribers who fail the automated check will be required to recertify their continued eligibility through a manual process. USAC will conduct outreach to those subscribers.

Subscribers who participate in both Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and pass the USAC-conducted Lifeline recertification process will not need to undergo a separate ACP recertification process.

### What This Means for Service Providers

Service providers should regularly monitor the “Recertification Subscriber Status Report” in the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) to identify subscribers undergoing recertification. This report will update daily to reflect the results of the automated checks. USAC encourages service providers to educate subscribers about USAC and why we are reaching out to them, and our recertification process. However, service providers should not provide or estimate deadlines, as these deadlines are subject to change. To learn more about the recertification process, visit the [Recertification](#) webpage or view the [Recertification 101 training](#).

### What This Means for Subscribers

Starting in May, USAC will conduct outreach to subscribers who fail the automated eligibility checks. Subscribers will have an approximately 60-day window to recertify through a manual process. If a subscriber receives a letter in the mail from USAC, they must take action to recertify their benefit. Subscribers will need to complete the Lifeline Recertification Form ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)). Some subscribers will need to provide income or eligibility documentation to prove their continued eligibility for the program. USAC will notify subscribers if they need to provide documentation.

For questions about Lifeline, including technical issues and program resources or rules, email [LifelineProgram@usac.org](mailto:LifelineProgram@usac.org)

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Spring Climate and Health  
Education Resource Packet



## Michigan Climate and Health Adaptation Program Resource Packet

Over the course of the past year, MICHAP (Michigan Climate and Health Adaptation Program) has been working towards creating health education materials that address the health impacts of climate change. [The Spring Climate and Health Education Resource Packet](#), created by MICHAP and other state partners, aims to provide vital information on protecting oneself from spring climate hazards. These include flooding, ticks, pollen, drinking water well maintenance, and how to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Moving forward, MICHAP plans on developing similar resource packets on a seasonal basis to ensure that public health needs are addressed adequately. MICHAP would like to create resources that support the changing public health needs in specific regions. As such, we encourage you to reach out to us and share any climate-related public health changes you may have observed and how we can support your efforts in addressing them. For more information, kindly contact MICHAP Health Educator Stephanie White at [whites35@michigan.gov](mailto:whites35@michigan.gov).

[Click here to subscribe](#) to receive email updates from the Michigan Climate and Health Adaptation Program.

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



Questions? [Contact Us](#)

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