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Michigan Health Endowment Fund commits more than \$10 million to nutrition and health projects across the state

LANSING, Mich. – 54 organizations will receive a share of \$10 million from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund (Health Fund). Spanning from Southeast Michigan to the corners of the Upper Peninsula, and including Michigan’s biggest cities as well as its rural communities, the awards are part of two Health Fund programs: Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyles, which focuses on projects that benefit children, and Community Health Impact, which supports local solutions to health challenges. A detailed list can be found at the bottom of this release.

Michigan is the second-most agriculturally diverse state in the country, but the state struggles with healthy nutrition: childhood obesity rates have more than tripled in the past 30 years, and Michigan has one of the top ten highest rates of obesity at 32.5%. At the same time, the state’s food insecurity rate is above the national average, with more than 18% of children lacking consistent access to the healthy foods they need.

"Michigan has the right ingredients to help kids and families live healthy lives and thrive, and we’re thrilled to partner with organizations bringing that goal to fruition," explained Laurie Solotorow, senior program officer for the Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyles program. "We’re supporting projects that will impact food systems and thus have the potential to be transformative," Solotorow said.

The 18 awards, including 11 new grants and 7 renewals, range from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Common themes in this initiative include creating a culture of health, food as medicine, and school-based programs.

For example, the Fair Food Network will receive \$500,000 for a statewide expansion of Double Up Food Bucks, a program that encourages SNAP users to purchase more fresh fruits and vegetables. Michigan State University will receive \$500,000 to assess fruit and vegetable “prescriptions” for children and families in Flint. The Beaumont Health Foundation will receive \$445,890 to implement a “Whole School, Whole Community” approach to foster healthy environments at home and school.

The Community Health Impact program supports local responses to health challenges with grants up to \$100,000. The 39 awardees in this category include the Alpena Area Senior Citizens Council, Inc., which will receive \$100,000 to expand Project Student Gourmet, an intergenerational partnership that generates youth interest in food careers while providing nutritious and creative meals for older adults. Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services will receive \$100,000 to implement a post-deployment adaptive parenting program for military families. Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly will receive \$97,406 to reduce social isolation and loneliness among older adults in Marquette County through a volunteer team approach.

“The Health Fund believes that communities know best what their residents need to live healthy and vibrant lives, said Health Fund Grants Manager Megan Murphy. “Our Community Health Impact program supports innovative solutions in every corner of the state, many with the potential for expansion or replication if successful.”

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund works to improve the health and wellness of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of healthcare, with a special focus on children and older adults. For more information about the Health Fund and its grantmaking, visit mhealthfund.com.

2018 Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyles Awards

- **Beaumont Health Foundation: Dearborn SHINES (School Health through Integrated Nutrition & Exercise Strategies) for Healthy Kids! | \$445,890**

A “Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC)” model will work to facilitate healthy attitudes and behaviors across K-8 Dearborn Public Schools students; support a healthy home environment; and create a healthy school environment that encourages physically active and health literate children and instills lifelong healthy habits.

- **Eastern Market Corporation: Cultivating a Culture of Health and Wellness in Detroit | \$400,000**

Eastern Market Corporation will expand their current food access and nutrition education programs to promote a culture of wellness. The Detroit Community Market network will manage weekly farmers markets in underserved areas, expand the Fresh Prescription program, and expand current cooking classes for youth and seniors.

- **Fair Food Network: DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS | Successfully Creating and Meeting Demand for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Among SNAP Shoppers Statewide | \$500,000**

This project will increase healthy food access in Michigan by allowing Double Up Food Bucks participants to purchase more fruits and vegetables, encouraging more SNAP users to take advantage of Double Up Food Bucks, and integrating the program as an electronic benefit.

- **Kids' Food Basket: From Hunger Relief to Nutrition Education and Access | \$200,000**

Kids' Food Basket (KFB) will use 9.5 acres of farmland as a food hub to support an infrastructure for a local, healthy and fresh food movement targeted at children and their families.

- **Marquette-Alger-RESA: Pe-NUT Expansion Phase III | \$249,285**

P.E.P. Phase III will expand nutrition education programming to serve additional schools that do not qualify for SNAP-Ed funded PE-Nut programming, and expand the “Healthy Hero” punch card grocery store program across five additional counties.

- **Michigan State University Food as Medicine for Older Adults with Chronic Health Conditions | \$500,000**

MSU will develop a sustainable model for improving food access and nutritional status

of older adults in the northwest region of Michigan's lower peninsula by providing nutritional services after hospital discharge and enhanced transfer of care to community-based programs.

- **Michigan State University: Innovative Nutrition Practices in Pediatric Health Care: Assessment of Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions for Children and Families in Need | \$500,000**

This project will expand the successful fruit and vegetable prescription program piloted in the Hurley Children's Clinic (HCC) to an additional pediatric clinic in Flint that serves approximately 3000 children each year and evaluate its impact on food security, food access, and dietary patterns of children. The proposed project also includes the expansion of Flint Kids Cook, a cooking and nutrition class for children at the Flint Farmers Market, beyond patients of HCC.

- **Playworks Education Energized: Growing Safe and Healthy Play in Michigan | \$500,000**
Playworks will build their organizational capacity to help school districts across Michigan develop structured play programs that are innovative, scalable, and sustainable.

- **ProMedica Bixby Hospital: ProMedica Veggie Mobile | \$333,658**

To reduce obesity and related chronic conditions in Lenawee County, this project will expand a mobile produce market, work with convenience stores to stock more healthy food, and work with the Boys & Girls Club of Lenawee County to improve supplemental meals in schools.

- **Spectrum Health Foundation: Spectrum Health Culinary Medicine | \$499,943**

To transform care delivery to underserved at-risk youth and their families, Spectrum Health Foundation will expand their professional culinary medicine program to resident physicians and healthcare workers and conduct a family culinary medicine program.

- **YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids: YMCA Healthy Corner Store Initiative | \$170,665**

By engaging YMCAs across the state, this project will help communities build neighborhood food systems that are healthy, affordable, and accessible for low-income residents in up to six communities defined by the USDA as having low food access.

- **Delta-Schoolcraft ISD: U.P. Health Project | \$497,855**

The U.P. Health Project will develop a coordinated system of support to improve student health in elementary and middle schools throughout the U.P. with a focus on special education students.

- **Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan: Michigan Tribal Food Access Collaborative Project | \$200,000**

The goal of this project, which will expand collaborations and fill unmet needs in existing services, is to improve childhood nutrition and overall health among Native American children aged three to eleven residing within six federally recognized tribal communities.

- **Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association: Incorporating Health and Wellness into School Improvement Plans Statewide Pilot Project | \$400,000**

This two-year pilot project will demonstrate integration of health and wellness into the school improvement planning process in elementary and middle schools across the state.

- **National Kidney Foundation of Michigan: PEACH (Project for EARly Childhood Health) | \$353,652**

PEACH will focus on securing healthy lifestyle habits of children, families, and childcare centers by providing nutrition and physical activity workforce development for childcare providers; improving nutrition at childcare centers; increasing produce consumption and physical activity among children and their families; increasing physical activity of children and their families; and improving kindergarten readiness.

- **Public Health, Delta & Menominee Counties: Healthy Kids U.P. (HKUP) | \$333,600**

With the ultimate goal of linking all Upper Peninsula schools with the resources they need to change policy, infrastructure, and community culture around health, nutrition, and physical activity, this project will bring the University of Michigan Project Healthy Schools program to up to 12 middle schools across the U.P.

- **Sparrow Foundation – Sparrow Health System: Be Well in the Kitchen | \$136,984**

This project will provide an age-appropriate educational series targeted at improving

nutrition behaviors by providing cooking demonstration and lessons as well as opportunities to participate in structured physical activity.

- **Wayne State University: Community Health Pipeline Youth Catalyst for Change | \$262,784**

The Community Health Pipeline formally connects existing health and food systems initiatives and programming to develop the next generation of community health leaders in the city of Detroit. The program includes education, exposure to farmers markets and urban farming, apprenticeships, college preparation, and career development.

2018 Community Health Impact Awards

- **Alpena Area Senior Citizens Council, Inc.** Project Student Entrepreneurs | \$100,000
- **Altarum Institute** Enhancing Michigan WIC for Rural Families | \$84,672
- **American Heart Association** Building the Foundation for A Culture of Health in Faith Settings with EmPowered to Serve | \$99,982.70
- **Area Agency on Aging 1-B** Reducing Avoidable Hospitalizations among the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver and Dually Eligible Integrated Care (MI Health Link) Populations | \$84,115
- **Benzie Leelanau District Health Department** Mom Power: Building capacity for future sustainability and replicability | \$100,000
- **Cherry Health** Cherry Health Infant Mental Health Program | \$100,000
- **Child & Family Services of Northeast Michigan** Tools for Family Success: Taking Charge of Tomorrow | \$100,000
- **Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan** Toward a Trauma-Informed Northern Michigan | \$100,000
- **Community Mental Health for Central Michigan** Learning Center | \$85,000
- **Crim Fitness Foundation** Healthy and Mindful Families Project | \$100,000
- **Detroit Food & Entrepreneurship Academy** Cooking Up Wellness from the Kitchen to the Community | \$100,000

- **Eastern Michigan University** Supporting the Health and Mental Health of Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care | \$100,000
- **Feeding America West Michigan** Plate Place, A Community Food Center | \$90,926
- **Food Gatherers** Health Care and Food Bank Partnership Initiative | \$100,000
- **Greater Detroit Area Health Council** | Choose Health | \$99,940
- **Harbor Beach Community Hospital** Integrated Behavioral Health Project | \$99,504
- **HAVEN** Children's Health Initiative | \$100,000
- **Health Department of Northwest Michigan** Safe Food, Safe Communities | \$100,000
- **Hurley Medical Center** Hurley Medical Center Food Farmacy- Expansion to Address Food Insecurity Within Genesee County's Most Vulnerable Populations | \$85,800
- **Jewish Hospice & Chaplaincy Network** Pilot Project to Develop a Volunteer Mediated, Evidence Based Intervention Model to Enhance Patient and Caregiver Well-being | \$100,000
- **Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services** ADAPT for Veterans and Family Members | \$100,000
- **Keep Growing Detroit** Healthy Eaters to Healthy Leaders | \$91,638
- **Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly** SISU (Serving Isolated Seniors in the Upper Peninsula) | \$97,406
- **Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan** Evidence-Based Research Study | \$28,000
- **Michigan Association of Health Plans Foundation** Creating New Tools: Responding to the Adverse Child Experience Community | \$70,000
- **Michigan Environmental Council** CSA Shares as a Healthy Food Delivery Model for Vulnerable Families: Year II | \$100,000
- **Michigan Public Health Institute** Partners in Care Concierge Expansion, Enrichment, and Evaluation | \$100,000
- **Michigan State University** An Online Parenting Intervention Program to Support Michigan Families | \$99,954.10
- **Michigan State University** A High School Personal Care Aide Technical Training Program | \$99,999.29

- **Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services** Improving Post-Discharge Follow-Up with Telehealth | \$77,360
- **Portage Health Foundation** Adolescent Mental and Behavioral Health | \$100,000
- **Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation** Caregiver's Best Friend | \$100,000
- **Project Healthy Community** Fundamentals of Understanding Nutrition ("FUN") Pantry | \$35,000
- **Southeastern Michigan Health Association** Detroit Community Outreach and Overdose Prevention Project (CO-OP) Project | \$100,000
- **TCM Counseling** Emotionally Healthy Children and Teens? | \$51,400
- **The Regents of the University of Michigan** Leveraging E-Health to Improve Care for Pediatric Diabetes: A New Approach to Care Delivery for Children and Families with Type 1 Diabetes Across Michigan | \$100,000
- **Tolfree Foundation** Go Outside! | \$100,000
- **University Rehabilitation Alliance DBA: Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center** Return to Driving after Injury: Road to Independence | \$58,595
- **Wayne State University** Real Time Nursing Home Quality Control – Second Year | \$79,846

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