



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 18, 2017

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### **Michigan Health Endowment Fund Adds Three New Staff**

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund (Health Fund) has hired three additional staff, pulling from not only Michigan's talent pool but also from both coasts. Genevieve Otis, John Slocum, and Kathryn Gardella are the newest members to join the foundation's efforts to improve Michiganders' health and wellness.

Genevieve Otis, program assistant, has been brought on board to support to senior program officers as the Health Fund's grant portfolio grows and continues to diversify. A Michigan native, Otis joins the Health Fund after several years of service for the State of Michigan, most recently under the deputy director of the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Previously, Otis worked in the State's Licensing Division, Workforce Development Administration, Hearings and Rules Administration, and Special Education Division.

Serving as fellow for a two-year appointment, John Slocum will work closely with Senior Fellow Janet Olszewski to support the Health Fund's growing evaluation efforts. Slocum comes to Michigan from the East Coast, where he recently earned a Master of Public Health degree from Columbia University. In addition to his academic credentials, he brings real world experience

from across the globe, having worked on public health and finance projects in places like Ghana and Vietnam.

Kathryn Gardella joins the Health Fund as communications associate, working with Communications Officer Hayley Roberts to support ongoing strategic communications efforts. Gardella comes to Michigan from California, where she held positions with nonprofit organizations such as the Child Abuse Prevention Center and the global Public Health Institute. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from California Polytechnic State University and a background in public relations that has equipped her help to elevate stories of the transformative work of Health Fund grantees across the state.

“Beyond our grantmaking efforts, we want to make sure we’re effectively supporting grantees, evaluating our own approach, and elevating ideas with real potential to improve Michiganders’ health and wellness,” remarked Health Fund CEO Paul Hillegonds. “Genevieve, John, and Kathryn are the ideal hires to help us drive that work forward.”

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***About the Michigan Health Endowment Fund:***

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. More information about the Health Fund can be found at [mhealthfund.com](http://mhealthfund.com).