

MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

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Nearly \$3 Million Awarded to Accelerate Telehealth Treatment in Michigan

Fast-tracked grants will help residents access healthcare remotely

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Health Endowment Fund and several funding partners are coming together to provide \$2.95 million to help 61 Michigan providers and safety net organizations ramp up telehealth efforts, which can help patients access critical care without putting themselves, their families, or their doctors at risk.

While many providers have already planned for or begun offering telemedicine options, the pandemic has made this shift more urgent. The grants will help organizations implement new procedures, set up billing services, train or add staff, educate patients about telehealth, treat uninsured patients, and procure HIPAA compliant licenses or equipment.

In addition to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund (Health Fund), funders include the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation, the Metro Health Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation. Grantees include Federally Qualified Health Centers, behavioral health providers, human service agencies, PACE programs, Area Agencies on Aging, and other safety net providers.

“Telehealth is a key strategy for expanding access to care, and we’ve supported this work for a number of years,” said Health Fund Program Director Becky Cienki. “The current urgency underscores this ongoing need, and our goal is for these projects to both spur immediate action and create lasting infrastructure for telehealth.”

Many of the grant recipients are located in the populous areas of Southeast Michigan and metropolitan Grand Rapids, which are also seeing the highest number of COVID-19 cases. For example, the Detroit Area Agency on Aging will use the funding to virtually support older adults impacted by COVID-19, as well as develop a sustainable telehealth program to address physical and mental health needs of older adults.

Outside of population centers, Michigan’s rural communities tend to have fewer providers and gaps in transportation networks. Telehealth can help bridge these gaps, especially as in-person visits and transportation options are restricted. Northwest Michigan Health Services, Inc. will receive funds to provide medical, dental, and behavioral health treatment to residents of all ages across seven counties.

“We share a long-term commitment to advancing telehealth as a best practice in Michigan,” explained Flinn Foundation Executive Director and CEO Andrea Cole. “Now

more than ever, remote treatments offer a lifeline for families and children in need of behavioral health services.”

“Increasing access to health care is our core mission at Blue Cross. We are proud to join forces and help equip safety net providers with the resources they will need to provide quality care during this pandemic,” said Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan president and CEO Dan Loepp. “Now, perhaps more than ever before, Michiganders need safe access to their doctors.”

About the Health 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. The foundation has five annual grant programs. For more information about the Health Fund and its grantmaking, visit mihealthfund.org.

Here is the full list of grant awards:

RAPID RESPONSE: SAFETY NET TELEHEALTH INITIATIVE GRANTS

All Well-Being Services | \$50,000

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services | \$48,705

Arab-American and Chaldean Council | \$30,000

Arbor Circle | \$50,000

Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan | \$50,000

Baldwin Family Health Care | \$50,000

Care Free Medical Inc | \$25,000

Care Resources (PACE) | \$49,909

Catherine's Health Center | \$50,000

Catholic Human Services, Inc. | \$50,000

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw | \$50,000

The Children's Center of Wayne County, Inc. | \$50,000

Central City Integrated Health | \$50,000

Cherry Health | \$50,000

Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan | \$50,000

Common Ground | \$47,500

Community Health and Social Services Center, Inc. | \$50,000

Covenant Community Care, Inc. | \$50,000

Cristo Rey Community Center | \$50,000

Detroit Area Agency on Aging | \$50,000

Development Centers, Inc. | \$50,000

East Jordan Family Health Center | \$50,000

Exalta Health | \$50,000

Family Medical Center of MI | \$50,000

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers | \$50,000
Great Lakes Recovery Centers, Inc. | \$45,105
Hackley Community Care Center | \$50,000
Health Emergency Lifeline Programs | \$49,203
Hope Network | \$50,000
Ingham County Health Department | \$49,801
InterCare Community Health Network | \$50,000
Isabella Citizens for Health | \$39,230
Jewish Family Service of Metropolitan Detroit | \$50,000
Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County | \$50,000
Judson Center | \$48,500
Lakeland Immediate Care Center | \$50,000
Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation | \$41,550
Northeast Integrated Health | \$50,000
Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority | \$37,140
Northwest Michigan Health Services Inc | \$50,000
Oakland Integrated Healthcare Network | \$50,000
PACE North | \$49,812
PACE of Southwest Michigan | \$48,600
PACE Southeast Michigan | \$50,000
Packard Health, Inc. | \$50,000
Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation | \$47,400
Region II Commission on Services to the Aging | \$50,000
Reliance Community Care Partners | \$47,200
Ruth Ellis Center, Inc. | \$50,000
The Senior Alliance Area Agency on Aging 1-C | \$50,000
Senior Resources of West Michigan | \$50,000
Southwest Solutions Corporation | \$50,000
Starfish Family Services | \$50,000
Starr Commonwealth | \$50,000
Sterling Area Health Center | \$50,000
Thunder Bay Community Health Service, Inc. | \$50,000
Traverse Health Clinic and Coalition (d/b/a Traverse Health Clinic) | \$45,498
United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) Foundation | \$50,000
Upper Great Lakes Family Health Center | \$50,000
Upper Peninsula Health Care Solutions | \$50,000
Western Wayne Family Health Centers | \$50,000