

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan Health Endowment Fund awards nearly \$15 million to health initiatives across the state

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Health Endowment Fund (Health Fund) will support dozens of Michigan organizations with over \$14.6 million in new investments. The awards are going to 40 projects through grants ranging from \$136,000 to \$500,000 as part of two Health Fund programs: Behavioral Health and Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyles. (A full list of grant recipients can be found at the bottom of this release.)

In the Behavioral Health program, selected proposals included various projects that streamline, knit together, and integrate care delivery systems. By building coordination between behavioral health and other health and social service providers, expanding the use of technology, and advancing innovative care delivery models, these projects are laying the groundwork for more robust behavioral health systems throughout the state.

“It’s critical that we continue to support school-based mental health access and help children who have experienced trauma—in addition to expanding the use of technology,” said Program Director Becky Cienki. “These projects will improve integration and expand access to care for some of Michigan’s most vulnerable populations.”

Some of the populations at the forefront of 2020 Behavioral Health initiatives: school-aged children and older adults facing mental health challenges, mothers with substance use disorder (SUD), and Upper Peninsula residents who lack access to adequate behavioral healthcare.

Some organizations, like the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, are strengthening telehealth services, allowing more patients to access care from their homes. They’ll be developing a

telehealth resource center for Michigan mental health practitioners to act as a hub for telehealth information, guidance, and technical assistance.

Other initiatives, such as the Western U.P. Health Department's "Positive Steps Together" program, provide more direct, on-the-ground assistance. That program will be employing a peer recovery coach to offer support and resources to women who have been diagnosed with substance use disorder or are at risk of developing it.

The Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyles awards feature a common effort to combat food insecurity in underserved populations and build cultures of health within communities. Selected organizations are providing support for Michigan residents of all kinds—young and old, rural and urban, providers and patients.

"Every Michigander deserves access to healthy food and physical activity," said Program Director Laurie Solotorow. "These organizations are bringing their innovative work to every corner of the state in order to make that aspiration a reality."

The selected projects are diverse in both the issues they are taking on and their methods in doing so. While some organizations are elevating access to healthy fruits and vegetables, others are working to educate on the benefits of breastfeeding, promote healthy play, and reduce rates of chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes.

In one notable initiative, Access of West Michigan will be redesigning the charitable food system for low-income residents across West Michigan. Their new farming model and innovative nonprofit food access sites will increase affordability and availability of healthy produce for thousands of Michigan residents.

In another project, Michigan State University is partnering with the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, the Midwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates in the Native American community. The group will develop resources for community indigenous breastfeeding counselors and local healthcare providers to increase awareness of the positive health impacts of breastfeeding.

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.

2020 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE GRANTS

Family Medical Center of MI

Growing School-Based Healthcare While Training New Providers | \$500,000

To improve access to behavioral health and primary care services among low-income, underserved school-aged children and adolescents in Detroit and rural areas of southeast Michigan, using a mixed model of school-based and telehealth services delivery, while training the next generation of primary care physicians and psychiatric nurse practitioners.

(Area served: Lenawee, Monroe, and areas of Wayne County)

Grand Valley State University

Thrive: Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care | \$499,936

To improve the overall health and well-being for socioeconomically disadvantaged, medically underserved, high-risk adults by addressing the unmet mental health needs of this vulnerable population.

(Area served: Grand Rapids)

Greater Flint Health Coalition

Peer Recovery Support System for Addiction Treatment Project | \$499,785

To use a multi-sector approach supporting timely transitions to care between hospitals, treatment providers, and community settings while addressing the upstream social determinant of health needs of patients.

(Area served: Genesee County)

Haven of Rest Ministries

Women's Life Recovery Program | \$400,000

To address the significant challenges mothers face in accessing and sustaining long-term residential substance abuse treatment and recovery by creating overnight residence availability for both mother and child.

(Area served: Calhoun County)

Kids Kicking Cancer

The Healing Hero | \$500,000

To develop an interactive mobile phone application to help young adults with substance use disorders involved in Drug Courts realign thinking from "victim" to "life-changing purpose" and increase retention in treatment for addiction.

(Area served: Statewide)

Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency

System for Sustainable Youth Services in Schools (SSYSS) | \$500,000

To enhance the connection between community partners in order to improve the behavioral health of students while reducing financial costs and stigmas associated with seeking and participating in mental health services.

(Area served: Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Iron, Marquette, Menominee, and Schoolcraft Counties)

Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards (dba Community Mental Health Association of Michigan)

Telehealth Resource Center - Behavioral Health | \$257,905

To develop a Telehealth Resource Center for Michigan Mental Health Practitioners, a telehealth information, guidance, and technical assistance hub.

(Area served: Statewide)

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Improving Care for Justice Involved Patients Part 2 | \$500,000

To allow jails and external payers and providers to share and integrate treatment information for justice-involved individuals through a data portal, leading to more effective collaboration, improved care coordination, and increased jail safety.

(Area served: Statewide)

Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association

Building Health Communities: Step Up for School Wellness | \$500,000

To help Michigan schools more effectively address the health and emotional needs of their students and staff by integrating the Social and Emotional Learning training from the Michigan Model for Health curriculum into the Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness (BHC: SUFSW) program.

(Area served: Statewide)

Michigan State Medical Society

Connecting Treatment Courts and Health Professionals | \$175,000

To strengthen the collaboration and connectivity of the medical field and the judiciary in treating individuals with substance use disorders (SUD), and to increase access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT), related counseling, and other supports.

(Area served: Alger, Antrim, Baraga, Benzie, Charlevoix, Chippewa, Clare, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Iron, Isabella, Kalkaska, Keweenaw, Leelanau, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Oakland, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft, and Wayne Counties)

Northern Michigan University

Collaborative Network: Behavioral Health Access in UP | \$498,445

To improve access to behavioral health services in the Upper Peninsula by increasing the number of applied behavioral analytic professional and paraprofessional service providers, through an online training program and a hybrid telehealth and face-to-face comprehensive applied behavior analytic service.

(Area served: Upper Peninsula)

Oakland Integrated Healthcare Network

Oakland County School-Based Behavioral Health Strategy | \$200,000

To create a coordinated strategy across Oakland County school districts to provide access for behavioral health services for students, including a comprehensive needs assessment.

(Area served: Oakland County)

The Regents of the University of Michigan

Online Behavioral Health Training for Community Workers | \$160,000

To leverage the capacity of an existing state-community-university partnership team in order to develop and deploy digital behavioral health training modules, with a specific focus on older adults, designed for lay community health workers.

(Area served: Statewide)

The Regents of the University of Michigan

Trauma-Informed Programs & Practices for Schools | \$328,324

To co-develop, refine, and scale a flexible, manualized curriculum and set of training materials to support the uptake and sustainability of trauma-informed practices for schools throughout the state of Michigan.

(Area served: Van Buren Intermediate School District, Statewide)

Wayne State University

Promoting Resilience among Maltreated Young Children | \$499,778

To support workforce training in infant mental health for dependency court staff by transitioning content to an online, self-paced, replicable format.

(Area served: Wayne and Isabella Counties)

Western Michigan University

Building Resiliency in Substance Abusing Families (BRISA) | \$499,958

To create an integrated family model that addresses parental substance use and the underlying trauma-related causes while simultaneously building familial resiliency.

(Area served: Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties)

Western U.P. Health Department

"Positive Steps Together" SUD Support Program | \$159,590

To reduce stigma and remove barriers to treatment by employing a peer recovery coach to work directly with women in public health programs.

(Area served: Baraga, Gogebic, and Houghton Counties)

2020 NUTRITION & HEALTHY LIFESTYLES GRANTS

Access of West Michigan

Re-centering Health Through Small Ag | \$190,000

To address the lack of healthy, affordable, Michigan-grown produce available to low-income residents across West Michigan by redesigning the charitable food system and piloting a new farming model that will re-center the supply chain to focus on low-income communities.

(Area served: Kent County)

American Heart Association

Target: BP-Growing and Extending | \$250,000

To expand the EmPowered Clinicians program to ten FQHCs, addressing health inequities for older adults in Michigan rural and urban communities using evidence-based initiatives to improve hypertension control rates.

(Area served: Statewide)

Care Free Medical

Capital Area Prescription for Health | \$136,000

Project Title: Capital Area Prescription for Health

To address the adverse health outcomes caused by childhood food insecurity by strengthening connections between communities, local clinics, farmers' markets, grocery stores, transportation systems, and health educators through a fresh food pipeline.

(Area served: Ingham County)

CATCH Global Foundation

CATCH Michigan Planning Grant | \$154,550

To create behavioral changes among children and increase their daily physical activity by expanding CATCH programming across the state.

(Area served: Statewide)

Communities in Schools of Michigan

Integrated Nutrition Supports | \$500,000

To address health disparities and encourage students in 46 schools across Michigan to make healthy choices.

(Area served: Alcona Community Schools, Battle Creek Public Schools, Benton Harbor Area Schools, Central Lake Public Schools, Dearborn City School District, Detroit City School District, Forest Area Community Schools, Kalkaska Public Schools, Mancelona)

District Health Department #10 (Renewal)

Northwest Michigan Chronic Disease Prevention: Partnership for Prescription for Health | \$250,000

To address the high rates of chronic disease in rural communities due to unhealthy lifestyles and limited access to fruits and vegetables.

(Area served: Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford Counties)

Food Bank Council of Michigan

A Sustainable Food Pharmacy Model for Michigan | \$476,934

To create a replicable, sustainable model for Michigan FQHCs to integrate food prescription programs into their slate of comprehensive services.

(Area served: Branch County, Calhoun County, Eaton County)

Henry Ford Health System

Henry's Groceries for Kids | \$499,985

To improve child health outcomes and reduce food insecurity by integrating food delivery and nutrition education in pediatric care delivery.

(Area served: Wayne County)

Henry Ford Health System

Optimizing Gestational Weight Gain | \$255,042

To educate pregnant women on recommended weight gain during pregnancy, using evidence-based strategies and a new digital health application to promote healthy eating and physical activity.

(Area served: Detroit Metro Prosperity Region)

Leaders Advancing and Helping Communities (Renewal)

FQHCs and LAHC Building Health Communities Together | \$245,063

To prevent and reduce childhood obesity by teaching young children healthy habits and reinforcing those healthy habits by working with parents and caregivers.

(Area served: Wayne County)

Michigan State University

Impact of Pediatric Prescriptions for Fruits and Vegetables | \$500,000

To evaluate an existing pediatric fruit and vegetable prescription program in Flint in order to understand the efficacy and long-term impacts of the program and inform future policy development to fund and sustain produce prescription programs.

(Area served: Genesee County)

Michigan State University

Native American Breastfeeding Initiative Embracing Culture | \$338,406

To increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates in the Native American community through resources that increase awareness of the positive health impacts of breastfeeding.

(Area served: Statewide)

Michigan State University

Successful Nutrition Programs Across the Lifespan: A Roadmap | \$499,645

To address malnutrition, equity, and food insecurity by creating a roadmap and web-based facilitation guide for communities to address deficiencies and inequities in nutrition and healthy lifestyle options for residents of all ages.

(Area served: Capital Area and Northwest Michigan)

National Kidney Foundation of Michigan

HALTING Diabetes with Innovation and Collaboration | \$499,999

To reduce health disparities and to address the absence of a statewide, sustainable infrastructure for a virtual Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) delivery that focuses on serving older adults and adults eligible for Medicaid.

(Area served: Statewide)

Playworks Education Energized

Growing Safe and Healthy Play for Michigan: Part II | \$500,000

To support access to safe and healthy play every day at school in order to positively impact a child's physical, social, and emotional development.

(Area served: Statewide)

ProMedica Bixby Hospital

ProMedica Farms Improved Access to Healthy Food and Lifestyles | \$406,220

To align nutrition and healthy lifestyles programming and reduce the overweight and obesity incidence in Lenawee County through a sustainable, reliable network of initiatives and support.

(Area served: Lenawee County)

Spectrum Health Foundation

Family Kitchen Rx 2.0 | \$499,879

To create a digital platform to deliver culturally-inspired culinary medicine programs for families in Kent County.

(Area served: Kent County)

The Regents of the University of Michigan

Maximizing Reach of the InPACT program in Michigan Schools | \$198,351

To proactively develop a Teacher Technical Assistance Package that provides teachers working in low-resource schools with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and program adaptations to get kids moving and ready to learn.

(Area served: Saginaw County)

United Way of Southeastern Michigan

Better with Breakfast Oakland County | \$461,736

To expand a pilot program to increase participation in school breakfast programs in Oakland County, meeting students' nutritional needs.

(Area served: Oakland County)

Wayne State University

Physical Literacy and Nutrition Education Program | \$500,000

To promote health equity and accessibility issues for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families by increasing participation in physical activity, improving nutrition behaviors and meal practices, and stimulating greater engagement in social services, advocacy, and social support networks.

(Area served: Wayne County)

OTHER GRANTS

CATCH Global Foundation (Community Health Impact Program)

CATCH Restart Smart: Health Education in the COVID-19 Era | \$98,000

To help schools maintain or boost delivery of physical education and health education curriculum in virtual learning or socially-distant in-person learning environments.

(Area served: Muskegon County)

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Healthy Aging Program)

Improving Access to Information & Services for Older Adults in Response to COVID-19 | \$314,251

To improve access and coordination of services with the aim of reducing social isolation among older adults, using technology to help them connect them to loved ones, attend virtual appointments, understand their COVID-19 risk level, and access agencies and resources.

(Area served: Statewide)

Michigan Public Health Institute (Special Projects & Emerging Ideas Program)

Just Care | \$130,000

To address racial biases amongst healthcare practitioners and racism as a root cause of inequity using a train-the-trainer approach in the Henry Ford Health System.

(Area served: Wayne County)