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Michigan Health Endowment Fund awards \$13.2 million to Healthy Aging, Special Projects

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Health Endowment Fund (Health Fund) announced today that it will support 40 health projects and collaboratives across the state with a total of \$13.2 million in new investments. Nonprofits, universities, and government agencies statewide will receive grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000, primarily under the Health Fund’s Healthy Aging and Special Projects and Emerging Ideas grant programs. (See a full list of grant recipients at the bottom of this release.)

Over half of the grants promote the health of Michigan’s older adults, both directly and through their caregivers and support systems.

“Despite the unforeseen challenges that COVID-19 has created, these organizations continue to provide empowering, important work to one of Michigan’s most vulnerable populations,” said Kari Sederburg, director of the Health Fund’s Healthy Aging Program. “They’re providing older adults with the comprehensive support they deserve.”

That support includes unique programs that are filling crucial gaps in care throughout the state. One example: Michigan Health Improvement Alliance’s ARM4Health initiative, which aims to improve the health and quality of life of Michigan older adults by ensuring that prescribed medications are necessary and appropriate.

In another project, Michigan State University will be training older adults in telehealth and video technology in order to address the physical and mental health effects of social isolation, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19.

The Health Fund's Special Projects and Emerging Ideas grant round seeks models that have the potential to be transformative, leading to breakthroughs in the Health Fund's priority areas or replication or expansion across the state.

"These organizations are taking a close look at the systems that impact quality of care," said Health Fund program director Becky Cienki. "Improvements to these systems will have a positive impact on the health of Michigan residents."

In many of these projects, those systemic improvements are benefitting a population that is not currently receiving necessary care or support. In one example, the University of Michigan is creating a quality improvement collaborative focused on pediatric sickle cell anemia, a disease that disproportionately impacts African Americans and one in which less than 20% of children are receiving evidence-based care. This innovative model will provide the space and resources build collaboration across Medicaid health plans, providers and MDHHS to effect change.

Another example of a notable Special Projects and Emerging Ideas grant: Michigan Public Health Institute and the Michigan Health & Hospital Association Keystone Center will work with selected hospitals to identify resources, create implementation plans, and establish a common understanding of a health organization's role in addressing health disparities to achieve equity in care.

In addition to 26 grants in their Healthy Aging round and 11 in Special Projects and Emerging Ideas, the Health Fund announced two Community Health Impact awards and one Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles award.

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 HEALTHY AGING INITIATIVE GRANTS

Association of Chinese Americans, Inc. (ACA)

Caregiver Hub: Supporting Asian American Caregivers | \$208,405

To address diverse needs of Asian Americans and provide culturally targeted training programs, services, and resources to Chinese and Asian Americans.

Central Michigan University

Living FREE: Fall Reduction by Education and Empowerment | \$387,144

To prevent recurrent falls among rural older adults by educating community-based providers on fall prevention best practices.

Central Michigan University

Michigan Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Training Network | \$199,944

To tailor and replicate an established model of interdisciplinary palliative care training for primary care and other healthcare providers in Michigan, increasing palliative care knowledge and skills, building interprofessional networks, training providers on billing practices, and providing mentorship among interdisciplinary health care providers.

Detroit Area Agency on Aging

Inclusive Health Care | \$157,943

To create a community-wide framework that leverages public and private partnerships to address health disparities in Detroit, identifying opportunities to increase access to care, integrating and coordinating care with community resources, and increasing access to smart phones and computer technology.

Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan

Optimizing Health Outcomes for Older Adults with Epilepsy | \$160,000

To promote effective detection and management of epilepsy in older adults, in collaboration with the state's seven adult comprehensive epilepsy centers.

Henry Ford Health System

Post-ICU Senior Brain Health Initiative | \$499,955

To provide specialized care to older adults who have experienced cognitive and psychiatric issues following critical illness and hospitalization in the ICU, including patients surviving COVID-19.

Huron Memorial Hospital d/b/a/ McLaren Thumb Region

Healthcare Where You Are | \$340,000

To replicate a successful care transitions model to reduce hospital readmissions and associated costs for older adults in a rural community setting.

Matrix Human Services

Matrix Center - Healthy Senior Living Initiative | \$381,150

To address health disparities among low-income senior citizens by increasing access to healthy, fresh food and health screenings.

Metro Solutions Inc.

Eldercaring Coordination | \$200,000

To integrate eldercare coordination services in Southeast Michigan courts, using a Florida-based conflict resolution model to adjudicate family conflicts that jeopardize the safety of an older adult, especially those in guardianship situations.

Michigan Elder Justice Initiative

Home and Community Based Services Ombudsman Program | \$493,340

To support older adults in PACE and Medicaid's MI Choice program, helping with problems related to enrollment, eligibility, inadequate care plans, access to care, reductions or terminations of services, or rights violations.

Michigan Health Council

The Power of Understanding: Health Literacy & Older Adults | \$484,233

To develop and pilot a health literacy provider training program that will improve the capacity of PACE care team members to identify and address gaps in health literacy among PACE participants and their caregivers.

Michigan Health Improvement Alliance

ARM4Health (Achieving the Right Medications for Health) | \$477,120

To improve the health and quality of life for older adults by ensuring that prescribed medications are necessary and appropriate.

Michigan State University

Virtual Table: Coordinating Care through Technology in Aging | \$199,166

This initiative will address the physical and mental health effects of social isolation among vulnerable isolated older adults in the community, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19. Home delivered meals volunteers will teach older adults to use technology to connect to family and friends, as well as how to participate in telehealth visits.

Michigan Technological University

In-Home Vision Screening in Underserved Seniors | \$126,470

To develop and pilot a framework for tailored vision screening programs that can integrate with other in-home, community-based programs.

Oakland University

Technology and Reimbursement Innovation of HOP-UP-PT | \$321,075

To establish a reimbursement model and telehealth strategy to sustain the HOP-UP-PT (Home-based Older Persons-Upstreaming Prevention-Physical Therapy) program, which connects older adults to physical therapists who can provide strategies to age-in-place. It will also develop a model for expansion of PT services using current, but seldom utilized, billing codes.

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation

Affordable Assisted Living for Low & Moderate Income Seniors | \$165,800

To develop and sustain affordable assisted living in communities across Michigan, using currently available payment mechanisms to pilot a replicable model.

Region IV Area Agency on Aging

Southwest Michigan Care Continuum Transformation Strategy | \$500,000

To create a community of care model to integrate clinical care with home-based supports and services.

Samaritas

Samaritas C.A.R.E.S. Program | \$497,081

To implement dementia care training using Google Glass technology, allowing experts to provide real-time support from a remote location.

Spectrum Health Foundation

Healthy Aging with Medically Tailored Meals | \$499,713

To provide easy access to healthy meals, tailored to the medical needs of chronically ill older adults living at home, with a specific focus on older adults with heart disease..

The Regents of the University of Michigan

Healthy Lifetime: Building Resilience to Age in Place | \$489,682

To empower older adults to maintain independence by focusing on communication skills, health habits, medication adherence, and problem-solving. This grant will expand the program into Medicaid's home and community-based programs.

The Regents of the University of Michigan

Partnership for Accelerating Telemental Health for MiSeniors | \$199,991

To address barriers to mental health treatment for homebound older adults suffering from depression, using an evidence-based online therapy program specifically designed for older adults with diverse backgrounds and capabilities.

Valley Area Agency on Aging

Valley Area Agency on Aging Telehealth Project | \$500,000

To launch a 24-hour virtual assistance program that includes telehealth services and increased care coordination and follow up as patients transition home, including remotely monitoring patients using medical technology devices.

Van Buren/Cass District Public Health Department

Aging Health Equity & Policy Planning Project | \$200,000

To create a community-informed plan to identify and address the root causes of disparate health outcomes among minority older adults living in Van Buren county.

Wayne State University

Financial Vulnerability Tools in Geriatric Medicine | \$152,231

To provide methods and new tools to educate health care professionals to identify, prevent, and intervene in financial exploitation of older adults.

Wayne State University

Supporting African American Older Adult Caregivers | \$221,992

To provide accessible online Activity of Daily Living training to African American caregivers who may lack the skills, knowledge, and confidence to assist family members with dementia.

William Beaumont Hospital

Food is Medicine: Medically Tailored Meals | \$335,990

To provide older diabetic patients with meals at home specially designed to support their recovery after being hospitalized, as well as virtual support from a registered dietician to reinforce healthy eating habits.

2020 SPECIAL PROJECTS & EMERGING IDEAS GRANTS

Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan

Connected2Care 2.0 | \$300,000

To develop and implement best practices for data-driven, integrated care coordination for older adults with complex care needs and achieve statewide integration between Michigan's Area Agencies on Aging and physical health providers.

Benefits Data Trust

Increasing Benefits Access for Medicaid Participants Age 50+ | \$200,000

To help Medicaid participants aged 50 years and older live healthier, more independent lives by increasing access to public benefits that can pay for food, medicine, and housing.

Michigan Department of Education

MDE's CoP: Systemic Social & Emotional Learning | \$500,000

To support local schools, community members, and families as they adopt systemic social and emotional learning in policy, training, funding plans, and workforce development.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Care Transition Hospital Readmission Reduction Expansion | \$169,934

To improve the quality and effectiveness of hospital discharge planning and post discharge care for older adults in efforts to reduce hospital readmissions, medication errors, and healthcare costs.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Children's Behavioral Health System Reform | \$325,000

To optimize the structure and delivery of behavioral health services to children and youth in order to promote growth, opportunity, and wellness.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Developmental Behavioral Treatment in Hospitals | \$500,000

To create a new model for Developmental Behavioral Treatment in all state psychiatric hospitals, ensuring patients with complex behavioral challenges receive appropriate care.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation | \$499,036

To evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) model, refine the program to better serve participants, and develop a sustainable funding strategy for the program.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

SUD User Role Added to CC360 and eConsent Integration | \$500,000

To allow individuals to give consent for health plans and care providers to share substance use disorder treatment information, improving care coordination between providers.

Michigan Public Health Institute

Assessing Hospital and Health Systems to Promote Equity | \$500,000

To work with selected hospitals to identify resources, create implementation plans, and establish a common understanding of a health organization's role in addressing health disparities to achieve equity in care.

Michigan State Medical Society Foundation

Optimize Medication Therapy Management for Seniors | \$280,200

To improve medication management among older adults with diabetes and hypertension by virtually embedding pharmacists into patient care teams and enhancing patient-pharmacist-physician communication.

The Regents of the University of Michigan

Pediatric Sickle Cell Disease Improvement Collaborative | \$468,048

To provide better treatment for individuals with sickle cell anemia by creating a quality improvement collaborative for Medicaid Health Plans.

2020 MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS

Black Mothers' Breastfeeding Association

Community Health Impact | *Michigan Community-based Doula Summit* | \$50,000

To generate a statewide plan for equitable community-based doula care, including policy recommendations for reimbursement.

Bridging Communities, Inc

Community Health Impact | *The BCI Volunteer Training Initiative* | \$50,000

To train volunteers in food handling/preparation, emergency preparedness, identification and reduction of social isolation for services, and awareness of cognitive impairment and elder abuse among participants.

Kids' Food Basket

Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles | *Hunger Relief, Nutrition Education, and Healthy Food Access* | \$500,000

To increase access to healthy food and provide nutrition education in communities and schools in Kent County.