Michigan Health Endowment Fund commits $5.3 million to community health initiatives

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Health Endowment Fund (Health Fund) announced today that it will support 67 community health projects, collaborative initiatives, and capacity building efforts across the state with a total of $5.3 million in new investments. Michigan organizations will receive grants ranging from $12,800 to $100,000 under the Health Fund’s Community Health Impact grant program. (See a full list of grant recipients at the bottom of this release.)

“From food access and virtual care to mental health and disparities, the pandemic has heightened the need for health support of all kinds,” said Megan Murphy, senior program officer. “This program is an opportunity for organizations to recognize the gaps and provide data-informed, community-driven solutions.”

The Health Fund awarded Community Health Impact grants through three funding tracks: collaboration planning, community-based implementation, and capacity building. Selected projects are diverse in subject area, geography, and scope, though all reflect the Health Fund’s mission to improve the health of Michigan residents of all ages.

The collaboration planning track supports cross-sectoral collaboration in order to spur progress on key health issues. For example, the Washtenaw Health Plan will establish a collaborative to address legal, economic, and health vulnerabilities of Latinx families in Washtenaw County. By organizing data, mapping resources, and coordinating services, they hope to strengthen existing support structures for the community. There are 15 collaboration planning grants in this year’s cohort.
The community-based implementation track is the program’s largest and most varied funding category. The Health Fund selected 25 grants that are building stronger, healthier communities by providing responsive interventions to the most pressing health needs. Detroit’s Cass Clinic, for example, provides free medical care to socially vulnerable, medically underserved residents of the Cass Corridor. A patient-community advisory board will ensure community input, health equity training will help volunteers and staff understand patients’ needs and contexts, and a whole-person approach will allow for integrated treatment.

Lastly, the capacity building funding track will cover one-time internal expenses that will improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the organizations' work, such as enhancements in evaluation, technology, communications, and strategic alliances. For example, a new grant will support Community Action House and Harvest Stand Ministries in combining their food rescue and local farm produce acquisition operations. Through a new database to track operations and a communications infrastructure to promote shared services, they hope to limit food waste and expand local food access in Holland. There are 17 capacity building grants in the 2021 cohort.

“When you take a step back and look at these 67 projects all together, it’s stunning,” Murphy said. “The commitment, innovation, and diversity of Michigan’s community-based health work—even through significant challenges—is an encouraging sign for a healthier future.”

The Health Fund awarded three additional grants alongside the Community Health Impact program. The Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) and the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) will receive $500,000 each to improve COVID-19 vaccine outreach to vulnerable populations through local community-based organizations, and the University of Michigan will be awarded $500,000 to expand access of their TRAILS program to public schools across Michigan.

### 2021 Community Health Impact Grants

#### Collaboration Planning Projects

1. **3:11 Youth Housing**
   *Circles of Support for Homeless Youth* | Kent County | $100,000

2. **American Heart Association**
   *It Takes a City Collaboration* | Detroit | $100,000

3. **Family Support Center of Barry County**
   *Building a Trauma Informed Barry County* | Barry County | $40,000
4. Four County Community Foundation  
Improving Health Outcomes for Lapeer County Seniors | Lapeer County | $96,876

5. Genesis Hope  
Greater Villages Community Response System | Detroit | $99,780

6. Health Department of Northwest Michigan  
Behavioral Health Planning Initiative in the NMCHIR | Northwest Michigan | $100,000

7. Heart of West Michigan United Way  
Collaboration Planning for FNC and Food Policy Council | Kent County | $99,999

8. Henry Ford Health System  
Improving Older Adult Healthcare in a Virtual Environment | Southeast Michigan | $99,998

Collaborative Action to Advance Black Breastfeeding Justice | Statewide | $100,000

10. Michigan Primary Care Association  
Improving Community Partnerships for Elderly Adults | Statewide | $75,000

11. Project Healthy Community  
Organizational Synergies Advancing Community Health | Detroit | $100,000

LGBTQ+ Intergenerational Timebank Collaborative | Southeast Michigan | $100,000

13. The Regents of the University of Michigan  
Title IVE to Prevent Infant Mortality | Statewide | $45,564

14. United Way for Southeastern Michigan  
Southeast Michigan Community Information Exchange | Wayne County | $100,000

15. Washtenaw Health Plan Corporation  
Establishing a Washtenaw Latino Health Services Consortium | Washtenaw County | $100,000

**COMMUNITY-BASED IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS**

Access to Healthy Foods, Wellness, and Fitness Programs

16. Center for Health Research and Transformation (CHRT)  
Home Nutrition+ Program | Washtenaw County | $100,000

17. Communities First, Inc.  
Flint Culinary Hub | Flint | $100,000

18. Downtown Boxing Gym Youth Program  
Whole Student Wellness: A Framework for Life | Detroit | $85,400
19. Eastern Michigan University  
*Health Coaches: Wellness and Fitness for Older Asian Americans* | Wayne, Oakland, and Kent counties | $100,000

20. First Tee of Mid-Michigan (Fiduciary: Michigan State University)  
*Enhancing Youth Physical Activity and Well-being (YPAW)* | Lansing (Waverly Community Schools) | $99,692

21. Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities  
*Building a Foundation for Community Health* | Northwest Michigan | $100,000

22. Growing Hope  
*Health Equity in Ypsilanti via a Teen Leadership Program* | Ypsilanti | $99,492

23. Health Emergency Lifelines Program  
*Transgender Aging and Health Project* | Southeast Michigan | $100,000

24. Ishpeming Public School District  
*Growing Future Farmers, Healthy Eaters, and Leaders Project* | Ishpeming | $86,291

25. Michigan State University  
*Developing Health Education Lessons for Tribal Home Visiting* | Statewide | $100,000

26. Michigan Technological University  
*Keep the UP Moving During COVID-19 with Exercise is Medicine* | Western UP | $100,000

27. Migrant Legal Aid, Inc.  
*Improving Health for Migrant and Immigrant Food Workers* | Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa Counties | $100,000

28. Southwest Solutions Corporation  
*Piquette Square Veterans Healing Garden* | Detroit | $90,000

29. Washtenaw Promise  
*Bob-a-loo. Moving At-risk Children Toward a Healthy Path* | Ypsilanti | $34,989

30. Wayne State University  
*Partnership to Prevent Obesity in Preschoolers* | Detroit | $98,086

31. Western U.P. Planning & Development Region  
*Improving Capacity & Healthy Local Food Access in U.P. Schools* | Gogebic, Hancock, Houghton, Keweenaw Counties | $100,000

**Access to Behavioral Health Services**

32. Crim Fitness Foundation  
*Mindfulness-Based Resilience Training for First Responders* | Flint | $100,000

33. Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan  
*Seizure Smart Mental Health Professional Network* | Statewide | $20,000

34. Home of New Vision  
*Jackson Engagement Center for Substance Use Disorder* | Jackson County | $100,000
35. Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health  
*Addressing the Behavioral Health Needs of LGBTQ+ Students* | Statewide | $100,000

36. Ten16 Recovery Network  
*Oasis Development in SUD Treatment Deserts* | Arenac, Crawford, Gladwin, Iosco, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Montcalm, Newaygo, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Roscommon, Wexford, Alcona Counties | $100,000

37. The Guidance Center  
*Youth Mental Health First Aid Training* | Wayne County | $99,685

38. U.P. Opioid Partnership (Partner TBD)  
*U.P. Opioid Partnership* | Upper Peninsula | $100,000

**Health Disparities**

39. Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living  
*Michigan Adaptive Sports & Inclusive Recreation Initiative* | Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor Public Schools) | $100,000

40. Cass Community Social Services  
*Social Integration in the Cass Corridor* | Detroit | $93,775

41. Grand Rapids African American Health Institute  
*The African American Youth Wellness and Mental Health Program* | Kent County | $100,000

42. Special Olympics Michigan  
*Inclusive Health* | Statewide | $100,000

**Health-Related Transportation**

43. Huron Valley Ambulance  
*Community Paramedic Sustainability Collaboration* | Statewide | $100,000

**Healthy Aging/Caregiving**

44. Bridging Communities  
*Agencies United for Healthy Aging CHW Activation Initiative* | Detroit | $99,240

45. Habitat for Humanity Detroit  
*Return Home Safe* | Detroit | $100,000

**Infant Mortality**

46. Greater Detroit Area Health Council  
*Brother to Brother* | Detroit | $99,557

47. YWCA Kalamazoo  
*Kalamazoo’s Maternal/Child Health Universal Access Project* | Kalamazoo County | $100,000

**Technology Enhancements**

48. Area Agency on Aging 1-B  
*Oakland Together Social Isolation Lifeline* | Southeast Michigan | $89,240
49. Ferris State University
*Telehealth: Increase SUD/OUD Access in a Three-County Area* | Mecosta, Newaygo, Osceola counties | $100,000

50. Michigan State University
*Telemedicine to Improve Healthcare Access for Rural Seniors* | Northern Michigan | $100,000

**CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS**

51. AgeWell Services of West Michigan
*Meals on Wheels and Lunch and Activity Centers Tech Growth* | Muskegon | $27,500

52. Atlantic Impact
*Our Town Cares* | Detroit | $40,418

53. Catherine’s Health Center
*Expanding Awareness of Access to Care* | Grand Rapids | $50,000

54. Challenge Mountain of Walloon Hills, Inc.
*Feasibility Study: Adaptive Skiing Lodge & Equipment Project* | Boyne City | $50,000

55. Community Action House
*Deepening Collaboration: Lakeshore Food Rescue* | Holland | $50,000

56. Focus:HOPE
*The Focus:HOPE Volunteer Management System* | Detroit | $50,000

57. Generations United
*Intergenerational Innovation Hub for a Healthy Michigan* | Statewide | $50,000

58. Interfaith Health and Hope Coalition (Fiduciary: Metro Solutions)
*Connections of Faith, Health, and Hope* | Southfield | $50,000

59. Kadima
*Agency Integration Project* | Southfield | $50,000

60. Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan, Inc.
*Strategic Framework and Succession Planning* | St. Clair Shores | $12,800

61. Mentor2Youth (Fiduciary: Nonprofit Enterprise at Work)
*Raising Royalty Capacity Project* | Ypsilanti | $16,200

62. Michigan Health Improvement Alliance
*MiHIA and THRIVE Website Redesign Effort* | Freeland | $49,830

63. Packard Health
*Creating a Wellness & Prevention Roadmap at Packard Health* | Ann Arbor | $50,000

64. Prevention Michigan, Inc.
*Board Development and Rebranding* | Lansing | $37,501

65. United Methodist Community House
*The Fresh Market at UMCH* | Grand Rapids | $50,000
66. United Methodist Retirement Communities Foundation
Tackling Systemic Racism through DEI Training | Chelsea | $38,937

67. We the People Opportunities Farm (Fiduciary: Nonprofit Enterprise at Work)
Building Blocks | Ypsilanti | $22,300