

Michigan Health Endowment Fund

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Michigan Health Endowment Fund Awards \$20.95 million to support the health and wellness of seniors and children

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Health Endowment Fund today announced the award of \$20.95 million to six organizations, completing its 2014 pilot funding program. The Michigan Primary Care Association, the Michigan Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, the Michigan Association of United Ways, the Michigan State Alliance of YMCAs, the Michigan Association for Local Public Health and the Michigan Fitness Foundation were approved for funding.

“We have been proud to support these programs that will play an important role in the health of Michigan children and seniors citizens,” said Rob Fowler, Chairman of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. “The board was committed to providing funding in its first year of operation and we are extremely pleased with the success of the 2014 pilot funding program.”

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund has awarded a total of \$38.15 million in grant awards in its first year of operation. The mission of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund is to improve the health of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of health care with special emphasis on the health and wellness of children and seniors. The Fund was created through the passage of Public Act 4 of 2013, which authorized certain changes to how Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) operates in the state. The law requires BCBSM to contribute up to \$1.56 billion over 18 years to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

- The Michigan Primary Care Association was awarded \$5 million for the Linking Clinical Care with Community Supports (LC3S) Project, to hire, train and integrate care liaison workers into primary care teams in health centers throughout Michigan. This project will work directly with patients to provide support, information and assistance with needs such as food, housing, social services and counseling and will work with patients to monitor their health and increase accountability through individualized patient plans.
- The Michigan Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs was awarded \$5 million to fund the new “Great Health Starts Here” program designed to reduce obesity and the risk for diabetes for Boys and Girls Clubs members 6-18 years of age. The project will focus on physical activity, smart food choices and regular health care screenings. Part of the project involves a partnership between the Alliance and Henry Ford Hospital to provide mobile medical screenings to youths at Boys and Girls Club locations statewide.

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- The Michigan Association of United Ways was awarded \$5 million for the support of the expansion and integration of the Children’s Healthcare Access Program (CHAP) and the Michigan 2-1-1 service. CHAP is a collaborative, community-based program for children who are enrolled in Medicaid and is designed to reduce barriers to accessing healthcare at the family, health care provider and health system level. This funding will allow for the expansion of the CHAP model in Kent and Wayne counties and implementation in Genesee, Macomb, Ingham, Kalamazoo and Saginaw counties as well as northwest Michigan.
- The State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs was awarded \$3.3 million to improve health outcomes in Michigan youth and support chronic disease prevention programs for seniors. The program includes the Healthy Out of School Time Initiative to introduce and reinforce health habits for youth in vulnerable communities through before and after school programming. The Alliance will also increase the outreach of their Michigan Swims program to focus on water safety and emergency response and will partner with other organizations working to assist senior citizens.
- Michigan Association for Local Public Health was awarded \$1.9 million to improve the population health of Michigan children and seniors by developing a framework for achieving and sustaining high rates of vaccinations. The program will work to increase the number of children 0-18 years of age who are up to date on their vaccination schedule and to increase the number of seniors protected against influenza and pneumonia.
- The Michigan Fitness Foundation will receive \$750,000 to pilot the Act4Health Program for Seniors in two communities. Through Act4Health, healthcare and service providers will be equipped to connect older adult patients with an online community to receive virtual health education and to learn about community resources to help them access healthy food, nutrition and physical activity in their communities. They will partner with Copper County Mental Health in the Upper Peninsula and the South Haven Health System.

While the Michigan Health Endowment Fund continues to organize its operation, including the hiring of a permanent Chief Executive Officer and developing a comprehensive grantmaking strategy, the Board felt it important to make this 2014 pilot funding available to organizations working in health that have the ability to distribute funding to local affiliates.

Members of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund are Lynn Alexander, Tim Damschroder, Cindy Estrada, Rob Fowler, Sue Jandernoa, Jim Murray, Keith Pretty, Marge Robinson, and Michael Williams.

Visit www.healthendowmentfund.org for more information about the Fund.

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