



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



For most startups, “growth” refers to securing investment, increasing sales, and figuring out the right business model. For a new foundation, however, growth means something different. The funding is already assured, and the job of the organization is to steward that funding wisely. The course we’re charting is not toward profitability but toward achieving our mission. In 2015, the Michigan Health Endowment Fund took on that challenge, putting in place the organizational structure to ensure we’ll fulfill our responsibility to the residents of Michigan.

We delved into the strategic planning process, drawing on what we learned from our 2014 statewide listening tour. We hired our first staff, bringing on Paul Hillegonds as the Health Fund’s inaugural chief executive officer as well as a talented slate of professionals in finance and operations, grantmaking, and administration. And, of course, we continued our giving, awarding more than \$10 million to community foundations and nonprofits across every region of the state.

The grants to community foundations helped us establish partnerships with peer groups that have a deep understanding of and commitment to their respective regions. Those foundations have launched new initiatives, partnered with community organizations, and leveraged these dollars for the good of their communities. Our Local Impact awards supported the on-the-ground service providers, innovators, and advocates who do critical work for Michigan’s most vulnerable residents.

You might notice the overall award amount is a bit smaller than it was in 2014. That’s because in 2015 we also began preparing for the Michigan Medigap Subsidy, a five-year, \$120 million assistance program designed to help residents facing increasing Medigap policy premiums. Terry Gardner, our chief financial and operations officer, has expertly prepared the Health Fund for the financial impact of the program’s obligations, ensuring we are able to continue our grantmaking without interruption. Terry is also leading implementation of the subsidy, collaborating with state agencies, insurance companies, and advocacy groups to design the subsidy in a way that will benefit thousands of Michigan residents.

Looking ahead, 2016 will be another year of growth. We’ve officially adopted our strategic plan, and we’re launching proactive grantmaking initiatives to move the needle on some of Michigan’s most pressing healthcare challenges. For now, read on to learn more about the grants we made in 2015. We’re also spotlighting some of the ongoing work that resulted from our 2014 awards. After all, it’s exciting to offer resources to new ideas and promising projects. But to see the ongoing impact of those resources is inspiring, and bolsters my belief that the Health Fund can truly lead to a healthier Michigan.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Fowler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Fowler, Board Chair

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2016-2020

MISSION

To improve the health of Michigan residents, with special emphasis on the health and wellness of children and seniors, while reducing the cost of health care.

VISION

To have a significant and measurable impact on improving the health of Michigan residents.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We emphasize efforts that are likely to achieve long-term impact with measurable outcomes.
- We work in collaboration with public and private funders and other potential partners.
- We seek input and feedback in ways that are both responsive and proactive to inform our efforts, and to address issues and needs facing communities we serve.
- We are open to innovative approaches and take strategic risks with our resources.
- We aim to serve as a catalyst for change, problem-solver and thought leader, and seek to address underlying social and root causes of poor health.
- We seek to empower individuals and communities to take an active role in creating a culture of health.
- We demonstrate leadership as an informed convener and educator to help raise awareness and understanding of important health issues and effective approaches.
- We exercise responsible stewardship.

PROACTIVE INITIATIVES *

	NUTRITION & HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, FOCUSING ON CHILDREN	HEALTHY AGING	MENTAL HEALTH, WITH EMPHASIS ON CHILDREN & SENIORS
GOAL #1	Build, extend, and strengthen workforce capacity through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and development for clinicians, program staff, and informal caregivers • Innovative and cost-effective approaches to improve the health of children and seniors in Michigan 		
GOAL #2	Develop and expand innovative and cost-effective integration models that coordinate care, services, and community resources in ways that promote the health of children and seniors in Michigan		

* Throughout the five-year timeframe for this plan, these efforts will likely evolve and may expand to include additional strategic initiatives.

RESPONSIVE GRANTMAKING

GOAL: Support measurable health improvement efforts throughout Michigan in response to opportunities and emerging ideas that (1) align with the overall MHEF mission; (2) are likely to leverage long-term impact; and (3) address one or more of the following issues: infant mortality, health services for foster and adopted children, access to mental health services, wellness and fitness programs, access to healthy food, technology enhancements, health-related transportation needs, and foodborne illness prevention.

2015 GRANT AWARDS

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS

Allegan County Community Foundation | Partners in Health – Allegan County | \$139,260

Allegan County Community Foundation is using this grant to assist nonprofits currently serving children, adults, and seniors in the community. Areas of focus include childhood vaccines; well child visits; dental and eye care; access to medical care for the un/underinsured; enrollment in specialized programs for those with a chronic or serious illness; technology improvements; access to healthy food; early childhood and parent education; advocacy services for the developmentally disabled youth population and their families; and after-school programs.

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

Washtenaw County: A Coordinated Effort to Promote Health Outcomes | \$430, 988

The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation will fund programs that address access to health services, resources, and healthy food for low-income residents; the developmental readiness of young children with high needs; graduation rates and safety for economically disadvantaged youth; and independent living factors for vulnerable, low-income seniors.

Barry Community Foundation | BHealthy | \$73,966

Barry County Community Foundation funds are being used to support obesity reduction efforts through the BHealthy Initiative. Through this funding, Barry County plans to make a sustainable impact by changing the behavior patterns of residents through education, policy change, and increased access to physical activity.

Battle Creek Community Foundation | Calhoun County Health Initiative | \$226,000

The Battle Creek Community Foundation project will address healthy food access and wellness for children and seniors by expanding an existing elementary school program countywide; creating a collaborative pool of funds to expand senior-focused programs; providing transportation to healthcare services for area seniors; and increasing the capacity of existing programs focused on prenatal care and reducing infant mortality.

Bay Area Community Foundation | Mental Health Well Being of Youth in Bay County | \$134,713

Bay Area Community Foundation is using the grant funds to pilot a youth health care clinic in two schools, reaching students where they spend most of their time. These clinics will address behavioral health concerns such as depression, alcohol and drug use, and stress.

Berrien Community Foundation | Interagency Care Teams for High Risk Patients | \$258,952

Berrien Community Foundation will expand the impact and reach of Interagency Care Teams for High Risk Patients (ICT). ICT improves seniors' health and quality of life while reducing the cost of care, by ending the cycle of emergency department visits and hospital readmission.

Charlevoix County Community Foundation

Increasing Youth Access to Mental Health Services: A Community Collaboration | \$103,500

Charlevoix County Community Foundation is placing mental health providers in schools as a way to increase access to mental health care for youth. The project will train school staff to recognize students' behavioral health problems; create an efficient system to refer students to needed mental health or substance use services; and increase the number of behavioral health services available in the community, particularly specialized services for children and adolescents located in schools.

Community Foundation for Muskegon County

Healthy Eating and Access: Healthy Systems, Healthy Communities | \$315,000

The Community Foundation for Muskegon County is regranting to multiple local agencies that focus on improving healthy food access, healthy behaviors, and overall health outcomes, especially for children and seniors in poverty.

Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan

Prescription for Health/Physical Fitness | \$190,796

The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan is using the funds to implement or expand two programs: Prescription for Health gives medical providers the opportunity to write prescriptions for fresh produce to patients in need, providing them with up to \$60 worth of food vouchers to purchase healthy foods. The Physical Fitness program will provide enhanced access to places for walking and biking, combined with community-wide campaigns to provide social support and education around physical activity.

Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan | Healthy Food Connect | \$2,500,000

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan grant supports Healthy Food Connect, a new, collaborative regional initiative designed to increase access to healthy food for children and seniors in the seven counties of southeast Michigan.

Community Foundation of Greater Flint

Flint and Genesee Access to Healthy Food Initiative/Safe Water | \$514,825

Grants funds were allocated toward various efforts in the Flint/Genesee region to address immediate needs of residents related to the water crisis. Specific grants include \$150,000 for the work for Dr. Marc Edwards of Virginia Tech to support lead testing; \$65,000 to Michigan State University to expand soil testing and lead testing and to support a community garden initiative; \$200,000 for the expansion of the Double Up Food Bucks program; and \$50,000 for a farm-to-plate program to increase access to healthy produce.

Community Foundation of Marquette County | PE-Nut Expansion Project | \$84,595

The Community Foundation of Marquette County grant enables the Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA) to provide nutrition education and physical activity education to elementary school students in Marquette County. The program seeks to increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables; increase the amount of physical activity of elementary students and families; and help teachers integrate nutrition education and physical activity into their curriculum and classrooms.

Community Foundation of Monroe County

Monroe Community Nutrition, Health and Fitness Program | \$187,970

The Community Foundation of Monroe County grant funds are being disbursed to several local nonprofit organizations addressing obesity rates. The Monroe County Opportunity Program will improve access to healthy food; the Monroe YMCA will focus on encouraging attendance in wellness and fitness programs; and the Monroe County Health Department will provide education on healthy eating practices. In collaboration with Monroe County Senior Centers and Goodwill, these programs will be targeting seniors, low-income individuals, and people with disabilities.

Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula

Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents | \$182,873

The Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula grant will increase access to mental health services for children and adolescents; implement research and evidence-based mental health promotion, prevention, treatment, and recovery programs; and increase awareness and understanding about mental health needs and services. Funds will also be used to provide related training and leadership development, as well as meeting the needs of Native American students.

Dickinson Area Community Foundation | Various Initiatives | \$43,758

The Dickinson Area Community Foundation funds will support four distinct projects: a community garden program aimed at youth; promoting alternative modes of transportation; implementing the OrganWise Guys childhood obesity prevention program in elementary schools; and “Small Steps, Big Rewards”, a diabetes prevention program.

Fremont Area Community Foundation | LiveWell | \$103,305

This grant will enable the Fremont Area Community Foundation to work with LiveWell coalition members to develop and implement a collaborative, evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention campaign shaped by the unique challenges of high-poverty, rural communities.

Grand Haven Area Community Foundation | Healthy Ottawa Fund | \$330,000

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation grant will be regranted countywide to advance the implementation of the community-generated Ottawa County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), with a special emphasis on youth and seniors. The CHIP focuses on three priority action areas: access to care, mental health, and healthy behaviors related to overweight and obesity.

Grand Rapids Community Foundation | Partnership for Improved Access to Care | \$829,500

The Partnership for Improved Access to Care seeks to create a community in which young people have access to the care necessary to thrive. This project focuses on access to mental health services, technology enhancements, and health services for foster and adopted children through funding three community based organizations: Kent School Services Network, Community Based Services for Youth, and West Michigan Children’s Partnership.

Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation

Supporting Families and Healthy Communities Through Infant/Maternal Health | \$203,654

The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation grant builds upon the foundation’s 23-year history of supporting the health of communities, by specifically emphasizing infant and maternal health. The intended outcome of this effort is to improve the health of communities in the Grand Traverse region, with an intentional focus on young families with children up to two years old.

Huron County Community Foundation | Creating Healthy Lifestyles for Our Region’s Youth | \$294,000

In collaboration with the Sanilac County Community Foundation, the Four County Community Foundation, and the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, the Huron County Community Foundation seeks to expand existing food distribution systems impacting vulnerable youth, supplement resources that provide access to healthy food for those on assistance, and support educational programming promoting healthy lifestyles for the region’s youth.

Jackson Community Foundation

Accelerating Community Health Impact for Jackson County | \$175,497

The Jackson Community Foundation will regrant funds to Jackson’s Health Improvement Organization (HIO) a multidisciplinary leadership team created over a decade ago. HIO partner organizations will implement priority health initiatives and activities of Jackson’s community-wide health improvement plan to improve youth mental health services, prenatal care, fitness, and healthy food access.

Kalamazoo Community Foundation

Family & Children Services Regional Crisis Stabilization Initiative | \$250,000

The Kalamazoo Community Foundation grant will provide gap funding for Family & Children Services in order to provide short-term crisis stabilization services for children. Services will focus on permanency, safety, and well-being of children in foster care; and children with mental health issues who need assessment and treatment in a setting less restrictive than inpatient hospitalization.

Lapeer County Community Foundation | Targeting Childhood Obesity in Lapeer County | \$75,000

The Lapeer County Community Foundation grant supports a collaborative effort to develop and conduct, in conjunction with the WIC program, nutrition education and weight management programs for parents.

Lenawee Community Foundation | Healthy Youth Healthy Seniors | \$124,865

The Lenawee Community Foundation will regrant to local nonprofits for programs addressing access to healthy food; wellness and fitness programs; technology enhancements; access to mental health services; and health related transportation needs.

M&M Area Community Foundation | Rural Health Initiative | \$29,000

The M&M Area Community Foundation grant supports partnerships with Feeding America and Community Action Agency. The Feeding America project will provide more food to families with food insecure children through backpack weekend meal programs. The Community Action Agency partnership project will expand the transportation system for elderly residents by one day a week in the most northern sections of the county.

Midland Area Community Foundation | Non-Emergency Medical Transportation | \$175,000

The Midland Area Community Foundation grant supports a community effort, in partnership with 2-1-1 Northeast Michigan, to provide non-emergency medical transportation through a nonprofit brokerage service in Midland, Gladwin, and Clare counties.

Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation | Building an Integrated Care Team | \$87,888

The Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation grant supports the building of an integrated care team to deliver primary medical care at Isabella Citizens for Health, a newly designated Federally Qualified Health Center serving the residents of Isabella County and surrounding communities.

Roscommon County Community Foundation | Meeting the Need of Mental Health Services | \$25,000

The Roscommon County Community Foundation grant will provide on-site mental health services for K-12 children at the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center (NMCAC). The primary goal of the NMCAC is to ensure that children disclosing abuse are not further victimized by the intervention systems designed to protect them.

Saginaw Community Foundation

The Saginaw Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Obesity Coalition | \$250,000

The Saginaw Community Foundation grant will support a group of organizations currently meeting and collaborating, with the goals of improving coordination; enhancing nutrition and physical activity programs; disseminating consistent nutrition and physical activity messaging; and advocating for community-wide initiatives that increase healthy food choices and physical activity.

2015 GRANT AWARDS

LOCAL IMPACT GRANTS

Adoption Option Inc. | Health Initiative | \$125,000

The Adoption Option, Inc. grant will assist foster and adoptive children and their families with physical and mental health needs, as well as transportation needs.

Allen Neighborhood Center | Market Walk and Market Moves | \$55,000

These programs reward walkers/exercisers with incentives in the form of tokens redeemable at the Allen Farmers Market.

Bay County Health Department

Behavioral Health Integration to Enhance an Interprofessional Primary Care Clinic | \$94,900

This project will adopt a collaborative care model to improve the well-being of Michigan residents through the co-location and integration of physical and behavioral health care services in Bay and Arenac counties.

Bridging Communities, Inc. | Senior Transportation for Healthy Living | \$38,000

Through this grant, Bridging Communities will ensure that seniors in Detroit have transportation to healthcare and the mechanism to obtain essential medications.

Cadillac Area YMCA | Developing Habits for Healthy Living | \$69,408

This grant will help the Cadillac Area YMCA more effectively engage individuals through enhanced technology and expanding the new Youth Fit program.

Charlevoix Area Hospital Foundation | Access to Care Transportation Program | \$62,500

Charlevoix Area Hospital Association will launch comprehensive transportation to assist Beaver Island residents with medical travel expenses to and from the island, and facilitate the transport of patients to and from the Charlevoix Area Hospital.

Child & Family Services of Northeast Michigan | Day One Alcona County | \$90,000

Day One is an in-home, evidence-based program with curriculum from Healthy Families America. The program helps families through the prevention and education activities of a home support specialist and nurse.

Danielle Karmanos' Work It Out | Work it Out | \$100,000

This grant will bring the Work It Out program to more than a thousand students in the City of Detroit. Work It Out provides a comprehensive research-based yoga and nutrition program in schools to prevent childhood obesity, reduce stress and increase self-esteem.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services | Hearing Technological Enhancements for Senior Citizens | \$75,000

This grant will help Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services provide an equipment distribution program: Awareness and Distribution Assistance for Persons with Technology (ADAPT). ADAPT primarily serves senior citizens in Kent County, who need assistive devices and informational counseling to help them cope with their hearing loss, maintain their independence within the community, and lessen their isolation.

Detroit Food Policy Council | Detroit Food Policy Council Youth Program | \$30,000

The Detroit Food Policy Council grant will provide interactive youth programming and the knowledge to make better food choices, including the development of five youth peer food leaders and the engagement of a minimum of 200 students in a citywide youth food summit.

District Health Department #10 | Partnering to Improve Healthy Living | \$100,000

This grant will improve the health of residents, particularly children and seniors, by increasing access to healthy foods through community partnerships in Kalkaska and Manistee counties.

Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan | PROGRESS Toward Wellness | \$65,000

The Epilepsy Foundation grant will go to support a health coach to update and promote the PROGRESS Toward Wellness program to seniors with epilepsy, an underserved population. PROGRESS Toward Wellness uses a step-by-step problem-solving approach and motivational interviewing techniques to guide adults with epilepsy toward individual wellness goals.

Evangelical Homes of Michigan | FallProof! | \$11,000

These funds will help implement a FallProof! program to assist low-income residents, reducing their risk of falls and injuries.

Family Futures | Connections: Fostering Social Emotional Health | \$100,000

Family Futures will implement a Connections foster care expansion designed to ensure more Kent County children under five years old in foster care have access to regular developmental and social-emotional screening.

First Steps Kent | Welcome Home Baby Gateway Transition | \$50,000

First Steps Kent's grant will support Welcome Home Baby and the Home Visiting Gateway, providing a coordinated hub for home visiting services.

Greater Flint Health Coalition | Commit to Fit Prescription for Health | \$97,500

The Greater Flint Health Coalition will implement the Commit to Fit Prescription for Health Program to combat the health consequences of sedentary lifestyles and obesity experienced by Flint & Genesee County's children, adults, and seniors.

Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services | Nutrition Programs | \$100,000

KCMHSAS is using the grant funds to establish an Enhanced Nutrition Care Coordination program, as well as Medical Culinary and Nutrition Health Literacy Afterschool Outreach and Education programs.

Keep Growing Detroit | Fresh Detroit | \$50,000

This grant will support Keep Growing Detroit's Garden Resource Program and Education Series, helping thousands of residents access fresh food, save money, improve health outcomes, and enjoy more stable environments for their families.

Leaders Advancing and Helping Communities | Healthy Living for Elementary Students and Families | \$50,000

This grant will support the Healthy Living Program, which addresses the issue of childhood obesity with age-appropriate nutrition education for K-5 students in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and Detroit.

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly | Medical Transportation in the U.P. | \$46,179

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly will use grant funds to expand the rural medical transportation program for seniors in Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Ontonagon, and Marquette counties.

Midland County Cancer Society, Inc. | Caregiver Support Services | \$100,000

This grant will help Cancer Services fill gaps and expand the geographic footprint of their services including caregiver support, wellness and fitness programs, health-related transportation, and mental health services for seniors.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties | Bridge to Wellness | \$75,000

RSVP will establish a Senior/Youth Bridge to Wellness Center to provide wellness and fitness education at no cost.

Saginaw Area Foundation for Eye Care | From Sight to Site | \$20,000

This grant will support the Saginaw Area Foundation for Eye Care's Mobile Eye Care Unit, which offers comprehensive eye exams, prescription glasses, and in-office surgical procedures and follow-up at no cost to the patient.

St. Patrick Senior Center, Inc. | Community Living Support Transportation Program | \$95,851

St. Patrick Senior Center's grant addresses a gap in non-emergency medical transportation services for adults 55 years and older living in the high poverty cities of Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck.

Superior Alliance for Independent Living | SAIL SPAR Program | \$75,000

This grant expands the Single Point for Activities and Recreation (SPAR) to the western Upper Peninsula counties of Michigan. SPAR assists individuals of all abilities through trials of social and physical activities in a safe, welcoming environment.

The Village of Hillside | Emmet Transit Connection | \$100,000

The Village of Hillside grant fills the unmet need of health-related transportation for older adults in rural Emmet County by providing reliable, low cost transportation to and from non-emergency doctor and therapy appointments, community events, social activities, and educational programs.

Van Buren Intermediate School District | Project LEAN (Linking, Education, Activity, and Nutrition) | \$100,000

This grant supports a school/community-based physical activity program complementing the district's current USDA nutrition education programming. The program incorporates literacy, STEM, and physical activity and movement with evidenced-based and proven best practice interventions.

2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2015 INCOME SOURCES*

Contributions	\$ 50,000,000
Investment income	\$ 800,000
Total	\$ 50,800,000

2015 EXPENDITURES AND USES*

Transferred to endowment.....	\$ 10,000,000
Grants and programs	\$ 13,500,000
Administrative.....	\$ 800,000
Reserved for Local Impact grants.....	\$ 2,000,000
Reserved for Medigap subsidies.....	\$ 23,000,000
Total	\$ 49,300,000
Allocated to future grantmaking.....	\$ 1,500,000

TOTAL ASSETS*

Long term endowment fund	\$ 58,000,000
Reserved for future programs	\$ 25,000,000
Payable to current grantees.....	\$ 24,900,000
Future grantmaking reserves.....	\$ 14,900,000
Total	\$122,800,000

**All amounts rounded to the nearest \$100,000*

2014 GRANT AWARDS

SELECT UPDATES

In 2014, we made our very first grant awards. As a nascent organization with a new board and no staff, we chose to make large grants to statewide organizations with a record of large-scale, transformational programs. Here are updates on four of those grant awards:

Easter Seals Michigan | LUNA Trauma Screening | \$4.1 million

With help from a \$4.1 million Health Fund grant, Easter Seals Michigan created and launched LUNA, a trauma screening and assessment program for Michigan children. LUNA stands for Look, Uncover, Nurture, and Act, and is designed to ensure children who have experienced trauma are connected with the appropriate resources and treatment.

The three-step LUNA model begins with a free online assessment that helps parents or guardians determine whether a child might be experiencing adverse effects of trauma. For children who are identified as at-risk, the program provides an in-person, more targeted examination. Some children might need a multidisciplinary team assessment including psychological, neurological, and other evaluations. Depending on the results of these evaluations, LUNA identifies treatment needs and recommends a course of action.

The project initially launched in 2015 with the intent of serving Isabella, Kalamazoo, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties, as well as a few sites in the Upper Peninsula. Word spread quickly and soon people all over Michigan were using the tool; so far more than 1600 referrals have been completed in 55 counties throughout the state.

Boys and Girls Clubs | Healthy Michigan Today | \$5 million

In 2014, the Health Fund awarded \$5 million to the Michigan Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs for the Healthy Michigan Today program, which includes three components:

- Triple Play, a program targeted for youth which includes nutrition, fitness and healthy choices.
- Be Fit Festivals, annual health fairs conducted bi-annually at Boys and Girls Club sites throughout the state. The festivals feature health screenings, workshops and demonstrations, and fun activities to encourage participation.
- Healthy MI Today, a partnership with Henry Ford Health Systems that connects a mobile medical screening team with each club location quarterly. The onsite health screenings check for heart health, concussions, diabetes, and immunizations. Afterward, the Henry Ford staff connects those screened with the local health care system to receive follow-up care as necessary.

By the end of 2015, the program had completed more than 5,842 health screenings and distributed an additional 4,884 health surveys to program participants. The screenings uncovered vision problems, high BMIs, missing immunizations, and other issues that might otherwise have gone unaddressed.

Food Bank Council of Michigan | Michigan Food Bank Access to Nutrition | \$5 million

The Health Fund granted \$5 million to the Food Bank Council of Michigan for the Michigan Food Bank Access to Nutrition (MIFBAN) project. MIFBAN, a two-year pilot, was designed to help low-income residents access and choose healthy foods. The program allowed participating food banks to coordinate the purchase and transport of fresh produce, serving 66 mobile sites in areas with high levels of food insecurity. Educational activities included cooking demonstrations, taste tests, and the distribution of recipe cards.

Since the pilot launched, almost 100 new food distribution sites have been established. As of August 31, 2015, MIFBAN had distributed nearly 6 million pounds of fresh produce to food bank clients throughout Michigan, or 35 percent of its total goal. Additionally, they had distributed produce to 169,223 people in households receiving food, an average of 28,204 per month—exceeding the number of people MIFBAN had planned to serve.

Michigan Association of United Ways | Michigan Children’s Health Access Program | \$5 million

The Michigan Association of United Ways (MAUW) received \$5 million from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to support the Michigan Children’s Health Access Program (MI-CHAP). MI-CHAP built on the success of the CHAP model in Kent County, which demonstrated improvements in health outcomes for children on Medicaid, as well as the Michigan 2-1-1 system, an existing infrastructure that provides families with information about local health and human services.

The Health Fund grant supported eight new or existing CHAP sites: Genesee, Ingham, Kalamazoo, Kent, Macomb, and Saginaw counties, and northwest Michigan, including Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmett, and Otsego counties. MI-CHAP sites form relationships with primary care providers and work directly with families on Medicaid to help strengthen their connections with these and other health care providers.

MAUW’s MI-CHAP grant extends through 2016, and the program is working. Kirk Smith of the Greater Flint Health Coalition said that the community was “beyond fortunate that this CHAP started in 2015.” He continued: “CHAP has been warmly accepted, it is working, and it will continue to play a significant role serving children in our community as the emphasis on the medical home is so important. During Flint’s water crisis, I don’t know where we would be without CHAP in Genesee County.”