



News Release  
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## **ADDITIONAL \$3 MILLION AWARDED THROUGH MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND'S RESPONSIVE GRANT PROGRAM**

**LANSING**, Mich. – The Michigan Health Endowment Fund has awarded \$3 million to 37 organizations across all regions of the state through its Community Health Impact grant program. The Health Fund's responsive grant awards allow for meaningful investments that align with the foundation's mission and address one of eight focus areas. This round had a special emphasis on infant mortality and health services for foster and adopted children.

Seventy non-profit organizations and public agencies across the state submitted proposals for projects that would improve community health and wellness by expanding access to high quality, integrated health services for Michigan's seniors and children.

"Our responsive grants support critical work that might not fit into our proactive initiatives but addresses one of our eight focus areas, such as services for foster and adopted children," explained Chief Executive Officer Paul Hillegonds. "We invest in programs that support the state's most vulnerable residents while making a lasting positive difference in Michigan,"

Michigan's infant mortality rate is among the highest in the country, and several of the funded projects will work to address that challenge. For example, the Black Mother's Breastfeeding Association was awarded \$39,600 to expand their doula program, which will improve health outcomes for Detroit mothers and babies.

“Michigan’s children and seniors are some of our most vulnerable residents, and both have specialized needs that are often overlooked or underfunded,” said Health Fund Senior Program Officer Laurie Solotorow. “Through the Health Fund’s responsive grants we can address these specialized needs and support programs with long-term potential for helping people.”

Other funded projects focus on ensuring coordinated, comprehensive and quality primary care for foster and adopted children. For example, Macomb Children’s Healthcare Access Program (MCHAP) was awarded \$100,000 for its Foster CARE program to create an integrated system of childhood support services healthcare for children in Macomb County.

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. Other proactive issue areas include healthy aging, and nutrition and healthy lifestyles. The fund was created as part of 2013 state legislation that allowed Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to become a nonprofit mutual health insurer. The Health Fund has awarded more than \$50 million in grants since its creation.

Additional information can be found at the Michigan Health Endowment Fund website at [mhealthfund.com](http://mhealthfund.com).

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### **2016 Responsive Grant Awards**

Altarum Institute – Leveraging Technology to Improve Outcomes, \$99,865

Area Agency on aging 1-B – dCare - Improving the health of care managers, \$73, 875

Barry-Eaton District Health Department – BE Nutritious Banks and Pantries, \$25, 048

Black Mother's Breastfeeding Association – Community-based Doula Accreditation Program (CBDAP), \$39,600

Central Detroit Christian Community Development Corporation – Growing Urban Farms in Detroit, \$50,000

Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation – Safe Baby Academy - Protecting Your Sleeping Baby, \$80,328

Community Foundation of Greater Flint – Flint Water Crisis Recovery Effort, \$250,000

Community Health and Social Services (CHASS) – Healthy Mothers on the Move, \$99,924

Corner Health Center – Reducing Rapid Repeat Pregnancies, \$25,980

Detroit Food & Entrepreneurship Academy – Detroit Food Academy School-Based Program, \$50,000

Fair Food Network - Double Up Food Bucks – Flint Expansion, \$100,000

Genesee Health Plan – Grandparent-Raised Support Services, \$46,950

Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation – Northern Michigan PACE, \$75,000

Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities – Improving Access to Healthy, Fresh Food for Kids in NW Michigan, \$100,000

Growing Hope – Growing Healthy Seniors \$38,018

Growth Works – Trauma Informed Supervised Visitation, \$98,170

Henry Ford Health System – Women-Inspired Neighborhood Network, \$100,000

Macomb Children's Healthcare Access Program – Foster CARE, \$100,000

MHP Salud – Desde el Primer Momento, \$94,216.88

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Project Re:form, \$99,000

Michigan Environmental Council – Piloting CSA shares to fight childhood obesity and hunger, \$100,000

Michigan Health Improvement Alliance – Centering Pregnancy, \$34,837

Michigan State University – Addressing Infant Mortality Disparities, \$100,000

Michigan State University School of Social Work – Developing Accessible Health-Related Training, \$78,661

Munson Healthcare Foundations – Pediatric Fruit and Vegetable Prescription for Healthy Eating Model, \$67,147

Ozone House Youth and Family Services – MORE (MAGIC, Ozone, REACH, Education) Support Project, \$50,000

Pediatric Foundation of Michigan – Improving Health Outcomes for Foster Children and Youth, \$20,000

St. Joseph Mercy Health System – A Healthy Start at Life, \$75,000

St. Vincent Catholic Charities – Refugee Health Access, \$35,000

The Baldwin Center Inc. – Innovative Frameworks, \$87,702

The Guidance Center – Strong Beginnings Intervention (MOM Power), \$100,000

The Jed Foundation – JED Campus Program for Michigan Colleges and Universities, \$50,000

The Judson Center – Tele-psych Technology Implementation, \$100,000

University of Michigan – Enhancing Perinatal Father Engagement in Health Care Settings, \$92,390

UPCAP Services, Inc. – Enhancing awareness of and services to treat Pre-diabetes, \$48,160

Wayne State University School of Medicine – Make Your Date: Detroit's Plan to Reduce Preterm Birth, \$100,000

YWCA Kalamazoo – Kalamazoo Infant Mortality Community Action Initiative, \$100,000