



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

May 11, 2026

Dear Health Officers:

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) 2026 Director's Award to Local Public Health will be presented during the annual Michigan Premier Public Health Conference, being held October 7 - 9, 2026, at the Blue Water Conference Center in Port Huron, Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will join the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) and the Michigan Public Health Association (MPHA) at the luncheon on October 8, 2026, to present the award.

The MDHHS Director's Award, established in 1983, is presented annually to a local health department (LHD) in recognition of excellence in public health. This year's award recognizes LHDs that have implemented and/or are currently implementing innovative programs, interventions, or policies that:

- Adopted and adapted strategies to combat the evolving leading causes of illness, injury and premature death;
- Developed strategies for promoting health and well-being that work most effectively for communities of today and tomorrow;
- Identified, analyzed, and distributed information from new and/or real time data sources;
- Built a more integrated, effective health system through collaboration between clinical care and public health; and
- Collaborated with a broad array of partners, including those at the neighborhood level and the non-health sector, to build healthy and vital communities.

Detailed criteria and guidelines for the preparation of the application, and a selection process timeline, are attached. Applications for the MDHHS Director's Award are to be submitted by **Friday June 12, 2026**, to [MDHHS-LocalHealthServices@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-LocalHealthServices@michigan.gov).

We encourage you to take the opportunity to highlight your outstanding programs.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lyon-Callo, M.S., Ph.D.  
Senior Deputy Director / State Epidemiologist  
Public Health Administration

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Attachments

c: Local Health Services  
MALPH Forums Listservs