

SPOTLIGHT:

ROBUST COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

REGION 7 MICHIGAN HUB

The Region 7 Michigan Hub works with community members, health care professionals, social service providers, government partners, and business leaders to improve the health and social conditions of all residents by addressing disparities and barriers to social and economic opportunity in the Capital area. The Hub bridges local, state, and federal resources to ensure that Region 7 builds and strengthens community-led efforts.



The Strategy:

To support local innovative solutions, the Region 7 Michigan Hub turned their Hub funds from MDHHS into a flexible funding pool, providing mini-grants to local organizations addressing Social Determinants of Health, Community Information Exchange, and health equity with a special emphasis on Health-in-All-Policies.



The Results:

- **Granted \$120,000** to 10 cross-sector organizations in 2025 and 6 in 2026 who addressed a range of social determinants of health issues.
- **Expanded Tri-County cross-sector partnerships.**

Why It Worked:

- **Creating a flexible funding pool that addressed unmet needs**, and distributing those funds to local organizations grew the number of partners engaged in health efforts and supported the community in the ways they needed it most.
- **Including diverse organizations as decision-makers** on the project's Steering Committee provided authentic ways to strengthen partnerships and demonstrate a commitment to local voice.
- **Connecting grantee efforts to the regional Community Health Improvement Plan** reinforced the importance of and progress towards local priority areas.
- **Using a low-barrier grant application** (e.g., short, transparent grading criteria) made this grant feasible for small organizations with limited grant writing experience.

Success Tips:

- **Celebrate and share your successes.** At the end of each grant cycle, the Hub holds a Summit to celebrate accomplishment, encourage networking, and hear from grantees about their work. The health department promotes grantees' projects on social media, helping to formalize relationships with grantees and shift public understanding of the health department's work (other than vaccinations!).
- **Fully engage community members as decision-makers.** Invite community members to join your steering committee and compensate them for their time/expertise. For the Hub, this level of engagement created a space for a deeper dialogue regarding health inequity.

Lead Agencies

Ingham County Health Department

Capital Area Health Alliance

STEERING COMMITTEE

Barry-Eaton District Health Department

Capital Area Health Alliance

Clinton Area Transit System

Ingham Regional Health Advisory Council

Ingham County Health Department

Mid-Michigan District Health Department

University of Michigan Health-Sparrow

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