

Good afternoon,

Special Olympics International, with funding from the CDC and support from NACCHO, is in the process of convening small groups of local health department (LHD) teams from each of the six states that comprise HHS Region V (OH, MI, IN, IL, WI, & MN) to discuss strategies to increase input into community health needs assessments (CHNA) from residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Each LHD team is comprised of four people:

- the LHD employee most responsible for the development of the LHD's CHA,
- a 2nd LHD employee who can support / assure continuity,
- two community partners identified by the LHD who might be able to provide insight and/or access to the IDD population, e.g., a government agency or NGO service provider.

I believe they are hoping to form four groups from local health departments in Michigan.

The teams from each state meet once in-person for 3 hours for guided group dialogue to identify the type of information they would want to include in their next CHA, potential health district partners who would be part of that effort, and strategies to collect information to include in their CHA that would help to identify opportunities, resources, and priorities that address health equity for people with IDD. Mileage will be reimbursed. **The Michigan teams will meet on Monday, December 9, in Lansing following the MALPH Board meeting.** Between that meeting and the end of April 2025, each LHD team would commit to field-testing at least one strategy that they identified.

In May 2025, **one member of each LHD will be brought to the Special Olympics International Headquarters in Washington, DC** for a one-day meeting to share field test experiences and help to identify best/promising practices.

The attached document provides more information on this effort. If your health department is interested, and with approval from your health officer, please contact Tom Quade at Special Olympics International at Tquade@SpecialOlympics.org.

IDD-Inclusive Community Health Assessment Project

Challenge: People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) experience some of the most profound population-specific disparities of health status, health behaviors, health care access, health access, life expectancy, etc. Many of these are associated with Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). Cross-sectoral inclusion across other populations who experience health disparities only exacerbates these health challenges. Surveys of local, state, and territorial health departments have found that the IDD population is almost never included in the health departments' CHAs and CHIPs. If they are included, they are usually folded into an assessment of the health issues and resources for people with sensory and mobility disabilities which may or may not have relevance for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

LHD Capacity-Building Approach: Special Olympics International, with funding from the CDC and support from NACCHO, is in the process of convening small groups of local health department (LHD) teams from each of the six states that comprise HHS Region V (OH, MI, IN, IL, WI, & MN). Each LHD team is comprised of four people, 1.) the LHD employee most responsible for the development of the LHD's CHA, 2.) a 2nd LHD employee who can support / assure continuity, 3.) two community partners identified by the LHD who might be able to provide insight and/or access to the IDD population, e.g., a government agency or NGO service provider.

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Expectation of Participating LHDs from Michigan: There is **no** expectation that a new CHA would be a deliverable of participating LHDs. All participating LHDs will actively participate in one three-hour meeting in **Lansing on Monday afternoon, December 9, 2024**. All participating LHDs will commit time and energy to field test at least one identified strategy. One person from each LHD will be brought, at SOI expense, to our DC Headquarters for a one-day debriefing meeting of all participating LHDs, with the intent of identifying best/promising practices.

Return on Investment of Participating LHDs: Our goal is to assure every participating LHD will be better positioned to have a CHA that is intentionally inclusive of people in their jurisdiction with IDD. If time permits, we will also develop strategies to assure that CHIP processes are likewise inclusive of people with lived experience. It is our intent to do this in a way that enhances health department efforts at PHAB accreditation should that be of interest to the LHDs.

Questions: Contact Tom Quade at Tquade@SpecialOlympics.org.

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