

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### 2025 Director's Award Criteria For Excellence in Local Public Health

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is accepting nominations from local health departments for the 2025 Director's Award. This year's award recognizes LHDs that are using innovative approaches to improve health, well-being and equity. Successful awardees will demonstrate they are using innovative approaches by addressing healthy behaviors, community safety, built environment, and/or social/environmental factors.

The program, intervention or policy has:

1. **Adopted and adapted strategies to combat the evolving leading causes of illness, injury, and premature death.** *Example: Preventing and responding to today's leading causes of illness and death: heart disease, cancer, respiratory illness, stroke, and unintentional injuries and overdoses.*
2. **Developed strategies for promoting health and well-being that work most effectively for communities of today and tomorrow.** *Example: Tapping new strategies to more effectively confront and reduce health disparities and using health equity approaches that specifically improve health in poorly resourced areas.*
3. **Identified, analyzed, and distributed information from new and/or real time data sources.** *Example: Using data from novel sources or in innovative ways to address social, economic, and/or environmental determinants of health. This includes using data in innovative ways (or from new sources) to inform public health policy, action, or decision-making toward improved health outcomes.*
4. **Built a more integrated, effective health system through collaboration between clinical care and public health.** *Example: Forming close and interactive relationships with clinical providers and health insurers within the jurisdiction/municipality to increase efficiency and achieve better outcomes.*
5. **Collaborated with a broad array of partners, including those at the neighborhood level and the non-health sectors, to build health and more vital communities.** *Example: Engaging with public and private community stakeholders to form vibrant structured cross-sector partnerships to foster shared funding, services, governance, and collective action. This entails working beyond a limited circle of partnerships, utilizing cross-disciplinary collaboration, and forging close partnerships with non-health oriented organizations.*

### GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF THE NOMINATION

1. Application must be no longer than five (5) pages. Only one program (application) per local health department will be considered.
2. Application must be prepared as a Microsoft Word document in Times New Roman font, 12-point size, and double spaced.
3. Application must contain a minimum of three of the five sections that directly correspond to the Director's Award criteria for excellence in local public health.
4. One complete electronic copy of the application transmitted as an email attachment, is due to MDHHS Local Health Services by: **5:00 pm EST on Friday, June 13, 2025.**

## **SELECTION PROCESS TIMELINE**

|                   |                                                                                             |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 13, 2025:    | Submission deadline for all applications.                                                   |
| June 27, 2025:    | Completed review of applications by the 2025 Director's Award Application Review Committee. |
| July 11, 2025:    | All applicants notified of their application status.                                        |
| October 28, 2025: | MDHHS Director's Award presentation at the Michigan Premier Public Health Conference        |



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

April 29, 2025

Dear Health Officers:

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) 2025 Director's Award to Local Public Health will be presented during the annual Michigan Premier Public Health Conference, being held October 27–29, 2025, at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Muskegon Convention Center, Muskegon, Michigan.

The MDHHS will join the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) and the Michigan Public Health Association (MPHA) at the luncheon on October 28, 2025, 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 13, 2025**, to [MDHHS-LocalHealthServices@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-LocalHealthServices@michigan.gov).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Lyon-Callo".

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

SLC:jw

Attachments

c: Local Health Services  
MALPH Forums Listservs