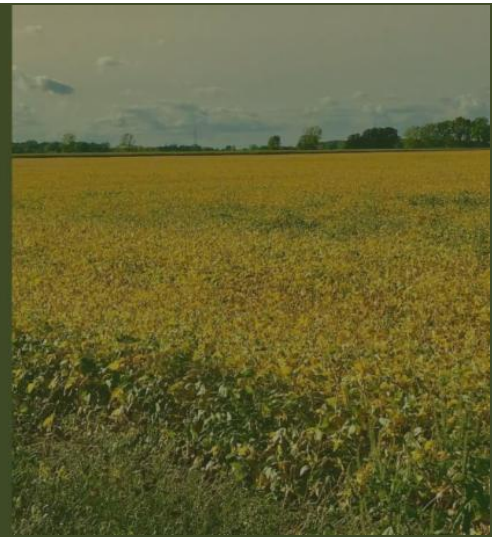




Our Mission:

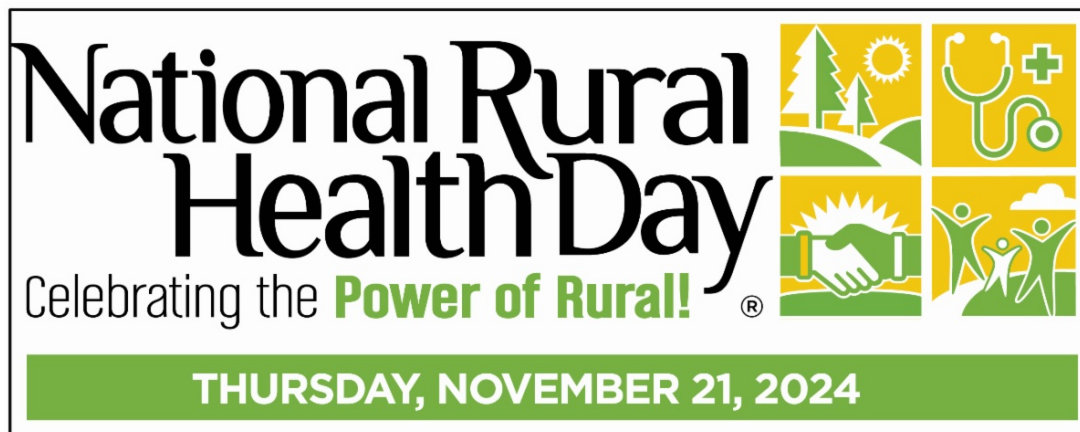
TO COORDINATE, PLAN,
AND ADVOCATE FOR
IMPROVED HEALTH FOR
MICHIGAN'S RURAL
RESIDENTS AND
COMMUNITIES.



MCRH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2024
Volume 5, Issue 10

Celebrate National Rural Health Day - November 21



The third Thursday of November is recognized as National Rural Health Day. This year, MCRH, in partnership with the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH), will be working to increase awareness for rural healthcare and highlighting the efforts and achievements towards advocacy in rural communities.

Visit the MCRH National Rural Health Day website for tools and resources to help your NRHD celebration succeed. Our website features:

- A Promotional Toolkit with social media templates, games and activities, and special hashtags to help highlight your NRHD activities and community events
- Key Messaging and Data Points to educate communities about the importance of rural health
- Ideas to help you celebrate
- And much, much more

When sharing your 2024 National Rural Health Day celebrations on your social media channels, tag the Michigan Center for Rural Health, and we will help spread the word!

- MCRH Facebook: @MCRH91
- MCRH X (formerly Twitter): @MCRH_91
- MCRH LinkedIn: @Michigan Center for Rural Health

[Visit our 2024 National Rural Health Day Website](#)

MCRH and Modivcare Enhances Rural Healthcare with Remote Patient Monitoring



MCRH and Modivcare have partnered to implement Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) in three rural Michigan hospitals. The pilot program showed promising results in improving patient health outcomes, especially for those with chronic conditions.

The collaboration leveraged Modivcare's Higi Care Everyday platform, which combines technology with personalized care management. After the successful 18-month pilot, two of the three participating hospitals are now further engaging RPM solutions within their care framework.

Following a successful pilot program, MCRH and Modivcare partnered to create a comprehensive RPM Playbook for rural healthcare organizations. This playbook offers valuable insights for

implementing Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) solutions and has already led two out of three hospitals to adopt RPM within their care framework.

By focusing on both the technological and human elements of healthcare, we are improving patient engagement, enhancing care coordination, and reducing healthcare costs in rural communities.

[Click Here to Download the MCRH and Modivcare RPM for Rural Michigan Hospitals Playbook](#)

MCRH Supports Gogebic Community College EMS Program with Major Funding



MCRH EMS Programs Manager Patrick Fox was recently at Gogebic Community College (GCC) in Ironwood, MI, to present a check to support the college's EMS programs and services.

The EMS program at GCC has been awarded an approximate \$70k sponsorship from the Michigan Center for Rural Health to cover the cost of tuition, books, and fees. The program pays full tuition for up to 20 students in GCC's October cohort and includes a \$950 stipend for each student to cover expenses.

MCRH is proud to support EMS initiatives across rural Michigan through its network of collaborators, training, and educational resources. For more information, [please visit the MCRH EMS Programs website](#).

[Click Here to View the Recently Aired WLUC TV6 News Story About the Grant](#)

MCRH Hosts Annual Rural Breakfast for Michigan State University Medical Students



This month, MCRH facilitated a breakfast for medical students interested in practicing rural medicine from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Ross Ramsey, President and CEO of Scheurer Health, led the engaging discussion and provided insights into working and living in a rural community.

The medical students had the opportunity to ask questions about the intricacies of practicing medicine in rural Michigan, gain insights into healthcare industry trends affecting rural areas, and develop a better understanding of the advantages of delivering care in rural settings.

Thank you to Dr. Ramsey and the medical students for an engaging discussion.

Michigan State University Introduces Master of Public Health Degree Focused on Rural Public Health



Master of Public Health
College of Human Medicine
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH

In rural communities, local health departments play a crucial role in providing services like health screenings, prenatal care, home health care, and immunizations. Pursue a degree that focuses on understanding and addressing the specific health needs of a rural community. You will learn about health care delivery, policy development, advocacy strategies, and more.

GET STARTED TODAY!



MPH.MSU.EDU
810-600-5601
CHM.MPH_GENINFO@MSU.EDU



The CEPH-accredited online Master of Public Health (MPH) program at Michigan State University has introduced a new concentration in Rural Public Health in the Fall of 2024. The concentration is designed to provide students with sufficient skills and knowledge to effectively work as public health leaders and practitioners in rural communities.

This concentration helps students understand how social, cultural, political, and environmental factors in rural communities, along with historical influences, impact rural health, public health, healthcare delivery, policy development, collaboration, and advocacy strategies.

In the 43-credit hour MPH program, students will take three courses focusing on rural public health: Foundations of Rural Public Health, Drivers of Rural Health, and Rural Public Health Policy and Advocacy.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

National Quality Forum Releases Playbook to Help Hospitals Tackle Hospital-Onset Bloodstream Infections



The National Quality Forum (NQF) has released the Hospital-Onset Bacteremia and Fungemia Playbook to help acute care settings improve the prevention, identification, and treatment of hospital-onset bacteremia and fungemia (HOB). This coincides with the CDC refining a quality measure to address HOB.

HOB refers to healthcare-associated bloodstream infections (HAI), which patients contract during hospital treatment. These infections cause 70,000+ deaths and \$28 billion in medical costs annually, eroding patient trust and worsening clinician burnout. HOB specifically refers to bloodstream infections with bacterial or fungal pathogens detected from blood cultures collected on day four or after hospital admission.

The Hospital-Onset Bacteremia and Fungemia Playbook helps organizations build on their HAI programs and quality and patient safety initiatives to address HOB prevention, identification, and treatment. Drawing from decades of IPC research, it presents considerations and best practices so that organizations have options tailored to their specific needs.

[Click Here to Download NQF's Hospital-Onset Bacteremia and Fungemia Playbook](#)

New Study Examines Telehealth Perceptions and Usage in the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan



The Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD), in partnership with Connected Nation Michigan (CN Michigan), has released a new telehealth report titled “Between the Lakes: Understanding Perceptions and Usage in the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan.”

CUPPAD surveyed 800 adult heads of households in the six-county region of the Central Upper Peninsula (U.P.), which includes the counties of Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Menominee, Marquette, and Schoolcraft, between March and May 2024.

The purpose of the survey was to identify rates of telehealth usage, attitudes regarding telehealth services, awareness of current telehealth offerings, and ways to address the challenges some residents in the U.P. face when seeking telehealth services.

Here are some of the report's key findings:

-More than 10,000 CUPPAD households do not subscribe to home internet service. High-speed internet may not be available or is seen as too expensive or not beneficial, leading to lower subscription rates among older residents and those with lower incomes.

-More than 1 in 3 households (36.6%) are considered “internet insecure.” This means that their households went without a home internet subscription for at least 12 months in the prior 12 months.

-Nearly 3 out of 5 respondents have used remote health-monitoring services. These services include health or motivational coaching, remote heart rate, blood sugar and blood pressure monitoring, and electronic reminders to take medications or follow health protocols.

-The top concern about telehealth services is the possibility that health issues might not be properly addressed or diagnosed online. Among those who have not used telehealth services before, the privacy of the patient's health information is the top concern.

Please click the button below to download the full report, which includes more of the report's key findings and a breakdown of each of the six counties in the region.

[Click Here to Download the Full Report](#)

New Report Highlights Strategies for Building, Growing, and Retaining Rural Health Workforce



A new report from the National Rural Health Resource Center, produced in collaboration with FORHP and based on the May 2024 Rural Health Workforce Summit, is now available.

The alternative strategies and recommendations outlined in this report address challenges in the rural health workforce throughout the country. The report also profiles successful rural workforce that can be scaled and distributed to a larger audience.

The strategies in this report—centered on new workforces, partnerships, networks, technology, and education—serve as a guide to help rural health organizations and state program partners build and grow a sustainable and successful healthcare workforce in rural America.

[Click Here to Download the Report](#)

Microgrant Program to Advance Disability Healthcare Equity for Safety Net Organizations



The University of Michigan Center for Disability Health and Wellness (U-M CDHW) has recently announced its initial call for applications from safety net organizations

within Michigan interested in enhancing healthcare access and inclusion for individuals with disabilities from low-income and traditionally underserved communities.

- Grants will be awarded in amounts up to \$5,000 to support the one-time purchase of equipment, the development of material or educational programming, or the support of training activities associated with improving the accessibility and quality of healthcare for individuals with disabilities.
- All projects will demonstrate the involvement of local disability representatives and show how the project will have a broad impact on people with disabilities in the identified community.
- The project must be realistic and achievable within a six-month time frame.
- At least 4 grants this year will be awarded.

While new initiatives are welcome, applicants are encouraged to leverage existing projects that could benefit from additional funding to enhance or expand disability access and inclusion.

Projects that are eligible for funding may include but are not limited to the following categories:

- Improving access to healthcare for people with physical, cognitive, sensory, and developmental disabilities.
- Inclusive wayfinding and accessible route planning to healthcare settings at the community level.
- Training for healthcare providers and staff to improve the quality of care available for people with physical, cognitive, sensory, and developmental disabilities.

For the first year of this program, only Michigan nonprofit healthcare safety net organizations that provide direct patient care are eligible to apply for this funding. U-M CDHW, in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Michigan, supports this grant program.

The deadline for proposals is January 15, 2025.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

**Register Today for the MDHHS Fall
Immunization Conference - November 7**

SAVE THE DATE!



2024 Virtual ONLY Fall Immunization Conference

Nov. 7, 2024 | 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Learn about current vaccine recommendations.



Michigan immunization updates.



Hear from immunization experts and champions.

This event is for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, public health staff, pharmacists, medical and nursing students, practice managers, and other health care professionals who are interested in learning more about current immunization practices in Michigan.
Continuing education credits pending.



Registration opens **Sept. 9, 2024.**
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/Fallconference2024/>

The MDHHS Fall Immunization Conference has been offered annually for more than 20 years and has consistently received high ratings from attendees. The primary goal is to update health care providers on immunization issues that affect people of all ages – from the very young to the very old.

The goal is to provide participants with various practice-management tools, techniques, and information that will help them ensure that all their patients are fully immunized.

This conference is appropriate for physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, public health staff, pharmacists, physicians, physician assistants, medical and nursing students, and anyone interested in learning more about current immunization practices in Michigan.

The registration fee for conference attendees is \$50 per person. **Registration will close at 5 p.m. on November 4th.**

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

MBQIP Upcoming Deadlines, Reporting Reminders and Resources



MCRH is excited to introduce monthly Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) updates that will help improve the quality of care provided in Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs).

MBQIP Reporting Updates

Emergency Department Transfer Communication (EDTC) Q3 2024 encounters (7/1/24- 9/30/24) is due **October 31**. Connect with your **State Flex Program** for details on the submission process.

Reporting Median time from ED arrival to ED departure(OP-18) Q2 2024 encounters (4/1/24-6/30/24) is due **November 1**. Submission is through the HQR Secure Portal-Outpatient. CART users will use CART version 1.24.0. If you have questions about CART submission and requirement details, please contact your State Flex Program.

CAH Infrastructure and Assessment is due **November 22, 2024**.

MBQIP Overview Resources

MBQIP Core Set Information Guide Version 2.1 Released April 2024
This guide provides an overview of measures included in the MBQIP 2025 Measure Core set. This includes information about the data collection, reporting processes, and descriptions for each measure.

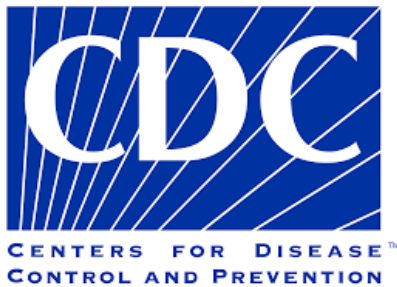
MBQIP 2025 Data Submission Deadlines Version 1.1 Released April 2024.
This resource includes details of the implementation timeline for the MBQIP 2025 Core Measure Set and data submission deadlines.

Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmissions Resources

Data Submission Guide for Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmissions Version 1.0 Released July 2024. This guide includes tips for hospitals to start reporting new measures, measure details, linked trainings, and step-by-step data submission steps for the Hospital Commitment to Health Equity measure.

For more on MBQIP, please contact Amanda St. Martin, Hospital Programs Manager, at amanda.saintmartin@affiliate.msu.edu.

New CDC Report on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Among U.S. High School Students



The latest Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) highlights how connected Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are to adolescent health.

Billed as the most comprehensive data yet on this subject, the report concludes that preventing ACEs could reduce suicide attempts by as much as 89 percent, prescription pain medication misuse by as much as 84 percent, and persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness by as much as 66 percent.

Earlier this year, the CDC issued a Rural Policy Brief showing **suiciderates have been consistently higher in rural areas** than in urban areas over the past two decades. Between 2000-2020, suicide rates increased 46 percent in non-metro areas compared to 27.3 percent in metro areas. A separate CDC Rural Policy Brief on suicide prevention released in July features **a case study from a successful program** for adolescents in a tribal community in New Mexico.

In 2018, the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services delivered an in-depth **report on the rural context for ACEs**, with recommendations for federal policy.

[Click Here for More Findings from the CDC Report](#)

HHS Finalizes Federal Health IT Strategy to Drive Systemic Improvements in Health and Care



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (hereafter ASTP), recently published the final 2024-2030 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan in accordance with the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH Act.)

The Strategic Plan presents federal health information technology (health IT) goals and objectives to achieve a future state where health IT and electronic health information are used to:

- Promote health and wellness;

- Enhance the delivery and experience of care;
- Accelerate research and innovation, and
- Connect the health system with health data.

In March 2024, the ASTP published the draft Strategic Plan following collaboration with over 25 federal agencies involved in advancing health IT. The plan was updated and finalized after a 60-day public comment period, which included feedback from various organizations such as healthcare systems, associations, specialty societies, electronic health record developers, and patient advocates.

[Click Here to Download the 2024-2030 IT Strategic Plan](#)

Limited Partnerships Still Available for the 2024 Michigan Critical Access Hospital Conference



2024 Michigan Critical Access Hospital Conference

November 7-8, 2024, Park Place – Traverse City, MI

Why Exhibit: The Michigan Critical Access Hospital Conference provides the single most targeted opportunity to reach C-level executives with your organization's message, products, services, and educational outreach efforts. MCRH invites three guests (CEO, CFO, CNO, and Quality Manager) from each of the 35 CAHs to discuss relevant issues, network, and disseminate information.

EXHIBITOR PACKAGES

Includes the Bronze Package PLUS:

GOLD
\$2250

- Recognition as **GOLD** Sponsor
- **2 Additional** Complimentary Registrations
- Recognition as a **BREAKFAST SPONSOR**
- **One** Pre-Recorded Video (up to 2 minutes) that will be included in the Safe Travels Email before the event

SILVER
\$1750

Includes the Bronze Package PLUS:

- Recognition as **SILVER** Sponsor
- **1 Additional** Complimentary Registration
- Recognition as **SNACK/BREAK SPONSOR**

BRONZE
\$1350

- Recognition as **BRONZE** Sponsor
- 1 Complimentary Registration
- Participant List before the event
- 1 Exhibit Table
- Meals Included



Charging Station - \$750

(1 Sponsorship Available)

Your logo will be displayed prominently by each charging station for maximum visibility!

Official Conference App - \$650

(Limited Sponsorships Available)

Keep your brand in front of this year's attendees, as they share photos, engage in live chat, and keep up to date on the agenda through the app!



Entertainment Sponsor - \$500

(Limited Sponsorships Available)

Have your logo placed prominently near the musicians, logo recognition on CAH slides, and have your organization officially announced during the reception.

Join the Michigan Center for Rural Health as an event partner at this year's Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Conference, November 7-8, at Park Place in Traverse City, Michigan.

Why Exhibit: The Michigan Critical Access Hospital Conference provides the single most targeted opportunity to reach C-level executives with your organization's message, products, services, and educational outreach efforts. MCRH invites three guests (CEO, CFO, CNO, and Quality Manager) from each CAH to discuss relevant issues, network, and disseminate information.

[Click Here for Partnership Registration](#)

Strength of Rural Spotlight Series: MCRH Wants To Hear From You and Uplift Your Organization

#StrengthofRural Spotlight Series



Have an idea for a Spotlight?

Scan the QR Code or email Laura Mispelon at laura.mispelon@affiliate.msu.edu



Through our newsletter, the Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH) highlights an innovative project or initiative in one of Michigan's rural communities every month.

The Strength of Rural Spotlight Series was launched to celebrate the dedication and resilience of rural stakeholders across the state. This series shines a light on organizations and individuals making a real impact by addressing health disparities and tackling the social drivers of health in their communities.

Rural communities thrive on the strength and connection of their residents, who work together to overcome challenges. The series spotlights key stakeholders creating innovative solutions to improve community well-being and foster collaboration.

Do you have a story to share? Know a rural organization or individual making a difference? Email Laura Mispelon, Social Drivers of Health Manager, at laura.mispelon@affiliate.msu.edu, and let us share your story!

[Click Here to View Past Strength of Rural Spotlights](#)

Catch Up On More Rural Health News Every Month With These Two Newsletters



Michigan Rural Health Clinic
Monthly Bulletin

Rural Health Clinic Monthly Bulletin

The latest news and information geared toward Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) in Michigan.

[Click Here to Read The Latest Issue](#)

NMORC Newsletter

Updates and reminders regarding NMORC efforts to support and promote Substance and Opioid Use Disorder events, resources, and information.

[Click Here to Read the Latest Issue](#)



Upcoming MCRH Educational Events



Grand Rounds:

October 22, 2024, 12-1 PM EST

Special Topics Grand Rounds: Ethics In Pregnancy
Speaker: Michelle Becher, DO & Shelly Betancourt, WHNP-BC

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Social Workers, Nurses, Physicians, and Community Health Workers

October 24, 2024, 12-1 PM EST

Pediatrics Grand Rounds: A Brief Guide to Cannabis for the Primary Care Provider
Speaker: Brittany Tayler, MD, FAAP

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Social Workers, Nurses, Physicians, and Community Health Workers

Project ECHO:

October 29, 12-1 PM EST

One Health ECHO: Leveraging Human, Animal, and Environmental Health Partners to Keep Michigan Healthy Series #4

Speaker: Melinda Wilkins, DVM, MPH, PhDTBD

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided

November 20, 12-1 PM EST

Update on COVID-19

Speaker: Dr. Peter Gulick

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided

EMS:

November 13, 2024, 6-7 PM EST

EMS Team Dynamics and Accountability

Speaker: Scott Moore, Moore EMS Consulting

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided

ADDITIONAL NEWS & RESOURCES:

FUNDING:

[AHRQ State-Based Healthcare Extension Cooperatives – Apply by December 12](#)

RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS:

[Updated Guidance for Rural Emergency Hospitals \(REHs\)](#)

CYBERSECURITY:

[AHA Helps Secure New Cybersecurity Resources from Microsoft and Google to Assist Rural Hospitals](#)

TELEHEALTH:

[Expanding Dental Care to Children Through Telehealth](#)

[Building Michigan's State Broadband Plan](#)

[VIDEO: How Broadband Access Positively Impacts the Growing American Workforce](#)

[2024 State Policy Agenda for Telehealth Innovation](#)

HOSPITAL PROGRAMS:

[CMS Updates Hospital Policies for Fiscal Year 2025 and Finalizes a New Payment Model for Select Surgeries](#)

[AHRQ TeamSTEPPS®: No Cost Training for Patient Safety – Sessions through November 2024](#)

PRIMARY CARE:

[Proposed Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2026 ACA Marketplaces – Comment by November 12](#)

[Updates to FY25 Medicare Inpatient Hospital Pay Rates – Comment by November 29](#)

[Valuing Community: Framing Childhood Vaccines in Rural America](#)

[Financial Performance of Rural and Urban Hospitals in the Medicare Shared Savings Program](#)

[Request for Comment on New Tools for States to Report Data on Mental Health Parity](#)

[CMS Announces New Lower Drug Prices for 2026 / Negotiated Pricing Fact Sheet](#)

[CMS Innovation in Behavioral Health Model](#)

[New Changes to Behavioral Health Intensive Outpatient Program Coverage in Medicare](#)

[Medicare Advantage Plan Growth in Rural America: Availability of Supplemental Benefits](#)

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH:

[National Kidney Foundation of Michigan: Free Virtual Workshop for Cooking Matters at the Store Specific to a Kidney-Friendly Diet - November 7](#)

[HHS Launches New "Food as Medicine" Resources](#)

[A Healthy Mouth for Every Body - A Look At The Connection Between Oral Health and Overall Health](#)

[ERS on Household Food Security in the United States in 2023](#)

[Engaging Policymakers for Healthier Communities | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

[Healthy People 2030 Webinar Recording: Planning for Individual and Community Health](#)

[The U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health](#)

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER:

[Health Affairs Call for Abstracts on Overdose Crisis – December 2](#)

[Opioid Settlement Resource Center - The Michigan Association of Counties \(micounties.org\)](#)

[Opioid Settlement Overview Table](#)

[Recovery-Ready Workplace Toolkit for Businesses](#)

[Model Recovery Ready Workplaces Act](#)

WORKFORCE:

[HRSA National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program –November 7](#)

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows – November 3](#)

[Statewide Investment Helps Youth Explore Future Careers In Michigan](#)

[Mental Health in the Rural Workplace](#)

[Mobilizing Health Care Workforce via Telehealth](#)

VETERANS:

[Online Certification Programs Provide Training in Environmental Exposures - VA News](#)

[VA Benefit Eligibility Matrix](#)

[HUD-VASH Policies Expand Veterans' Housing Access](#)

[Tele-Urgent Care & Tele-Emergency Care is Now Available](#)

[Avoid Falling Victim to Claims Predators](#)

[Calculating VA Disability Ratings - VIDEO](#)

[VIDEO: What CHAMPVA Covers, Costs & Submitting Claims](#)

[Sign Up for the VA Office of Rural Health \(ORH\) Quarterly Newsletter](#)

[VA Benefits that Pass on to Family Members - VIDEO](#)

[Find Your County's Veteran Service Officers](#)

[Updated Veterans Educational Videos from the IREACH Program](#)

[Questions about VA healthcare? Attend the Veterans Healthcare Workgroup Monthly Meeting on the Second Monday of Every Month at 1 PM EST \(Zoom Link\)](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[An Updated Model of Rural Hospital Financial Distress](#)

[Free COVID-19 Tests by Mail](#)

[2024 Physician Fee Schedule Webinar Recording](#)

[CMS Creates New Prescription Drug Resource Hub](#)

[Updated Catalog of Value-Based Initiatives for Rural Providers](#)

[New Birthing Friendly Hospital Designation Available on Care Compare Website](#)

[New Map Shows Rural Emergency Hospitals](#)

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MCRH'S
2024 ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS**



**NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION®**

of Michigan



Is your organization interested in becoming a 2024 MCRH Organizational Sponsor? Please contact Doug Siwek (siwekdou@msu.edu) for more information on this branding opportunity.

[Click to View More Organizational Sponsor Details](#)

[Click Here for the 2024 MCRH Organizational Sponsor Form](#)

[Visit the MCRH Website](#)

[Click Here to Subscribe to the MCRH Newsletter](#)

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