

MICHIGAN RURAL HEALTH CLINIC

MONTHLY BULLETIN



Volume 7, Issue 1:
January 2025



A Few Words From Jill:

As we kick off 2025, we're excited to recognize **Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) Month** this January! This annual observance highlights the importance of addressing the social factors that impact health outcomes and advancing health equity in Michigan's rural communities.

We're thrilled to share that **MDHHS is organizing a series of SDOH webinars** happening throughout January. These sessions will cover critical topics such as scaling and sustaining SDOH Hubs, integrating Community Health Workers to improve equity, and fostering resilient communities through collaborative initiatives. These webinars offer an excellent opportunity to gain valuable insights, explore practical strategies, and connect with other leaders in rural health. Don't miss your chance to join the conversation—register for these webinars using the links below!

Looking ahead, don't forget to **register for the RHC Network Quarterly Meeting**, happening virtually on **February 13th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM EST**.

Let's work together to make SDOH Month a success, fostering meaningful change for our communities and building a foundation for healthier, more equitable futures. Stay engaged with us for updates and inspiration throughout the month!

Thank you for your commitment to advancing rural health and equity in Michigan.

Thanks-

Jill

Apply Today to Participate in
MCRH's New Community Based Palliative Care
Project

Apply by February 16, 2025



CULTIVATING COMFORT: ENHANCING PALLIATIVE CARE IN RURAL MICHIGAN

A Project Opportunity
for Rural Communities

January 2025 – December 2026

**APPLY
TODAY!**

APPLICATION DEADLINE

 **February 16th, 2025**

ABOUT

A two-year grant, funded by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to start or strengthen palliative care services in five rural Michigan communities.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Rural Community teams must be multi-site and interdisciplinary, possible representatives from hospitals, clinics, home health agencies, nursing homes, hospice programs, and tribal health organizations.

Benefits of Participation

- ✓ Training and consultation to create a palliative care action plan.
- ✓ Educational and visioning workshop with community stakeholders.
- ✓ A support coordinator to assist with resources and implementation efforts.
- ✓ Individualized follow-up and support.



Amanda St. Martin, Hospital Programs Manager
amanda.saintmartin@affiliate.msu.edu



The Michigan Center for Rural Health, in partnership with Stratis Health—a leader in community-based palliative care programs—encourages your community to apply for the Cultivating Comfort: Enhancing Palliative Care in Rural Michigan Project. This two-year learning and planning initiative is designed to help communities establish or strengthen palliative care services. The project will begin in January 2025 and continue through December 2026.

To be eligible for the project, rural community teams must be multi-site and interdisciplinary, possible representatives from hospitals, clinics, home health agencies, nursing homes, hospice programs, and tribal health organizations. Up to five rural communities from around Michigan will be selected to participate in this program, which is funded by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

A community must designate one organization to apply on behalf of the community team. Community teams will reflect the unique needs of their communities and must be multi-site and interdisciplinary. Teams may include representatives from hospitals, clinics, home health agencies, nursing homes, hospice programs, community-based organizations, and other key stakeholders. The application should include a clear commitment from all key health care providers and organizations working together to support your community.

While there is no fee to participate in the collaborative, participating organizations must commit resources and staff to the initiative.

Community selections will be announced on March 14, 2025.

[Click Here for More Information and Application Materials](#)

Exciting Mini-Grant Opportunities for Improving Health in Rural Communities



The American Heart Association is proud to announce two mini-grant programs designed to foster healthier lives in the rural Midwest. These grants are tailored to address pressing health challenges, from managing chronic diseases to tackling social drivers of health in innovative and sustainable ways.

The **Blood Pressure & Beyond Mini-Grant** offers up to \$2,000 to healthcare organizations for implementing evidence-based policies and practices that enhance chronic disease management. Applicants can use the funding to adopt new blood pressure measurement practices, develop collaborations addressing social drivers of health, or create innovative workflows connecting patients to community resources like nutrition assistance or blood pressure self-monitoring.

The **Meeting People Where They Are Mini-Grant** provides up to \$1,500 for community-based organizations committed to improving health in trusted local spaces, such as libraries, food pantries, and community centers. Projects may include empowering residents to monitor their own blood pressure, enhancing access to nutritious food, or improving cardiac emergency response planning.

Don't miss this chance to secure funding that supports impactful and sustainable health improvements in rural communities.

Applications for both grants are due soon.

Make A Difference: Host A NURSES Grant Student In Your Clinic



Are you passionate about making a difference in helping nursing students serve in a community setting? Consider hosting nursing students who are participating in the NURSES Grant today!

The primary goal of the NURSES Grant is to provide community-based outpatient clinical experiences to BSN students. This initiative addresses the nursing shortage in rural Michigan by offering comprehensive student support. The grant covers mileage and lodging for clinical rotations and provides additional funding for paid internships. We are excited to welcome Rural Health Clinics to participate in this impactful program, developed in collaboration with the Michigan Primary Care Association.

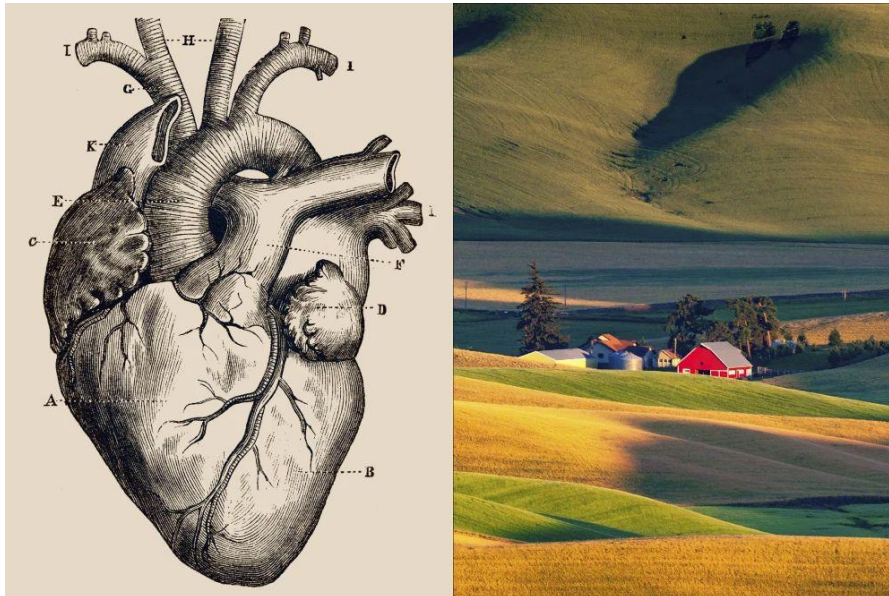
Qualified NURSES Grant Students Are:

- Undergraduate Nursing Students: Advanced-level BSN students in their 3rd or 4th year of study
- Demonstrate an interest in Underserved Populations: Students with an interest or knowledge of Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, Tribal Health Centers, and a passion for serving underserved communities
- Eligible Universities: Students must be enrolled in a BSN program at one of the following institutions:
 - Eastern Michigan University
 - Ferris State University
 - Grand Valley State University
 - Lake Superior State University
 - Michigan State University
 - Michigan Technological University
 - Northern Michigan University
 - Saginaw Valley State University
 - University of Michigan Flint
 - Wayne State University

For more information about the NURSES grant and if you are interested in hosting nursing students at your clinic, please contact MCRH Workforce Initiatives Manager Kyra Burkeen at kyra.burkeen@affiliate.msu.edu.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Heart Disease in Rural America - A Special Report



This special report from NBC News examines rising numbers of cardiovascular disease-related deaths among rural working-age adults.

The story also explores a variety of factors contributing to rural-urban cardiovascular disparities, including elevated rates of opioid use and limited health care access in many rural communities.

Please click below to read more about efforts by a research network to develop rural-specific solutions to increase access to cardiovascular care.

[Click Here to Read The Full Story](#)

MDHHS Offering Three Webinars to Celebrate SDOH Month in January



This month, join the MDHHS Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) team for free webinars focused on collaboration, innovation, and actions to address social needs and promote health equity. These sessions will offer valuable insights for healthcare providers, community organizations, policymakers, and those committed to healthier communities.

Webinar 1: *Scaling and Sustaining SDOH Hubs: Key Recommendations from the Advisory Council* Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 2:00–3:00 PM ET

In this session, SDOH Advisory Council members will share practical strategies in alignment, measurement, engagement, support, and equity. Participants will gain insights into building meaningful partnerships and enhancing community well-being through the innovative SDOH Hub framework. **-REGISTER-**

Webinar 2: *Community Health Worker Integration: Advancing Equity in Michigan* Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 1:00–2:00 PM ET

Explore the Community Health Worker Integration to Improve Equity (CITIE) initiative, which aims to reduce health disparities by training and integrating Community Health Workers (CHWs) in communities most affected by health inequities. **-REGISTER-**

Webinar 3: *SDOH Hubs: Cultivating Strong and Resilient Communities* Thursday, January 30, 2025, 2:00–3:00 PM ET

This session will unite state partners and community leaders to explore how Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hubs integrate services and resources, enhancing social and healthcare delivery tailored to community needs. Learn about local collaborations and upcoming developments in the SDOH Hubs initiative.

-REGISTER-

All webinars are free to attend.

MDHHS Launches Capacity Building Center to Improve

Access to Training for Behavioral Health Providers



To help improve access to training for behavioral health providers, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has awarded a contract to Public Consulting Group (PCG) following a competitive bid process to develop and implement a Capacity Building Center (CBC).

The CBC will offer select children's behavioral health training for public mental and behavioral health providers contracted through Community Mental Health Service Programs and Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans. It will provide a centralized resource for providers to access training opportunities to continue to grow the capacity and knowledge of those supporting children, youth, and their families.

Initial trainings expected to be coordinated through the CBC include the following topics:

- Michigan's Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths assessment tool.
- Intensive Care Coordination with Wraparound.
- Children's Waiver Program and Serious Emotional Disturbance Waiver.
- Other Medicaid-funded specialty behavioral health services for children, youth, and families.

MDHHS will continue to work with PCG to add additional training opportunities once the initial implementation and evaluation of the CBC is complete. The CBC website is slated to launch in May 2025.

[Click Here for Full Press Release](#)

Primary Care Collaborative 2024 Evidence Report: An Evaluation of Primary Care in Medicare Accountable Care Organizations



Last spring, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released an issue brief highlighting the more significant savings achieved by Medicare Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) that are led by independent physician groups and those with a high proportion of primary care physicians. This report was welcome news about the success of a value-based payment model—the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP)—from the official budget scorekeeper for the U.S. Congress.

The Primary Care Collaborative (PCC)’s 2024 Evidence Report examines primary care centric ACOs, defined as those with a high proportion of participating primary care physicians and evaluation and management visits by primary care. Using quantitative and qualitative analyses, the reporting seeks to better understand what contributes to their success and inform policymakers and innovators working to move our healthcare system from volume to value.

PCC partnered with the Robert Graham Center and Simple Healthcare to produce this report.

[Click Here for the Complete Report](#)

2025 Physician Fee Schedule Webinar – January 30

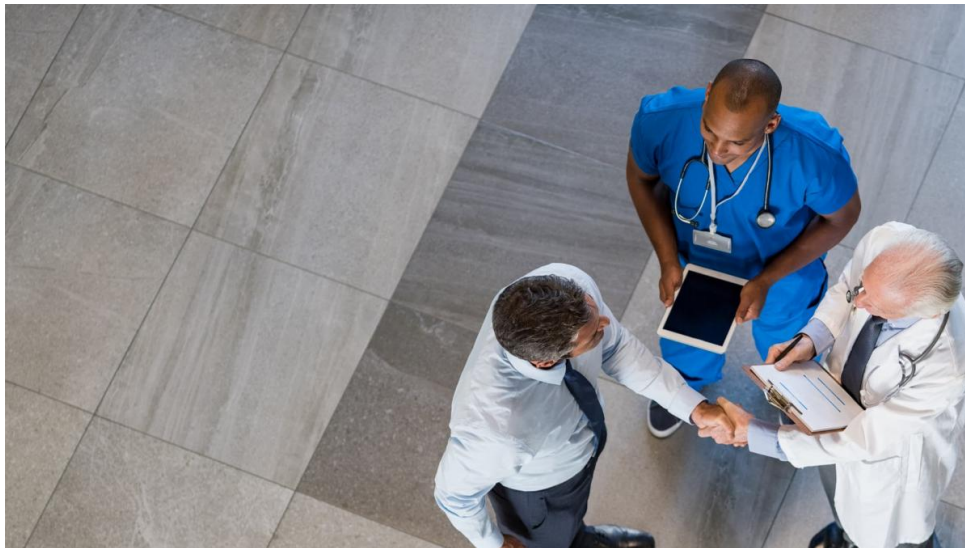


The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently updated the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) for 2025 through the [Calendar Year 2025 PFS Final Rule](#). A free webinar will take place on January 30 at 2 PM EST to guide participants through the updates.

CMS subject matter experts will discuss and highlight policy updates on general care management, Advanced Primary Care Management (APCM), telehealth, Rural Health Clinic (RHC) and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) policy updates, behavioral health, dental services, and more.

[Click Here for More Details and Webinar Registration](#)

Rural Health Clinic CY 2025 All-Inclusive Rate



CMS updated the rural health clinic (RHC) all-inclusive rate for CY 2025. The payment limit per visit for independent and provider-based RHCs in hospitals with 50 or more beds is \$152.00.

The payment limit per visit for specified provider-based RHCs with an April 1, 2021, established payment limit that continues to meet the qualifications in section 1833(f)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act is the greater of these amounts:

1. Your payment limit per visit starting January 1, 2024, increased by 3.5%
2. The national statutory CY 2025 payment limit per visit of \$152.00

More Information:

[Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 9 \(PDF\)](#), section 20.2
[Instruction to your Medicare Administrative Contractor \(PDF\)](#)

Medicare Advantage Enrollment Update 2024



This policy brief continues the RUPRI Center's annual Medicare Advantage (MA) enrollment updates. In addition to tracking overall and nonmetropolitan/metropolitan (rural/urban) MA enrollment, this brief also reports on changes in enrollment in types of MA plans. The Center's ongoing line of inquiry also considers policy changes from previous years that may have impacted MA plan enrollment.

Key Findings

- Medicare Advantage (MA) enrollment now exceeds 50 percent of eligible beneficiaries (enrolled in both Part A and Part B) in metropolitan counties (56.1 percent); at the current rate of growth, nonmetropolitan enrollment is expected to exceed 50 percent (currently 48.1 percent) next year, in 2025.
- While the annual rate of MA growth continues to exceed the growth rate in total Medicare eligible beneficiaries, it has moderated somewhat from previous years.
- Much of the growth in nonmetropolitan MA enrollment has been in plans using local preferred provider organizations (PPOs), accounting for most MA enrollees in nonmetropolitan counties since 2022.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Medicaid Behavioral Health Providers & Telehealth Service Usage Pre and During COVID-19



This study examines the extent to which Medicaid providers who deliver behavioral health services shifted their practices to mostly tele-behavioral health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, providers of mental health or substance use services (behavioral health services) quickly transitioned to telehealth due to social distancing recommendations. Telehealth helps overcome long-standing barriers to accessing behavioral health care, such as limited provider availability and lack of transportation in some communities. Tele-behavioral health services can enhance patient outcomes, reduce care costs and time, and offer confidential options for those hesitant about in-person services.

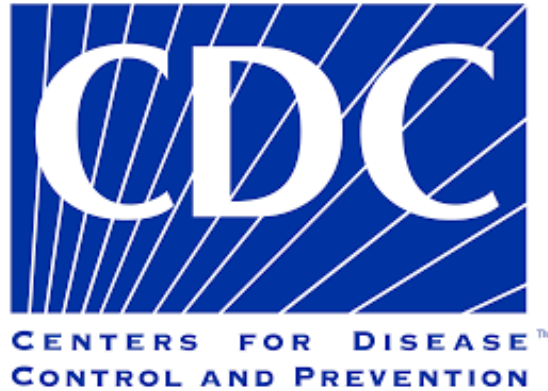
Shifting behavioral health services from in-person to telehealth could, however, have unintended consequences. Certain populations, including people with disabilities or those with limited Internet access or comfort with technology, may find it difficult to engage in telehealth, and it can limit the ability of providers and patients to develop therapeutic relationships.

This study found that the proportion of providers who delivered more than 80% of their behavioral health services via telehealth increased during the pandemic, with one-quarter of specialty providers delivering most behavioral health services via telehealth.

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

Strengthening Vaccine-Preventable Disease

Prevention and Response



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is offering funding to public health systems to protect people and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases by equitably increasing access, confidence, and demand for vaccines.

The purpose of this opportunity is to protect all people from vaccine-preventable diseases using seven strategies designed to reduce morbidity and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs):

- Strengthen program infrastructure and management
- Increase vaccine access
- Improve vaccination equity
- Promote vaccine confidence and demand
- Enhance data and evaluation
- Strengthen program support for partners
- Enhance vaccination response readiness

The application deadline is March 13.

[Click Here for More Details](#)

Join NARHC Washington DC Staff for Office Hours



Did you know that the NARHC DC Staff continues to host RHC Office Hours every other Wednesday at 1 PM ET via Zoom?

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone in the RHC community to ask questions and engage directly with NARHC staff. Topics can include:

- RHC policy
- Medicare
- RHC certification
- and more!

Please feel free to drop by the Zoom room [here](#) anytime between 1 and 2 PM ET on the dates listed below to participate in this valuable form of technical assistance. No registration is required!

Upcoming Office Hours for 2025:

- Wednesday, January 22
- Wednesday, February 5
- Wednesday, February 19
- Wednesday, March 5
- Wednesday, April 2

Attendees without computer access or computer audio can use the dial-in information below:

- Dial-in Toll-Free #: +1 301-715-8592 PIN: 817 4717 3194#
- Meeting ID: 817 4717 319

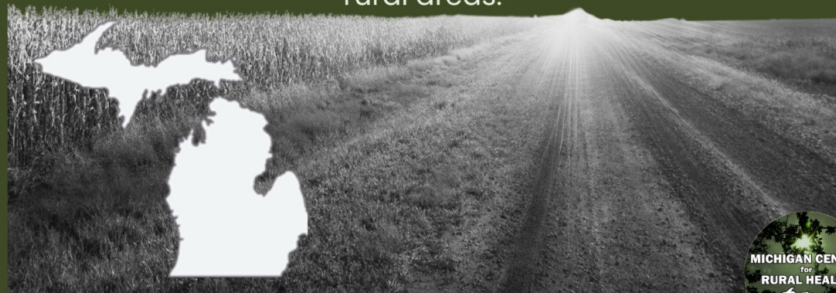
We hope you join us! If you have questions outside of this time, please don't hesitate to reach out to sarah.hohman@narhc.org.

Nominate the 2025 Rural Health Professional of the Year

Nominations Are Being Accepted Until March 7

2025 RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Presented to individuals deserving of recognition for their efforts in carrying out exemplary work promoting health in rural areas.



Nominations Due March 7, 2025

Since 1994, the Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH) has celebrated an outstanding rural health professional for achievements they have directed to advance Michigan's rural health initiatives. The recipient is chosen through a nomination process and will be celebrated with a special award during the 28th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference on April 24, 2025, at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

“The Rural Health Professional of the Year Award” formally acknowledges someone deserving of recognition for their distinctive efforts to elevate rural health in Michigan.

The award is granted to an individual who has carried out exemplary work promoting health in rural areas, shown excellent leadership in improving health care services in rural Michigan, and made worthy contributions to improving the health of the people in rural Michigan.

If you know someone who fits this description – nominate them TODAY!

Please contact Laura Mispelon (laura.mispelon@affiliate.msu.edu) for more information about the Rural Health Professional of the Year nomination process.

[Click Here for the Rural Health Professional of the Year Nomination Form](#)

[Click Here for Additional Information](#)



Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

Grand Rounds:

January 17, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Oral Health Grand Rounds: Understanding the New AAP Periodontal Classification System

Speaker: Sheree Duff, RDH, BSDH, MSA

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, and Dental Assistants

January 28, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Special Populations Grand Rounds: Rethinking Community-Based Palliative Care

Speaker: John Mulder, MD, FAAHPM, HMDC

[Register Here](#)

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

February 12, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Special Populations Grand Rounds: Understanding Veteran Culture to Overcome Bias

Speaker: Adam McGuire, PhD and Emre Umucu, PhD

[Register Here](#)

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

Project ECHO: *2025 Information Coming Soon!*

EMS:

February 12, 2025, 6-7 PM EST

Medical Legal Rounds

Speaker: Scott Moore, Moore EMS Consulting

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided

Additional Resources

Here are some topics impacting the RHC Community in Michigan this month.

- [NEW: Well-Being Interventions for Rural Health Professionals: A Scoping Review](#)
- [NEW: 2025 Data Submission Webinars from the American Heart Association](#)
- [Mpox Clade I DRC Outbreak Updates and Mpox Testing](#)
- [The Michigan Health Council \(MHC\) Offers Five Virtual One-Hour Implicit Bias Training Courses](#)
- [HRSA Payment Program for RHC Buprenorphine-Trained Providers](#)

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