



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 24, 2023

CONTACT: Lynn Sutfin
517-241-2112
Sutfin1@michigan.gov

MDHHS pilots community health worker program at COVID-19 neighborhood testing sites

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announces a pilot program for community health worker (CHW) services at select COVID-19 Neighborhood Testing sites to address community health needs. CHWs will offer on-demand referral services to essential health and well-being resources including behavioral health and social services. Visitors to participating sites can meet with an on-site CHW to connect with community resources that include food access, housing supports, utilities assistance and health care enrollment.

“We must take every opportunity we have to bring access to health care to residents where and when they need it,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. “Increasing entry points to care leads to improving social determinants of health and the overall well-being of our communities. We continue to look for innovative ways to keep Michigan residents healthy.”

CHWs are trained public health professionals and trusted members of the community whose goal is to address social determinants of health and serve as links between residents and the health and social resources needed to improve well-being. At the testing sites, CHWs refer visitors to behavioral and health care providers, assist with health insurance coverage, point to Michigan’s 211 program referral helpline and more. CHWs also offer education on healthy lifestyles and habits, and provide education on managing medications or chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes.

“Based on lessons learned and best practices established over the last few years, it is important to continue our work to address racial disparities across social determinants of health,” said the Hon. Thomas Stallworth, director of the Racial Disparities Task Force and the Governor’s senior advisor for Legislative and External Affairs. “This includes expanding community hubs, enhancing services and public health programs, and providing referrals to resources where its most convenient for our more vulnerable community members.”

The CHW services are currently funded through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant focused on addressing health disparities among high-risk and underserved populations. MDHHS will continue to evaluate ways to support community health needs across the state.

CHWs will be located at these pilot sites:

Wayne County

Wayne County Community College District, Northwest Campus

8200 West Outer Dr., Detroit

- Tuesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bethel Baptist Church East

5715 Holcomb St., Ste. 33, Detroit

- Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hartford Memorial Baptist Church

14000 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit

- Monday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Genesee County

Bethel United Methodist Church

B1309 N Ballenger Hwy., Flint

- Thursday 1-7 p.m.

Macedonia Baptist Church

G5443 N Saginaw St., Flint

- Monday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Word of Life Baptist Church

460 W. Atherton Rd., Flint

- Tuesday noon to 6 p.m.

Muskegon County

Christ Temple Church

412 E. Sherman Blvd., Muskegon

- Monday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Free consultation services up to 45 minutes are available. Walk-ins are taken as space and time allows, and no ID or insurance is required.

The first evaluation of the CHW pilot will occur at the end of May. To learn more about CHWs, visit the [Michigan Community Health Workers Alliance website.](#)

###