

WORD UP

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2025

– FREE PUBLICATION –

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August Is Community Health Worker Appreciation Month



Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued a proclamation declaring the month of August as Community Health Worker Appreciation Month. Republican cuts to health care will impact health care workers in Michigan. Governor Whitmer remains committed to supporting community health care workers, ensuring they can continue to get their jobs done. As such, Community Health Worker Appreciation Month offers the opportunity to uplift and honor health care workers for their vital work for Michiganders across the state.

“Community health care workers step up every day to support public health in Michigan,” said Governor Whitmer. “Their work is critical to ensuring more Michiganders can get quality care on time and without breaking the bank. But Republican cuts to Medicaid put their work at risk by cutting important streams of revenue to centers that employ health care workers. While I can’t change what’s happening in Washington, I’m doing what I can to protect community health workers and support them as they continue to deliver health care to communities in need.”

“Community health workers are pivotal to helping more Michiganders live healthy, prosperous lives,” said Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II. “This month, we recognize all they do to make a difference in communities across Michigan. As we fight to prevent devastating Republican cuts to Medicaid and other health care programs, let’s continue to Stand Tall for our dedicated community health workers and work together to build a state where everyone can succeed.”

Community health care workers are critical in supporting public health in Michigan. As workers employed by community health centers, they serve working families, creating a critical bridge between Michigan’s health care system and Michiganders. Community health care workers provide culturally competent care, increase patient satisfaction and trust in Michigan’s health care system, better serve rural populations,

and more. Community health care workers remain important partners in the Whitmer-Gilchrist administration’s work to make sure every Michigander can get affordable, quality health care.

Republican Cuts to Medicaid Impact on Community Health Workers

The Republican cuts to Medicaid not only will leave many Michiganders without access to affordable health care but could also lead to layoffs in key health care fields. Given that rural hospitals and

clinics heavily rely on the work of community health workers, cuts to Medicaid threaten sources of revenue for these providers. Cuts to Medicaid have the potential to sever the bridge between community health workers and Michiganders by reducing the number of health care workers in the field. This would be catastrophic for public health in Michigan, reducing progress made toward accessible and affordable health care.

THIS MONTH’S COVER WORDUP CELEBRATES 22 YEARS

WORD UP Community Magazine
It’s About You. It’s About Family. It’s About Community.
A Monthly Publication.

Free Publication Compliments of our Advertisers
Focus: Empowering our community by Focusing on the Positive Aspects of Our Area.

Contact Us

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Sign up to receive the monthly publication at wordupmagazine@charter.net

Online:

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www.wordupcommunitymagazine.com
www.facebook.com/wordupcommunitymagazine

Media/Social Media Director: DeVante Marselis

Materials closing date

Materials are due the 20th of each month for the next month’s publication. Please contact our office for details.

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SCCMHA looks for public help in Community Needs Assessment



Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority needs your help!

As part of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) project, we are required to submit information gathered from a written assessment of community mental health needs, aimed at emerging or changing factors that are consistent with the goals of the public mental health system.

Being a CCBHC, this means we must provide care coordination, with needs ranging from access to high-quality physical and behavioral health, employment, housing, corrections, education, or social services, all in the mission to help facilitate wellness and recovery.

The assessment must involve input from both the public and private providers, as well as school systems, justice systems and other key stakeholders and community partners.



SAGINAW COUNTY
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY

As needs change, it is important to continuously identify those areas where we can assist more in the community we serve.

To better understand those, we are asking you to assist us in identifying what those needs are.

Throughout August, please complete the survey by either following the link or scanning the QR code below. Your input will help us learn how SCCMHA can provide more assistance and reach out to impact those areas in better ways going forward.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCCMHApartners>



Let's work together to build Saginaw County and find ways to help those in need!

Be sure to share this survey with other people in your community so we can get more input from everyone!

*All survey responses are anonymous



New Consumer Alert on Fake College Websites



Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel issued a new consumer alert warning prospective students and their families about fraudulent college and university websites. These websites impersonate legitimate higher education institutions to exploit students financially and steal personal information.

The new consumer alert follows a complaint to the Department of Attorney General from Eastern Michigan University (EMU), which reported that a website called smich.education was using the name Southeastern Michigan University to invoke EMU's reputation and credibility to lure prospective students worldwide who may be seeking online educational opportunities. The website is not connected to EMU. While the Department reviews potential actions against the website, Attorney General Nessel urges prospective students to refrain from providing any personal or financial information to the site.

"Fraudsters know that students and families are making big decisions about education, and they're exploiting that moment to steal their hard-earned money," Nessel said. "If something seems suspicious or too good to be true, do your homework before sharing any personal information. I want to thank Eastern Michigan University for bringing this matter to our attention so we can help protect our students from these scams."

"We deeply appreciate the Michigan Attorney General's Office for issuing this important consumer alert," said Walter Kraft, Eastern Michigan University Vice President for Communications. "Protecting students from deceptive and fraudulent schemes is a shared responsibility, and we commend Attorney General Nessel's leadership in safeguarding the integrity of Michigan's higher education system. In an era

where unscrupulous actors exploit digital platforms to mislead students, it is vital that we remain vigilant and proactive in defending those seeking legitimate educational opportunities."

A fake college or university website may have:

- **Wrong or missing contact information:** If there is no phone number, no address, or no one is answering, the website might be fake.
- **A domain that doesn't end in .edu:** Most real colleges have websites that end in .edu. Fake sites may use .com, .net, .college, .education, or .university.
- **Promises that sound too good to**

be true: Fake colleges may say students can earn a degree without doing any homework. Some may also offer degrees in just a few weeks or allow students to obtain a degree based on experience alone.

- **Strange ways to pay:** Real colleges will never ask students to pay using gift cards or cryptocurrency. Scammers use these methods because they are hard to trace.
- **Grammar or spelling mistakes:** Fake websites often have misspelled words or confusing sentences.
- **Pushy advertising tactics:** Fraudsters may use spam, pop-up ads, and high-pressure calls to advertise their fake school. Real colleges are less likely to do that.

Prospective students targeted by fraudulent college or university websites are encouraged to:

- **Find the college's contact information for themselves:** Don't trust the phone number or email on the website right away. Look up the school independently. Then call or email to ask questions.
- **Look for real reviews:** Try searching online for the college's name to find past students and professors. Don't rely only on reviews or stories on the college's own website.
- **Check if the college is accredited:** Prospective students can see if a college is accredited by looking it up on the U.S. Department of Education's website.

Application for Community Growth Academy now open

Peer learning cohort program to provide technical assistance and resources to transition-impacted communities

The Michigan Community & Worker Economic Transition Office is now accepting applications for the Community Growth Academy, an 18-month program that helps Michigan communities that have been impacted by transitions in the auto and utility sectors plan for long-term economic growth and prepare for future change.

“Many Michigan communities have been impacted by changes in the auto and energy industries, especially when major employers shut down,” said **Community and Worker Economic Transition Office Director Jonathan Smith**. “The Community Growth Academy gives these communities the tools to build stronger, more diverse economies and deal with challenges like lost tax revenue, higher unemployment or rising utility costs.”

Academy members will receive technical assistance designed to support communities with the tools and capacity to deploy the Community Transition Playbook and build customized economic growth and resilience strategies unique to their local needs.

Selected members will have access to additional benefits, including grant funding to implement projects, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, support from state employees with resource navigation and a dedicated, full-time fellow to assist with implementing the strategies designed and developed through the program.

“Economic shifts are not a one-size-fits-all process. The Transition Office recognizes that and works with communities to address their individual challenges. This project complements the Michigan Municipal League’s efforts to support local economic development, so we are happy to see this program launch,” said **Daniel Gilmartin, Michigan Municipal League Executive Director**.

“Many communities, despite having a shared idea of how they want to grow, do not always have the resources or capacity to pursue their vision. This program helps fill those gaps and builds on the work that CEDAM has done to build

local capacity through its existing fellowship programs,” said

Eddie Fakhoury, Community Economic Development Association of Michigan Executive Director.

The Transition Office encourages applications from community-serving organizations such as municipal governments, nonprofits, community foundations, regional planning or economic development agencies or tribal organizations representing transition-impacted communities. Academy membership will reflect diversity in affected industries and geographies across the state.

The Community Growth Academy is supported by funding from the Ballmer Group.

For more information about this opportunity, including a list of transition-impacted communities, visit Michigan.gov/CommunityGrowthAcademy.

To apply, visit Michigan.gov/CommunityGrowthAcademyApplication.





Saginaw County Community Action Center
2824 Perkins St.
Saginaw, MI 48801
P: 989-753-7741 • F: 989-753-2430 • info@saginawcac.org

SENIOR EXPO & WORKSHOP



Seniors, 60 & up, will receive information on:

- *Fitness, Nutrition & Wellness*
- *Financial Wellness Session*
- *Guest Presentations & BINGO!!*
- *SCCAC Programming*

On **August 26, 2025**
From **11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

To register, please call Senior Outreach at 989-753-7741 option 3.



50/50 Raffle Giveaway
~ Lunch will be served. ~



Positive Results Downtown Saginaw Presents Saginaw Night Live August 23, 2025

Positive Results Downtown Saginaw and the beloved Friday Night Live concert series are thrilled to announce a special Saturday Night Live concert on Saturday, August 23, 2025, in Morley Plaza. This milestone event marks the rescheduled 50th Anniversary Celebration following the cancellation of the original July date—and it promises to be an unforgettable night in the heart of Downtown Saginaw.

This FREE celebration honors five decades of unity, music, and Saginaw pride. Headlining the evening is Wonderlove: The Stevie Wonder Experience, a high-energy tribute to the legendary Motown icon. Opening the show at 5:30 p.m. is local favorite The Blue OG's, bringing soulful sounds and setting the stage for an incredible night of live entertainment. Event Highlights:

- When: Saturday, August 23, 2025 | Music starts at 5:30 p.m.
- Where: Morley Plaza, Downtown Saginaw
- Cost: FREE and open to the public

Attendees can enjoy food trucks, refreshing beverages, a kids' game area, and a non-profit showcase—truly something for everyone!

Proudly Sponsored By: Garber Automotive Group and WHNN 96.1 Friday Night Live Title Sponsors: Team One Credit

Union, Covenant HealthCare, WNEM TV5, and the Michigan Arts & Cultural Council (MACC). Special Thanks To: Saginaw Downtown Development Association, Morley Family Foundation, Grapp Lerash, Network Services Group, Huntington Bank, Ruth Ann Knapp, Frankenmuth Credit Union, Saginaw Public School District, and the Saginaw Community Foundation.

Please Note: To ensure a safe and enjoyable event, the following rules will be enforced:

- No pets, alcoholic beverages, or weapons allowed in the park
- All youth 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For more information, contact Ann Marie Batkoski-Sullivan. Positive Results Downtown Saginaw, also known as P.R.I.D.E. In Saginaw is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. P.R.I.D.E. is a volunteer-driven organization, engaging in and supporting the City of Saginaw through year-round events and projects that enhance the quality of life for our community.



JOIN US!

Saginaw Community Foundation's 2025 Annual Celebration

**MON
9/8**

5³⁰ – 8 P.M.
PROGRAM STARTS AT 6 P.M.

Saginaw Valley State University • Curtiss Hall
7400 Bay Rd. • University Center, MI

\$40K Community Improvement Initiative Grant Announcement

Hearty Hors d'Oeuvres | Refreshments | Entertainment | Community Awards

FREE TO ATTEND • RSVP BY SEPT. 2

Call: (989) 755-0545 • Or register online at saginawfoundation.org/ac25



From the Desk of Michigan

Chief Mobility Officer Justine Johnson



MOBILITY INNOVATION EXCHANGE

If you've been looking at your fall calendar, you know that we're all about to be very busy in September. This year, we're celebrating our industry with Mobility Week -- a week (plus!) of events highlighting the work we all do day in and day out and creating new opportunities for collaboration into the future.

We're proud to convene industry leaders, startups, and policymakers to accelerate this momentum and show the world why the future of mobility is being made in Michigan.

In Michigan, we're not just talking about the next generation of mobility—we're building it.

After hosting a sold-out conference in 2024, OFME's signature annual conference is back and now at Huntington Place in Detroit.

Join us on Tuesday, September 23, as we showcase mobility opportunities across air, land, and water. Speaker organizations include:

- Detroit Venture Partners
- Aqua Action
- Bloom
- Newlab
- Energy Security Partners & more

Mobility Week is a global initiative that celebrates innovation at the intersection of transportation & technology.

REGISTER NOW

<https://medc.cventevents.com/event/MIX>

Huntington Place

1 Washington Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48226
September 23, 2025
7:00 AM-5:00 PM

Join us for the MIX Conference convening experts at the intersection of mobility, transportation, and technology to dive into opportunities for impact. As global industries evolve, the convergence of sustainable transportation, smart infrastructure, and aerial innovation is reshaping how we move people and goods.

This event brings together industry leaders, policymakers, innovators, and investors to explore the future of mobility—from urban air transport and electric aviation to supply chain modernization and industrial transformation. Discover how cutting-edge technologies are not only redefining transportation but also powering a new wave of domestic manufacturing and economic revitalization.



Key Themes:

- Advanced Aerial Mobility
- Infrastructure Assets for Innovation
- Industrial Policy and Reindustrialization Strategies
- Public-Private Partnerships in Advanced Mobility

Whether you're in aerospace, automotive, logistics, urban planning, or tech—this is your opportunity to connect, collaborate, and shape the future of mobility.

Fees

Below is all of the pricing information for the event. Please take advantage of our early-bird pricing and act now!

Event Registration

\$240.00

Changes to **\$300.00** after Sunday, August 31, 2025

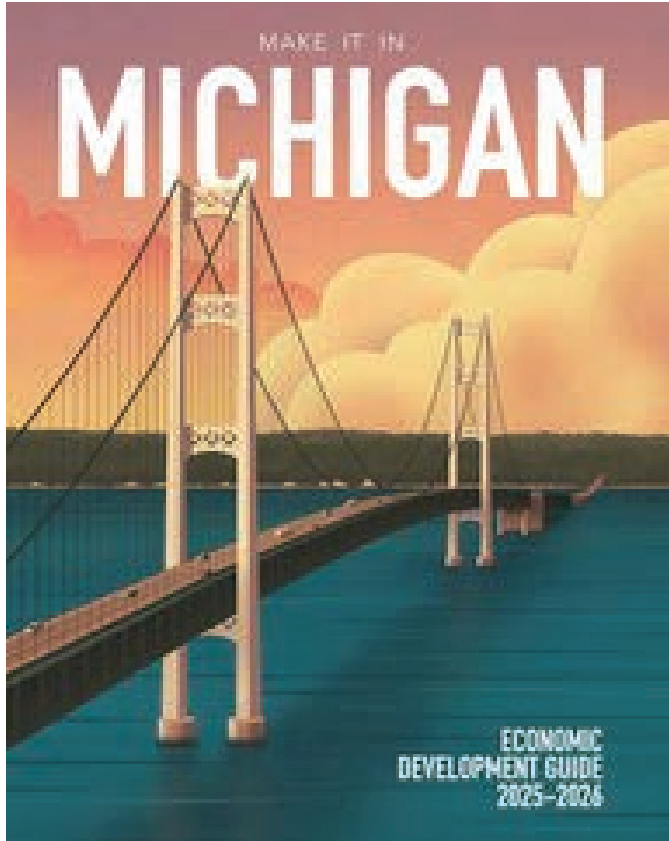
Non-refundable

For student, government, and non-profit pricing please reach out to Janine Robar at robarj@michigan.org
See you in September!



Michigan Remains No. 1 in Nation for Auto Industry, Rises to Top 3 for Manufacturing and Semiconductor Jobs

State improves ranking in key categories including corporate tax climate and retains dominant positions in life sciences, exports and customized workforce training, as reported by Business Facilities



Michigan's ascent to the top of national rankings continues with the latest announcement from Business Facilities. In its 21st Annual Rankings Report, Michigan was again named the top state in the nation for the automotive industry. According to Business Facilities, the ranking takes employment into account, with consideration for job increases over the past year, as well as relocation and expansion investments and export figures.

Michigan also ranked No. 3 in the semiconductor jobs and manufacturing jobs categories, highlighting the state's ongoing leadership in those industries and improving its position from last year. According to the report, Michigan remains in the top ten for life sciences (No. 6) and exports (No. 7), with \$61.5 billion in reported value. In a new development for 2025, Michigan entered the top ten states for corporate tax climate at No. 9.

"Team Michigan is honored by this continued recognition of the vision and collaboration underpinning our execution of our 'Make It in Michigan' economic development strategy. This

evidence of success from our focus on advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, and other key industries shows that companies of all sizes are investing in Michigan's greatest asset, her people, and choosing to make Michigan their home. Thanks to bipartisan support of economic development by the Michigan Legislature and Governor Whitmer's leadership, we celebrate these wins while remaining laser-focused on the mission: move Michigan to No. 1 overall," said Quentin L. Messer, Jr., CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

In addition, Michigan was ranked No. 9 for customized workforce training by Business Facilities, which also selected the MEDC's Talent Action Team as part of its 2025 class of ten statewide Economic Development Organization (EDO) Award winners in April 2025.

Business Facilities also recognized Michigan metro areas in its 2025 Metro Rankings, with Detroit as a Tech Talent Leader (No. 3 in the mid-sized labor pool category) and Large Manufacturing Hub (No. 9), and Grand Rapids/Kentwood as a Small Manufacturing Hub (No. 2).

These rankings build on the state's recent recognition on a national stage this summer.

In July 2025, Michigan was ranked as the No. 6 state for business according to CNBC's America's Top States for Business 2025 list – the highest the state has ranked since the list was launched. The state moved up three spots from No. 9 on last year's list and appears in the top 10 for the fourth time powered by the state's economic development framework focused on People, Places, and Projects that ensures anyone can 'Make It in Michigan.'

To learn more about Michigan's award-winning environment for businesses, read the Michigan Economic Development Guide, presented in partnership with Site Selection and on behalf of the State of Michigan.

This issue highlights the state's 'Make It in Michigan' economic development strategy, which focuses on supporting People, Places, and Projects to drive economic growth throughout the state.



Secretary Benson statement on court ruling protecting voting rights of Michigan's military and overseas citizens



Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson made the following statement on Michigan Court of Appeals ruling upholding the dismissal of a Republican National Committee/Michigan GOP lawsuit targeting the voting rights of Michigan's military and overseas voters:

"Last October, just days before Election Day, this baseless lawsuit tried to block votes from U.S. citizens and their families living abroad – including the spouses and children of active-duty military servicemembers. Thousands of their votes had already been submitted and were at clerks' offices waiting to be tallied in accordance with state and federal law. This shameful stunt was the latest pulled by well-funded groups

in their ongoing project to create chaos, cast doubt on our secure election procedures, and weaken our democracy.

"The Appeals Court did the right thing and upheld the lower court's denial of this frivolous legal claim.

"On this, the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act by President Lyndon Johnson, I will never stop fighting to ensure every eligible citizen can fairly and freely cast their vote. That's especially important for members of our military and their families stationed abroad, who make tremendous sacrifices to protect our rights and freedoms. Michigan servicemembers and their families are not pawns to be used in political games. Standing up for their right to participate in the very democracy they fight to defend should be a common-sense, nonpartisan goal shared by every American."

READ: Michigan Court of Appeals Decision: Michigan Republican Party v. Secretary of State.
<https://www.courts.michigan.gov>.

Ann K. Bruzewski Named President & CEO of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau (GLBRCVB) is proud to announce that Ann K. Bruzewski has been appointed as the new President and Chief Executive Officer. Bruzewski, a visionary leader with extensive experience in tourism and hospitality management, will succeed Dr. Annette M. Rummel who served the bureau with distinction.

In her new role, Ms. Bruzewski will oversee all operations and initiatives of the GLBRCVB, the Bay, Midland and Saginaw County CVB organizations, and the Go Great Foundation, utilizing her expertise to further elevate the region as a premier destination for both leisure and business travelers. Her appointment comes at a pivotal time as the Bureau executes its Destination Blueprint aimed at enhancing visitor experience, promoting economic growth, and broadening the tourism offerings across the entire Great Lakes Bay Region.

"Ann brings a wealth of leadership experience and a solid track record of success in the travel and tourism industry," said Elizabeth Lumbert, Madam Chair of the Board for the GLBRCVB Board of Directors. "We are confident that Ann's

innovative approach and passion for tourism will lead our region into a prosperous future."

Ann K. Bruzewski has over two decades of experience in hospitality

and destination management and marketing, having previously held leadership roles at Northwood University and MidMichigan Health. She is known for her strategic vision and commitment to sustainable tourism development which aligns with the Bureau's

goals to motivate additional overnight visits, extend visitor stays, and provide compelling destination experiences.

Ann will lead the bureau in implementing initiatives to disperse visitors across the destination, foster community engagement, and leverage the strategic partnerships to position Pure Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region as a destination of choice for travelers worldwide.

For further information, please contact: Elizabeth Lumbert, Madam Chair of the Board, Great Lakes Bay Regional CVB, (989) 752-7164, info@gogreat.com.



Ann K. Bruzewski



Governor Whitmer declares August as Breastfeeding Month

Aug. 1-7 – World Breastfeeding Week

Aug. 8-14 – Indigenous Milk Medicine Week

Aug. 15-21 – Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week

Aug. 25-31 – Black Breastfeeding Week

Sept. 1-7 – Workplace Lactation Week

Sept. 2-8 – Latina/x Breastfeeding Week
(Semana de La Lactancia Latina)

Michigan is committed to encouraging a strong foundation for life by supporting breastfeeding as not only a lifestyle choice, but an essential public health priority. As part of this effort, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared August 2025 as Breastfeeding Month.

“Breastfeeding can be beneficial to both babies and parents and protect babies against allergies, sickness and many diseases,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “We recognize that not all parents are able to breastfeed, and in those cases we offer resources to ensure that the nutritional needs of infants are met, and that parents feel supported. Michigan is committed to helping breastfeeding parents reach their goals through community-based support including doulas, lactation consultants and peer counselors.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breastfeeding up to age 2 years and beyond. Breastmilk provides countless benefits to the infant, including a decrease in the risk of respiratory and ear infections, gastrointestinal tract infections, necrotizing enterocolitis, sudden infant death syndrome, asthma, atopic dermatitis, eczema, celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease, obesity, Type 2 Diabetes and leukemia. It also reduces the incidence of breast and ovarian cancers, postpartum depression and cardiovascular disease for the breastfeeding parent; conditions that disproportionately impact Black, Brown and Indigenous people.

According to the World Health Organization, optimal breastfeeding is so critical that it could save the lives of more than 820,000 children under the age of five each year. Although 90% of Michigan families start breastfeeding, the difference between white non-Hispanic initiation (91.3%) and Black, non-Hispanic initiation (81.6%) highlights the barriers that impact families of color. Lack of support both in and out of the health care system, lack of access to high quality, affordable childcare and insufficient paid work leave negatively impact the number of people that start and continue feeding breast milk to their infants.

Michigan is taking action to remove barriers and increase support through several initiatives:

- Educating health care providers on the benefits of breastfeeding and the history of lactation for Black parents.
- Increasing access to breastfeeding support including online resources for families and doula-led breastfeeding training at the bedside.
- Partnering with and funding local/regional breastfeeding providers.
- Increasing childcare access by increasing compensation of childcare providers and the number of providers.
- Requiring implicit bias training for clinicians.
- Offering breastfeeding training opportunities to clinicians and community-based organizations.

Michigan’s Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program

is celebrating National Breastfeeding Month with the theme, “WIC Supports Superheroes.” WIC assists breastfeeding families in the following ways:

- Free, unlimited access to lactation consultants and breastfeeding peer counselors including telehealth, phone call or in-person appointment.
- All WIC staff receive lactation training so families can be assured that everyone they interact with can support their infant feeding goals.
- Breastfeeding clients get more WIC foods, including canned fish, and can stay on the program longer.
- At 6 months, breastfed babies receive infant meats and more fruits and vegetables.
- WIC offers a breastfeeding warmline available seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 833-MIWICBF (833-649-4223).



For more information on events and happenings in Michigan for National Breastfeeding Month, visit the Michigan Breastfeeding Network.

FREE MEALS FOR KIDS

YOUTH SUMMER FOOD GIVEAWAYS

MONDAY
SPAULDING TWP PARK
12 – 12:45 PM
5825 COLE ROAD, SAGINAW, MI 48601
PRICE NATURE CENTER
3 – 3:45 PM
6685 SHERIDAN ROAD, BRIDGEPORT, MI 48601

TUESDAY
OAKLEY TOWNSHIP HALL
12 – 12:45 PM
205 PARSHALL STREET, OAKLEY, MI 48849

WEDNESDAY
VFW POST 7302 HEMLOCK
12 – 12:45 PM
17595 GRATIOT ROAD, HEMLOCK, MI 48626
ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
5 – 5:45 PM
881 WALNUT STREET, ST. CHARLES, MI 48655

THURSDAY
ALBEE TOWNSHIP HALL
12 – 12:45 PM
10645 EAST ROAD, BLURT, MI 48417
ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY PARISH
3 – 3:45 PM
12835 E WASHINGTON ROAD, BILUMFIELD TWP, MI 48757

FRIDAY
JIMERMAN PARK
12 – 12:45 PM
3405 MIDLAND ROAD, SAGINAW, MI 48603
MICHIGAN HEROES MUSEUM
3 – 3:45 PM
1250 WEISS STREET, FRANKENMUTH, MI 48734
EVERY WEEK UNTIL AUGUST 15TH

THIS INSTITUTE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

- Free to the first 75 youth up to 18 year of age*
- Parents can pick up for their kids, kids do not need to be present
- 7 breakfasts & 7 lunches per youth

All meal bundles will include:

- 2oz meat/meat alternative
- 4oz fruit/veggie
- 1 serving whole grains
- 8oz low -fat milk

Kids don't have to be with parent for meal pick up

the Y

GetSetUp celebrates five years of delivering innovative aging programming

Partnership provides virtual resources to older adults across Michigan



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is proud to celebrate five years of partnership with GetSetUp, a community-driven service that transforms the lives of older Michigan residents through virtual resources. Having reached more than half a million residents so far with more than 1.5 million virtual class attendees, GetSetUp is helping residents stay healthy, connected and informed across all 83 Michigan counties.

Since 2020, this innovative collaboration has addressed some of the state's most urgent aging challenges — including digital literacy, social isolation, economic security and equitable access to health resources — by leveraging the power of peer-to-peer virtual learning.

"In a state as geographically and demographically diverse as Michigan, GetSetUp has helped us close the digital divide and offer consistent, accessible wellness and learning opportunities to older adults in every community," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "This platform reflects our values of dignity, independence and inclusion and continues to deliver on the goals outlined in Michigan's State Plan on Aging."

GetSetUp is an online platform for aging adults, ensuring opportunities exist at every age. Through expert sessions led by older adults for older adults as well as vibrant community interactions, the initiative inspires continuous learning, holistic well-being and a renewed sense of purpose, turning aging into a time of abundant growth and connection.

GetSetUp's programming mirrors the goals of the Michigan State Plan on Aging by addressing topics that include:

- Affordable housing and aging in place – virtual classes on budgeting, mobility and health empower older adults to thrive safely at home.
- Health and well-being – mindfulness, fitness and disease prevention classes support healthier lifestyles.
- Caregiver support – sessions on dementia, stress

management and community tools provide meaningful relief and guidance.

- Access to services and bridging the digital divide – tech tutorials and state program resources ensure older adults know how and where to get help.
- Social inclusion – with daily social sessions on topics ranging from coffee chats, creative groups and interest circles, participants are able to receive the positive benefits of community connection and regular social interactions.

"This is more than just a virtual health and wellness platform for ongoing longevity. It's an essential resource for aging well," said Lawrence Kosick,

GetSetUp president and co-founder. "We're honored to continue to serve as Michigan's digital health and wellness programming partner to help older adults remain independent, curious, healthy and connected."

The MDHHS-GetSetUp model is cost-effective and adaptable, reaching an audience of millions over the last two years alone. By reaching those in assisted living communities and rural homes, the platform has expanded partnerships with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and more across the state.

Looking ahead, MDHHS and GetSetUp will continue to expand the initiative, enhance culturally inclusive programming and offer new courses on artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship and fraud prevention.

GetSetUp partners with AAAs, Departments of Aging, MDHHS, Medicaid and Medicare Advantage plans to offer programming to millions of older adults. Classes are taught in English, Spanish, Hindi and Mandarin. Learn more at GetSetUp and follow us the program on LinkedIn.





Dear Saginaw Community...

Across our nation, we continue to witness heartbreaking incidents of violence that shake our cities, our families, and our faith in what's possible. From schools to neighborhoods, from street corners to shopping centers, lives are being lost, and futures are being cut short. As President and CEO of Victorious Community Development (VCD), I write not only out of concern but with deep commitment because while the challenges are real, so is our power to create change. Saginaw is no stranger to adversity, but we are also no stranger to resilience. We are a city of strong roots and even stronger people. We have parents who love fiercely, youth full of promise, and leaders who care deeply. And it's in that spirit that we press forward with real solutions and intentional action.

At VCD, we remain committed to empowering our youth, strengthening families, and developing collaborative efforts with law enforcement, educators, and civic leaders to create lasting impact. We continue to work closely with our Saginaw Police Officers to build trust, open communication, and improve safety in our neighborhoods. We believe that proactive dialogue is key, which is why ongoing roundtable discussions with our Chief of Police, Robert Ruth, are not only valuable but necessary. Additionally, we support and applaud the work of Neighborhood Association Groups who are



Christopher V. Pryor
President/CEO of Victorious Community Development

stepping up to engage in Saginaw's critical hot-spot areas. These partnerships are essential in building unity, reclaiming our streets, and offering safer pathways for our children and families.

Some of our current and upcoming initiatives include:

- Evidence-based youth and parent training that equips families with tools to succeed.
- Mentorship programs are led by young leaders and community professionals.
- Field trips and cultural experiences to expand students' worldviews.
- Police and youth engagement activities foster understanding and mutual respect.
- Career exposure, literacy programs, and life skills development.

We know the work is not easy, but we also know it is worth it. Our vision is clear: a city where every child is seen, every voice is heard, and every life is valued.

We call on our community parents, educators, clergy, business owners, and neighbors to continue to stand together. The time to invest in our youth and neighborhoods is now! Let's commit to being part of the solution and building a Saginaw that reflects the strength, hope, and brilliance of its people. Together, we can build a brighter future for our families, our youth, and generations to come. Let's keep showing up for one another, lifting each other up, and proving that when we unite, there's nothing we can't overcome. The best of Saginaw is still ahead!



Academics + Adventure = IMPACT

Future site of VCD's Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Impact Center

Established in 1999, VCD is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering community development in Saginaw, Michigan.

www.govcd.org

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP: RALPH MARTIN ELECTED TO SAGINAW ISD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Coty Kuschinsky



Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD) proudly welcomed Ralph Martin to the Board of Education following his election during the district's Biennial Board Election on June 2, 2025. A seasoned public servant with over 30 years in public safety, Mr. Martin brings a wealth of experience in community service, student advocacy, and school safety. During the board's organizational meeting on July 24, he was officially named Trustee.

"I've always believed in the power of being a steady, positive presence for others, especially young people," said Mr. Martin. "In this new role, I look forward to supporting initiatives that uplift our students and ensure safe, inclusive learning environments across Saginaw County."

Mr. Martin retired as Fire Marshal for the City of Saginaw and currently serves as a Fire Marshal Inspector for the State of Michigan's Bureau of Fire Services. His work includes inspecting school facilities across the state and advising on building code and safety compliance, an expertise that will support Saginaw ISD's ongoing commitment to secure and well-maintained schools. Martin has received numerous recognitions throughout his career, including the American Red Cross Fire Hero Award and the Michigan Banner's Heart of the City Humanitarian Award.

Dr. Katherine Ellison, newly elected President of the Saginaw ISD Board, shared, "Ralph's broad experience and thoughtful leadership are an asset to our board. His insight will further strengthen our commitment to putting students first in every decision we make."

Beyond his professional work, Mr. Martin is actively involved in several civic and nonprofit organizations, including the Public Libraries of Saginaw Board of Trustees, Saginaw Branch NAACP, Saginaw HELPS violence intervention initiative, and the Saginaw County READ program, where he's volunteered for over two decades.

"We are pleased to welcome Mr. Martin to the Saginaw ISD Board," said Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Collier. "His dedication

to public service, equity, and student well-being aligns closely with our mission to serve, innovate, and empower. His perspective will add tremendous value to our continued work on behalf of students, staff, and families."

Mr. Martin joins a team of leaders committed to building a stronger future for education in Saginaw County. Saginaw ISD looks forward to the leadership and integrity he brings to the boardroom.

ABOUT SAGINAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD) is an educational service agency that provides effective and innovative leadership, services, resources, and

programs throughout Saginaw County. Saginaw ISD provides career and technical education, early childhood, finance, human resources, instruction, pupil accounting, special education, technology, and transportation services. In addition, Saginaw ISD operates multiple educational programs to meet the unique needs of students ages birth to 26 across Saginaw County, including: Hartley Outdoor Education Center, Head Start/Early Head Start and Great Start to Readiness Programs, Great Lakes Bay Early College, Saginaw County Juvenile Detention Center School, and Special Education Center Programs.

Saginaw ISD serves 12 local school districts, four public school academies, and 22 non-public schools, with a total enrollment of approximately 26,000 students. Public school districts supported include: Birch Run Area Schools, Bridgeport-Spaulding Community School District, Carrollton Public Schools, Chesaning Union Schools, Frankenmuth School District, Freeland Community School District, Hemlock Public School District, Merrill Community Schools, Saginaw Public School District, Saginaw Township Community Schools, St. Charles Community Schools, and Swan Valley School District.



MDHHS seeks proposals to manage behavioral health care for Medicaid beneficiaries



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is seeking proposals from entities to serve as the state's Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP) to ensure Medicaid beneficiaries receive behavioral health care services and support. *Deadline for proposals is September 29.*

Michigan's specialty behavioral health care system provides health care coverage to approximately 300,000 Michiganders, including adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbance, individuals with substance use disorder and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. MDHHS contracts with regional PIHPs to manage and deliver these Medicaid-covered services in conjunction with the Community Mental Health Service providers embedded in the communities across the state.

PIHPs are responsible for making sure people receive the behavioral health care services and support they need and managing the network of behavioral health care providers including Community Mental Health Service Providers (CMHSPs). They play a vital role in helping the department achieve its mission to improve the health, safety and prosperity of residents.

Through a competitive procurement process, MDHHS will select PIHPs to contract with the state to provide managed care functions for the specialty behavioral health care services. The PIHP must contract with CMHSPs to provide a comprehensive array of mental health services as required by the Mental Health Code.

Feedback MDHHS received from Medicaid beneficiaries and their families, advocacy groups, community-based organizations, federally recognized tribal governments, health care providers and others via an online survey helped inform the request for proposal (RFP). MDHHS received more than 2,600 responses representing a variety of individuals and partners across Michigan.

MDHHS remains committed to transparency and preserving the public foundation that has long anchored behavioral health care in the state. As such:

- PIHPs will be required to adhere to the standards set

forth in the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

- The RFP is limited to nonprofit organizations and additional consideration will be provided to public entities to support public value and encourage collaborative governance.
- A minimum of one-third of the PIHP's governing body must be individuals with lived experience in Michigan's specialty behavioral health system elevating the voice of individuals and families served.

The Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB) is managing the RFP process on behalf of MDHHS. The PIHP RFP is posted on SIGMA Vendor-Self Service system online. To bid on proposals, all vendors must first be registered with SIGMA Vendor Self-Service. Registration is free, and information on how to register and obtain an account to bid on open solicitations is available online: DTMB – How to Register as a Vendor.

Interested bidders are encouraged to refer to the proposal instructions for additional information regarding questions, submittal and deadlines. Responses from bidders are due Monday, September 29. Bidders may submit written questions by emailing the solicitation manager Wednesday, August 20. DTMB will post answers to bidder questions on the SIGMA system by Friday, August 29.

Additional information about Michigan's Specialty Behavioral Health Services can be found at Michigan.gov/BehavioralHealth.

A poster for the SEDG's Small Business Expo. The top text says "We're Back" in a script font, followed by "SEDG'S SMALL BUSINESS EXPO" in bold. Below this is a graphic of a blue building. To the right, it says "This Year's Theme" in a script font, followed by "SHOP SMALL" in large, stylized letters, and "DREAM BIG" in letters that look like wooden blocks. At the bottom, it says "SAGINAW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION" and "2025 Small Business Expo". There is a "REGISTER NOW" button with a URL, and a date "THURSDAY / 28 AUGUST 2025" at "SVRC MARKETPLACE FROM 4 PM - 8 PM". It also mentions "Food Trucks and Retail Vendors" and "Register now through August 8th for \$50".

National Hispanic Heritage Month



National Hispanic Heritage Month is the period from September 15 to October 15 in the United States, when people recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the group's heritage and culture.

Hispanic Heritage MONTH was established by legislation sponsored by Rep. Edward R. Roybal (D-Los Angeles) first proclaimed President Lyndon Johnson in 1968. The commemorative week was expanded by legislation sponsored by Rep. Esteban E. Torres (D-Pico Rivera) and implemented by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period (September 15 - October 15). It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988 on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. All declared independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico, Chile and Belize celebrate their independence days on September 16, September 18, and September 21, respectively.

Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) also celebrates the long and important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans in North America. A map

of late 18th-century North America shows this presence, from the small outpost of San Francisco founded in Alta California in 1776, through the Spanish province of Texas with its vaqueros (cowboys), to the fortress of St. Augustine, Florida — the first colonial settlement in North America, founded in 1513, ninety-four years before the English landed in Jamestown, Virginia.

During HHM, communities celebrate the achievements and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans with community festivals, government-sponsored activities and educational activities for students.



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