



NORTHERN MICHIGAN
COMMUNITY
HEALTH
INNOVATION
REGION

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Regional Community Health Needs Assessment Awarded Two National Grants

MiThrive, a regional collaborative community health needs assessment conducted every three years, was recently awarded two national grants to expand data collection efforts in 2021 across Northern Lower Michigan. MiThrive is one of five initiatives that received a \$10,000 grant from the Center for Sharing Public Health Services to collect and analyze health equity data, and one of two initiatives that received a \$10,000 grant from National Association for City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) to include people with disabilities in the community health assessment process. With these grants, MiThrive will enhance data collection including gathering and analyzing additional statistics related to age, race, sex, and disability, asking additional types of questions on surveys and at focus groups and community conversations, and engaging more residents with lived experience in three regional MiThrive Workgroups.

Throughout 2021 there will be numerous opportunities for local residents to participate and support MiThrive by attending community-wide discussions such as assets and gaps of regional community systems or the forces of change in Northern Michigan, as well as sharing thoughts through surveys, focus groups, and community boards. The impact of COVID-19 on individuals, families, and communities will be a specific focus for the MiThrive community health needs assessment.

“MiThrive collects statistics and gathers perspectives from local residents to identify top concerns across a 31-county region, and with that data MiThrive collaboratively creates plans with diverse partners to address the priorities,” said Jane Sundmacher, Executive Director of the Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region, who leads the project on behalf of three hospital systems, seven local health departments, and other community partners. The project is important, she said, because it provides comprehensive information about communities’ health status, needs, and emerging issues. Many organizations use MiThrive data to drive decisions about where and how resources should be allocated to improve the places where people live, work, learn, play, and age.

MiThrive regional collaborative community health needs assessment is conducted every three years with funding from the following local health departments and hospital systems: Benzie Leelanau District Health Department, Central Michigan District Health Department, District Health Department #2, District Health Department #4, District Health Department #10, Grand Traverse County Health Department, Health Department of Northwest Michigan, McLaren Northern Michigan, Munson Healthcare, and Spectrum Health.

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