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Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region awarded \$640,000 in grants

The Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region (CHIR) has been awarded \$640,000 in grants from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Rotary Charities of Traverse City.

Funding from MDHHS for 2020, amounted to \$479,821, and includes: support for three Community Connections HUBs that work to link individuals to needed community resources, development and implementation of a common community improvement plan, and supports the backbone organization in coordinating and managing day-to-day operations and implementation of the work.

Funding from Rotary Charities came in the form of a Systems Change Accelerator Grant and amounted to \$150,000. The purpose of this grant is to collaborate with residents and stakeholders to improve three specific systems conditions that were identified through an inclusive community process. The conditions are increasing coordination and alignment across sectors, promoting health equity through system policies and practices, and being more responsive to resident voice.

“We are honored that MDHHS and Rotary Charities are investing in the work of the Northern Michigan CHIR,” said Jane Sundmacher, Executive Director. “With over 200 community partners across a 10-county region, we are working with individuals and within the community to reduce barriers to basic needs and mental health and substance use services. These barriers have serious consequences for health equity – residents of low-income areas have lower life expectancy than their more affluent neighbors.”

According to Michigan CHIR Evaluation Team at Michigan State University, the Northern Michigan CHIR is aligning systems and transforming individual lives by launching a paradigm change and creating a collective innovation space.

The Northern Michigan CHIR is one of five in the State designated by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. CHIRs engage a broad group of stakeholders to identify and address factors that affect residents’ health, such as housing, transportation, and food insecurity, as well as access to high-quality medical care. The CHIR model creates a neutral space for partners to unite around a common vision, aligning their objectives and services to meet the needs of the community.

For additional information about the Northern Michigan CHIR, visit www.northernmichiganchir.org.

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