

MCRH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2026
Volume 7, Issue 8

OUR MISSION

To coordinate, plan, and advocate for improved health for Michigan's rural residents and communities



Register Now for the Inaugural Palliative Care Summit!

Across rural Michigan, care is deeply personal. The people we serve are often our friends, neighbors, and familiar faces in the community. That connection is one of rural Michigan's greatest strengths, inspiring communities to develop thoughtful solutions that reflect the needs of the people who call them home.

Palliative care offers another way to build on that strength by supporting individuals living with serious illness and complex care needs. It can be provided throughout the care continuum, including alongside curative treatment, to improve quality of life for patients and their families.

At the **Rural Michigan Palliative Care Summit on September 24 at Kirtland Community College in Grayling**, attendees will hear from four rural Michigan communities developing community-based palliative care programs with support from the Michigan Center for Rural Health. These communities will share their experiences, lessons learned, and strategies for overcoming barriers.

Additional presentations will offer practical tools and guidance to help healthcare organizations implement, expand, and sustain palliative care services in their communities. MCRH is applying to receive CME, SW and CHW credits, 4-6 credits depending on approval.

Join healthcare leaders, clinicians, care teams, and community partners from across Michigan to exchange ideas and strengthen care for rural patients and families. Review the finalized agenda and register by early September to reserve your spot.

[Learn More](#)

Enhancing Rural Eye Care: MCRH Partnering with MDHHS along with Aspire Rural Health System for Innovative Point-of-Care Screenings



MCRH is continuing to work with Michigan's certified rural health clinics to improve clinical quality of care, and this month we are pleased to highlight a MDHHS funded project, facilitated by MCRH, supporting Aspire Rural Health System. In July and August, MCRH conducted site visits to Aspire Rural Health System clinics to support the rollout of a transformative pilot program aimed at increasing diabetic eye exam rates across rural Michigan. Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), this initiative addresses a critical gap in rural chronic care management. Diabetic retinopathy remains a leading cause of vision loss among adults, yet many patients delay or skip their recommended annual screenings because of the need for separate specialist appointments. To remove these barriers, the pilot introduces point-of-care diabetic eye exams directly into primary care settings. Participating locations—including Aspire's Deckerville Family Medicine and Marlette Family Healthcare clinics—are integrating AEYE Health technology, an FDA-approved, fully autonomous artificial intelligence (AI) system for diabetic retinopathy screening.

During a routine primary care visit, clinic teams capture specialized retinal images that are analyzed by the AI in real time. If signs of retinopathy are detected, patients receive immediate referrals to eye care specialists for comprehensive follow-up care. Beyond improving direct patient outcomes, MCRH's on-site collaboration and evaluation will examine how autonomous AI technology can be sustainably embedded into rural clinical workflows. The project also aims to support long-term sustainability by leveraging established billing codes to boost performance on key quality measures, such as Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) diabetic eye exam metrics.

Through strong partnerships between MCRH, MDHHS, and forward-thinking health systems like Aspire, innovative technology is making essential preventive care accessible close to home.

Reach out to [Renee Calkins](#), Education Manager, for more information.



EXHIBIT & SPONSOR REGISTRATION

2026 MICHIGAN CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL CONFERENCE

Navigating the Next Era of Rural Health

November 12–13, 2026 ♦ Park Place Hotel ♦ Traverse City, MI

Exhibitor and sponsor registration is filling quickly for the [2026 Michigan Critical Access Hospital Conference](#), taking place November 12–13 at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City.

This annual invitation-only conference brings together leadership teams from Michigan's Critical Access Hospitals to explore strategies and innovations in rural healthcare management. Exhibitors and sponsors can connect directly with rural healthcare decision-makers, showcase specialized services, and build valuable partnerships.

View the [Prospectus](#) and [secure your space](#).

Celebrating Michigan's Rural Hospitals



Michigan's rural hospitals continue to demonstrate the incredible impact they have in the communities they serve. This year, five Michigan rural hospitals earned the highest possible rating in the Forbes Top Hospitals by State 2026 rankings.

The list published July 14th, recognizes hospitals across the country based on their performance in four key areas: patient outcomes (55%), hospital best practices (20%), value (15%), and patient experience (10%). Each hospital receives an overall quality rating from one to five stars, with five stars representing the highest level of achievement. Nationally, just 259 hospitals earned five stars.

Among those top-performing hospitals are:

- **Munson Healthcare Grayling Hospital — Grayling**
- **UP Health System – Portage — Hancock**
- **Corewell Health Greenville Hospital — Greenville**
- **Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals St. Joseph Hospital — St. Joseph**
- **Corewell Health Ludington Hospital — Ludington**

These recognitions highlight the dedication of the teams working every day to provide high-quality care to patients and families in Michigan's rural communities. Achieving a five-star rating is a significant accomplishment and reflects a commitment to quality, patient outcomes, value, and patient experience.

Congratulations to these five hospitals and their teams on this outstanding achievement! MCRH is proud to celebrate the continued success and contributions of Michigan's rural hospitals.



Strength of Rural Spotlight Series

August 2026 Edition



Do you have a story to share? Know a rural organization or individual making a difference? Email Laura Stoddard, Social Drivers of Health Manager, at laura.mispelon@affiliate.msu.edu, and let us share your story!

*This month, we are excited to highlight **All Kids Thrive**, a parent-founded nonprofit in Northern Lower Michigan that supports families of children with complex health needs.*

All Kids Thrive grew from lived experience and a recognition that rural families can face added challenges, including long travel distances to specialty care, limited pediatric and behavioral health resources, communication barriers, and fragmented systems of care.

Through a Community Health Needs Assessment conducted with Region V for Kids, the organization heard directly from families, caregivers, clinicians, and community partners about those challenges.

Now, All Kids Thrive is using what they learned to strengthen family voice, build community partnerships, and create new opportunities for caregivers and healthcare professionals to learn together.

[Read the Full Story](#)



RECOVERY HOUSING FORUM

September 22, 2026 | 4-7pm | Grayling, MI



The Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC) is committed to strengthening recovery housing across our region by providing technical assistance, training, and resources to support recovery home operators. We invite you to join us for the **NMORC Recovery Housing Forum** on **September 22 from 4:00–7:00 p.m.** to connect with recovery housing professionals, learn best practices, and collaborate to enhance recovery support throughout Northern Michigan.

[Register Today](#)

[Learn More](#)

The 2026 3RNet Academy Registration is Now Open!



Registration for the 2026 3RNet Academy is now open! The 3RNET Academy 2026: Strategic Marketing for Recruitment is a six-part webinar series designed for healthcare HR professionals and recruitment leaders in rural and underserved communities. Grounded in the Recruiting for Retention framework developed by 3RNET, this year's focus equips participants with modern marketing strategies to attract mission-aligned healthcare providers in a competitive workforce environment.

The Michigan Center for Rural Health is covering the cost of the academy for all of our partners in rural Michigan!

Questions? Reach out to [Kyra](#) for answers!

[Learn More & Register](#)

CMS Updates

CMS Releases CY 2026 Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Guide for Hospitals and CAHs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a guide outlining participation, measure, scoring, certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT), and data submission requirements for eligible hospitals and



Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) participating in the Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program.

Hospitals and CAHs must report data for a continuous, self-selected 180-day EHR reporting period and submit web-based measure data and electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) data through the Hospital Quality Reporting Secure Portal between January 1 and March 1, 2027; eCQM submissions are due by March 1. Participants must earn at least 80 points, receive a nonzero score on every required measure, and submit eight eCQMs—five CMS-selected measures and three self-selected measures—for all four quarters of CY 2026. Although CAHs are not required to participate in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program, they must meet the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program's eCQM requirements.

CAHs that do not successfully meet program requirements may have Medicare reimbursement reduced from 101 percent to 100 percent of reasonable costs for their FY 2026 cost reporting period. Hospitals and CAHs experiencing significant hardship may apply for an exception from the downward payment adjustment for reasons including insufficient internet connectivity, extreme and uncontrollable circumstances, certain vendor or CEHRT issues, or decertified EHR technology.

CMS Finalizes FY 2027 Medicare Hospital Payment and Policy Updates

CMS Finalizes FY 2027 Medicare Hospital Payment and Policy Updates – Effective October 1, 2026. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has finalized the **Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System (LTCH PPS) rule**, updating Medicare payment rates, quality reporting, interoperability, and graduate medical education policies for hospitals beginning October 1, 2026. Key provisions include revised criteria for qualifying as a new residency program, a requirement that Medicare-approved residency programs comply with existing federal nondiscrimination laws, updates to the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting and Medicare Promoting Interoperability programs, and adoption of updated health information technology standards to support interoperability. CMS did not finalize its proposal to revise provider-based location criteria for off-campus facilities, leaving the existing regulations unchanged. CMS also finalized a new nationwide mandatory **Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Expanded (CJR-X)** model beginning January 1, 2028.

Preparing for Future RHTP Opportunities

MCRH was excited to support rural organizations during the recent Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) grant funding opportunity (GFO) application period.

MCRH provided tailored support for rural organizations, helping them navigate the grant application process and design compelling programs aligned with local strengths, needs, and grant specifications. As we wait for the next round of MDHHS RHTP GFOs, we would like to share some general steps rural organizations can take to prepare.

If you don't have a person on your team who is familiar with and has access to the MDHHS Electronic Grants Administration & Management System (EGrAMS), you can visit the [EGrAMS homepage](#) at any time. There, you can view short videos and guides to learn about EGrAMS, register your agency, and create a user profile to be ready for future opportunities. You can also visit the [MDHHS RHTP website](#) to learn more about Michigan's RHT program and subscribe to the MDHHS RHT listserv for updates.

Lastly, keep an eye on the [MCRH website](#) and newsletters for more resources and support offerings to come. MCRH is here to make sure that rural organizations don't have to approach RHTP alone.

MDHHS Issues Mental Health Framework Provider Enrollment and Billing Updates

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently issued a final Medicaid policy bulletin that updates enrollment, supervision and billing requirements under the state's Mental Health Framework. The policy is effective Sept. 1 and affects certain limited licensed non-physician behavioral health providers. The bulletin requires the following provider types to be enrolled in the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS) as "Rendering Only" providers and identified as the rendering provider on Medicaid claims:



- Master's-level temporary limited licensed psychologists
- Limited licensed counselors
- Educational limited licensed marriage and family therapists
- Limited licensed master's-level social workers

Providers currently enrolled under a "Managed Care Only" specialty are not required to re-enroll but must report their fully licensed supervising provider's National Provider Identifier and associate themselves with their supervisor in CHAMPS by Nov. 1 to avoid disenrollment and claim denials. The bulletin also provides billing guidance for fee-for-service beneficiaries.

While Level of Care Utilization and MichiCANS Screener assessments remain optional for these beneficiaries, qualified providers may bill Medicaid for completing the assessments using HCPCS codes H0002 and H0031. The assessments may be provided through audio-visual or audio-only telemedicine, and other mental health evaluation and treatment services delivered on the same day may be billed separately.

Please reach out to [Gennie Groover](#) with any questions.

[Read the Full Bulletin](#)

2026 NEMI Regional Food Summit



The Northeast Michigan Healthy Food Initiative will host the 2026 NEMI Regional Food Summit on September 9, 2026, at the UAW Conference Center in Onaway.

The free event will bring together farmers, food producers, healthcare professionals, community organizations, educators, entrepreneurs, and local leaders to explore practical strategies for strengthening Northeast Michigan's food system. Topics will include Food as Medicine, regenerative agriculture, local food business development, market opportunities, and resources to support a strong regional food economy.

The summit runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., followed by a farm tour from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

[Learn More & Register](#)

2026 UP EMS Conference - Registration is Open!



October 21-23, 2026

Registration is OPEN! As America celebrates its 250th birthday, we're excited to open Early Access Registration for the 2026 UP EMS Conference! Join us **October 21–23, 2026**, at The Northern Center at Northern Michigan University in **Marquette** and take advantage of our lowest registration rate of the year.

Your registration includes:

- Three full days of educational programming

- Access to industry vendors and exhibitors
- Networking opportunities with EMS professionals

View the [agenda](#) and reach out to marketing@platinumed.com with any questions.

Learn More & Register

Save the Date | National Rural Health Day Is November 19

National Rural Health Day (NRHD) celebrates its 15th anniversary this year, while MCRH marks 35 years as Michigan's State Office of Rural Health. These milestones make 2026 an especially meaningful year to recognize the people, organizations, and communities that demonstrate the #PowerOfRural across Michigan.



MCRH staff will be visiting communities on November 19. If your organization is planning a special event or activity, please contact [Aleah Huse](#), Projects & Communications Coordinator, so MCRH can help highlight your celebration.

Looking for ideas and resources? Visit PowerOfRural.org, explore [Ways to Celebrate](#), or download the [2026 NRHD Promotional Toolkit](#) for ready-to-use graphics, social media posts, logos, and other outreach materials.

In recognition of National Rural Health Day, the Northern Michigan University Center for Rural Health, in partnership with MCRH and the Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan, also hosts an annual essay contest for Upper Peninsula high school students interested in pursuing healthcare careers. Submissions for this year's contest will open in late September. [Learn more about the essay contest.](#)

Reminder: Michigan's Childhood Vaccine Recommendations Remain Unchanged

On August 17, MDHHS reminded Michigan providers that the MI vaccine recommendations remain unchanged and encouraged residents to get up to date on recommended vaccines before the start of the school year, as Michigan continues to follow evidence-based vaccine guidance outlined in the [Standing Recommendation](#). In December 2025, Michigan's Chief Medical Executive issued a [Standing Recommendation](#), supporting vaccine recommendations grounded in rigorous scientific evidence and transparent decision-making.

The Standing Recommendation advises clinicians to use the immunization schedules developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and endorsed by 12

leading medical and health care organizations including the American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Medical Association and others as the standards of care for immunization practices. MDHHS continually reviews evidence regarding vaccine safety and effectiveness, and there is no new data to support changes to the vaccine schedule at this time.

Combination vaccines, including the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine, have a long history of safety and effectiveness and can reduce the number of injections that children need. To read the full press release, [click here](#). In addition, a reminder that the [MDHHS County Immunization Report Cards](#) provide visual county-by-county breakdowns of immunization coverage across multiple age groups.

New Resource on Rural Maternal Health



Reimagining Rural Maternal and Child Health: A HRSA-funded publication from the National Governors Association reports on six states (Delaware, Missouri, Alabama, Illinois, Georgia, and North Carolina) making significant investments in maternal and child health through funding from CMS's Rural Health Transformation Program. Focus areas include workforce recruitment and retention, technology and regional hubs, and integrated care models.

[View the Resource](#)

New Toolkit at RHIfhub: Rural Mobile Healthcare



The Rural Health Information Hub (RHIfhub), in collaboration with the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, has released a free [Rural Mobile Healthcare Toolkit](#). The toolkit explores the benefits and challenges of mobile healthcare and offers practical resources for planning and implementing a program. It also highlights successful mobile healthcare models from rural communities across the country.

Free CNS Strategy Sessions

Are workflow bottlenecks, transition-of-care concerns, or evidence-to-practice implementation struggles impacting your clinical team? Get targeted support through **free**, 30-minute virtual CNS Strategy Sessions hosted by the Michigan State University College of Nursing.



Led by Mariah Foster, DNP, RN, AGCNS-BC, Director of the CNS Program at MSU College of Nursing and a board-certified Clinical Nurse Specialist, these sessions are designed to deliver maximum impact with minimal disruption.

[Learn More](#)

Updated Rural Hospital and Clinic Finance Guide Available

The updated *Small Rural Hospital and Clinic Finance 101 Guide* is now available from the Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC).



NATIONAL
RURAL HEALTH
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Designed for readers with varying levels of financial experience, the guide provides an introduction to rural health care finance, including payment structures, intervention strategies, and the top 10 financial indicators for Critical Access Hospitals. It can help rural health professionals strengthen their understanding of key financial concepts and support the financial performance of CAHs and Rural Health Clinics.

[Access the Guide](#)

How Ashley County Medical Center Increased Admissions by 30% and Expanded Specialty Access Without Adding On-Site Providers

Friday, August 21 | 2–3 p.m. ET

Join the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) to learn how Ashley County Medical Center implemented virtual specialty care to expand cardiology access, reduce unnecessary patient transfers and increase hospital admissions by 30%. Presenters will share practical strategies for



integrating virtual specialists, gaining staff support and measuring clinical and financial outcomes.

[Learn More and Register](#)

MBQIP Upcoming Deadlines, Reporting Reminders, and Resources



MCRH continues to provide monthly Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) updates that will help improve the quality of care provided in Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs).

Resource Updates for Critical Access Hospitals that reflect the new MBQIP Core Measure Set

[MBQIP Navigator](#)

[MBQIP Information Guide](#)

[Monthly MBQIP Data Submission Deadlines](#)

Data Submission Guides

These guides provide detailed instructions for submitting MBQIP measure data. They include measure details, linked trainings and step-by-step data submission instructions for the measure:

- [Hybrid-Hospital Wide Readmissions Data Submission Guide](#)
- [Safe Use of Opioids-Concurrent Prescribing Data Submission Guide](#)
- [CAH Quality Infrastructure Submission Guide](#)
- [MBQIP Navigator](#)

Upcoming Deadlines

The Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission measure deadline is approaching (October 1, 2026). This measure is being reported for the first time as an MBQIP Core Measure.

Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission Measure: Reporting Prep Reminder

You should begin preparing now for the upcoming Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission measure submission deadline. Use the checklist below to ensure your systems and accesses are ready to submit.

Reporting Readiness Checklist

- Confirm Health IT certification to the 2015 Edition Cures Update criteria. You can verify your edition on the Certified Health IT Product List.
- Work with your Health IT Department or EHR Vendor to Validate your QRDA Category I files against the most current requirements, including the CMS QRDA I HQR Implementation Guide and associated Schematron and sample files.
- Log into the HQR Portal to confirm your HARP account is active and associated with your organization. A new dashboard feature will display current, upcoming, and closed submission periods. This is a helpful resource for your organization to confirm and track to upcoming submission deadlines.

Stay Informed

CMS sends a listserv notice when the HQR Portal opens for submissions (Test and Production). Sign up here to receive these notices:

<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/listserv-signup>.

Test Before You Submit

Under the Data Submissions tab on the HQR Portal, you'll see the Test and Production options. Upload under the Test option first to confirm your QRDA I file(s) are accepted by the system before submitting in Production.

Additional Resources

For detailed guidance, review the Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission Data Submission Guide or access the Hybrid **Hospital-Wide Readmission Training video available on the [Telligen RQITA website](#)**

MCRH in Action

A snapshot of where MCRH staff have traveled and the work they've been doing across Michigan.

General

- [John Barnas](#), [Crystal Barter](#), [Jill Oesterle](#), and [Laura Stoddard](#) traveled to Mt. Pleasant, MI, for the MCRH Annual Board Meeting. The board discussed MCRH governance and operations, staffing, rural health transformation, and strategic planning. [View the full list of MCRH board members.](#)

Behavioral Health

- [Gennie Groover](#) traveled to Eaton Rapids Medical Center's Family Practice as part of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education Program provided by MCRH, to provide a presentation and share resources with medical providers on working with patients with positive mental health screens. If interested in this resource please reach out to Gennie Groover.

Hospital Programs

- [Jeff Nagy](#) traveled to Eaton Rapids Medical Center (ERMC) to meet with the Swing Bed team as part of the technical assistance MCRH is providing to help grow the program's swing bed days. While on site, Jeff also stopped by the ERMC Rural Health Clinic to check in on the lean throughput project MCRH has been working on with the team. [Click here to learn more about the resources MCRH offers.](#)

Improving Veterans Access to Healthcare

- [Jim Yates](#) traveled to Kingsford to attend and support the Upper Peninsula Veteran Community Action Team (VCAT) meeting.
- In Marquette, Jim attended the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) Director's town hall providing insight on rural veteran issues, and attended the Veterans Fishing Day resource fair providing resource information to local veterans.

- Jim traveled to Bay Mills to share veterans resource information at the tribe's Elders lunch, then provided veterans information at the Feeding America West Michigan mobile food distribution in Sault Ste. Marie.
- Jim traveled to the Sagola Senior Center to take part in a Quilts of Honor presentation, followed by a presentation on veterans resources.

Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium

- [Jeanne](#), Gennie, and [Joyce](#) joined HRSA for site visits with rural healthcare partners MyMichigan and Munson as part of the Behavioral Health Grant. The team visited the MyMichigan Telehub in Midland and Munson Behavioral Health in Traverse City.
- Joyce and Jeanne accompanied Dr. David McGreaham to an “Aging and Overdose” presentation at Bay View Association. The event was well attended, and participants received free naloxone, medication lock bags, and Deterra drug disposal pouches. Attendees also learned that adults ages 55 and older account for the largest number of overdose reversal calls to EMS in many northern Lower Michigan counties.
- Joyce and Jeanne also attended an inspirational presentation at Bay View Association by Father Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries. The Los Angeles-based nonprofit works with former gang members to help individuals and communities heal and thrive.
- NMORC supported the 5th Annual Reentry United National Conference in Grand Rapids with an exhibitor table. Jeanne promoted the Community Reentry Simulation events, which can now be scheduled across the state. She also shared information about MCRH programs and technical assistance opportunities available to rural healthcare organizations.

Primary Care | Certified Rural Health Clinics

- Jill Oesterle & [Aleah Huse](#) with National Kidney Foundation of Michigan staff visited four rural health clinics participating in the 2026 Chronic Kidney Disease Learning Collaborative: Port Hope Clinic, MyMichigan Clare Family Medicine, Charles R. Barker Jr. DO, Family Practice, and White Pine Family Medicine. Click [here](#) for more information on this work.
- Jill Oesterle & Jeff Nagy visited three RHCs at Beacon Three Rivers Hospital. The onsite visit provided an opportunity to walk through clinic operations, share resources, discuss best practices, and identify opportunities to strengthen processes and the patient care environment. Interested in similar support for your Rural Health Clinic? Reach out to Jeff or Jill to learn more.

Social Drivers of Health

- Laura Stoddard attended the Central Lower Peninsula Regional Prosperity Summit hosted by the Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity in Mount Pleasant, Michigan to engage local leaders moving health-related community priorities forward.

Workforce

- [Kyra Burkeen](#) attended the Michigan Industry and Talent Network Kickoff meeting in Detroit to connect with workforce partners and leaders across the state on best practices and new strategies for long term workforce solutions.
- Kyra presented to Physician Assistant students at Concordia University in Ann Arbor on the benefits of practicing in rural Michigan communities.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MCRH 2026 ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS



ADDITIONAL NEWS & RESOURCES:

RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS:

[Thinking of Converting to REH? Key Observations from Financial Modeling](#)

[Updated Guidance for Rural Emergency Hospitals \(REHs\)](#)

PALLIATIVE CARE:

[Supporting Rural Older Adults in Home and Community-Based Settings: Perspectives from Area Agencies on Aging](#)

[Palliative Care In U.S. Hospitals: 2026 Snapshot](#)

[State Innovations in Improving Access to Care for Adults with Complex Needs in Rural Communities](#)

[Perspectives on a Proposed Collaborative RUrAl PAlIiative Care Intervention \(RuPal\)](#)

TELEHEALTH:

[Expanding Dental Care to Children Through Telehealth](#)

[Building Michigan's State Broadband Plan](#)

[New Resource – Fact Sheet from Center for Connected Health Policy on telehealth related changes under the Proposed 2026 Physician Fee Schedule \(PFS\)](#)

HOSPITAL PROGRAMS:

PRIMARY CARE:

[CMS Enhancing Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act](#)

[CMS Finalizes New Model to Improve Access to Kidney Transplants](#)

[CMS Announces New Lower Drug Prices for 2026 / Negotiated Pricing Fact Sheet](#)
[CMS Innovation in Behavioral Health Model](#)

[New Changes to Behavioral Health Intensive Outpatient Program Coverage in Medicare](#)

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH:

[Updated Michigan Overdose Data to Action Dashboard](#)

[MiTracking Program: Michigan-specific environmental, health & population data](#)

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER:

[Opioid Settlement Resource Center - The Michigan Association of Counties \(micounties.org\)](#)

[Opioid Settlement Overview Table](#)

[Recovery-Ready Workplace Toolkit for Businesses](#)

[Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Pathways](#)

WORKFORCE:

[Statewide Investment Helps Youth Explore Future Careers In Michigan](#)

VETERANS:

[Early Alert is a free wellness service offering connection and resources for anyone who as ever served in the military!](#)

[Sign up for Veterans Health Updates](#)

[Sign up for the VA Office of Rural Health \(ORH\) quarterly newsletter](#)
[Access a full A-Z list of exposure topics](#)

[The VA Benefits Tool Most Veterans Don't Know About | VERA | Help with VA Benefits | theSITREP](#)

[Veteran Suicide Prevention: The Power of Connection](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[Career Survival Training](#)

[All Hazards Disaster Response Info](#)

[All Hazards Disaster Response Registration](#)

[Rural and Ready Symposium](#)

[Women in EMS Leadership Conference](#)

[Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium - LMS](#)

[2026 Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) Training Series](#)

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