



**PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA**

Central Michigan District Health Department  
*"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"*

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**To: Local News Media**

**From: Central Michigan District Health Department**

**RE: Funding awarded to Central Michigan District Health Department**

**Release Date: August 1, 2017**

**Central Michigan District Health Department Awarded \$100,000 for the  
Central Michigan Regional Rural Health Network Development Project**

The Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) was awarded a \$100,000 grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration to continue developing the Central Michigan Regional Rural Health Network. The Health Network includes health care providers, academic institutions, and health and social needs organizations working collectively to improve the health of and promote wellness among the 190,000 community members in the central Michigan region, including Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon Counties.

Under the newly awarded grant, the Central Michigan Regional Rural Health Network members will focus upon:

- Increasing the availability of Community Health Workers (CHW's) which serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. CHW's also build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.
- Collaborating on programs to improve access to physical and behavioral health care and nonemergency transportation services.

- Promoting healthy eating and active lifestyles with an emphasis on maternal and infant health, children's health, family and reproductive health, and older adult/geriatric health.
- Addressing regional health professional workforce education, training, recruitment, and retention issues.

The Central Michigan Regional Rural Health Network was established in 2015 expanding upon the earlier efforts of the Together We Can Improve Health in Central Michigan initiative which began in 2010 to improve community members' health outcomes. The Health Network consists of 28 members with scores of other agencies and organizations collaborating on health improvement efforts. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded 23 Rural Health Network Development Planning grants this year, and the grant award to the Central Michigan Regional Rural Health Network was the only one awarded to a rural health network in Michigan.

"The new HRSA grant award will enhance our partners abilities to collaborate and work collectively in helping people to live longer, healthier lives," said Steve Hall, Central Michigan District Health Department Health Officer and Chair of the Central Michigan Regional Rural Health Network. "We are especially pleased at the prospect of having more Community Health Workers in the region. Oftentimes people are not aware of the health and social service resources that are available or they are unable to navigate the systems associated with accessing those resources. Community Health Workers serve to bridge that gap in identifying and accessing resources resulting in people receiving the services that they need."

For more information on the Central Michigan Regional Rural Health Network, visit [www.together-we-can.org/cmrrhn](http://www.together-we-can.org/cmrrhn) or go to [www.together-we-can.org](http://www.together-we-can.org) and click on the *Rural Health Network* tab.

This article has been brought to you by the Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org), LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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