



2022 - 2025
Michigan Health
Improvement
Alliance
IMPACT REPORT

Better | Brighter | Stronger

Building Capacity to Strengthen Families and Households, Revitalize Neighborhoods and Communities, and Optimize Health and Care



Heidi Tracy
Chief Executive Officer

The Michigan Health Improvement Alliance (MiHIA) continues to reaffirm its role as a backbone organization—providing the infrastructure, coordination, and strategic guidance needed to align diverse stakeholders around a shared vision for regional health and prosperity. While backbone organizations can take many forms, MiHIA's model is rooted in cross-sector collaboration, capacity building, and systems-level transformation.

These guiding principles reflect the essence of MiHIA's role—and they underscore a fundamental truth: we cannot do this work alone. Our strength lies in the power of our coalition. Every step forward has been made possible by the dedication, insight, and leadership of our partners across sectors.

For the past several years, our work has been guided by the THRIVE framework—Transforming Health Regionally in a Vibrant Economy. THRIVE helped us define what needs to be done to improve health,

wellbeing, and economic vitality across our region. As our work has matured, so has our approach. Like any strategic initiative, THRIVE has evolved.

After convening listening sessions with more than 75 of our partners, we are proud to introduce a new movement that builds on THRIVE's foundation: Bloom: Thriving Together. Bloom reflects a streamlined, action-oriented approach that centers on inclusive growth, shared leadership, and the power of collective impact. It shifts our focus from what needs to be done to how we can empower organizations and communities to fulfill their missions and drive collective impact.

Despite the availability of millions of dollars to address social determinants of health, health equity, and community development, our region has often been bypassed. We identified a critical barrier: the Capacity Building Challenge, as described by Isa Gaillard of The Greenlining Institute. Under-

“...our most under-resourced communities are the very same communities with the least existing capacity and staffing to apply for and manage large infrastructure investments.”

The Capacity Challenge
Isa Gaillard

The Greenling Institute

resourced communities frequently lack the infrastructure, partnerships, and access to decision-making power needed to secure and manage large-scale investments.

Over the past three years, our collaborative efforts have helped secure more than \$4 million in funding to advance health, well-being, and community development throughout our region. This report offers a glimpse into that shared impact, and details the breadth of work as a result of that funding. We are proud to be part of a vibrant network of hundreds of organizations and agencies throughout the region working to create the conditions where every resident can prosper, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Bloom is our response. It's not just MiHIA's movement, it's a shared commitment to cultivating the conditions for thriving, together.



Table Of Contents

2 Better | Brighter | Stronger

MiHIA unites partners, builds capacity, and drives collective action to advance health, justice, and prosperity.

4 Empowering Organizations

Building capacity, empowering communities, fueling innovation, and transforming health.

6 Partnerships-to-Impact

Building partnerships, empowering families, fostering equity, and strengthening health.

8 People | Programs | Pride

Strengthening services, empowering recovery, expanding childcare, building resilient communities together.

12 Bloom | Donors

Donor support fuels Bloom, multiplying resources and transforming health.

14 Dashboard | Board | Team

The people, data, and power behind the MiHIA Mission and Vision

Our Capacity Building

We're not on the front lines—but we make sure the front lines are equipped, connected, and ready.



MiHIA serves as the fiscal agent, while Saginaw CAP leads strategic coordination, enabling trusted partners such as the Saginaw County Community Action Committee, World Outreach Church, and the City of Saginaw to drive meaningful change.

In collaboration with Hoyt Library, the creation of a “human library” fosters intergenerational storytelling, strengthening social bonds and community pride. Additionally, partnerships with local health care providers ensure that mothers and babies receive essential supplies and access to resources that support their healthiest lives.

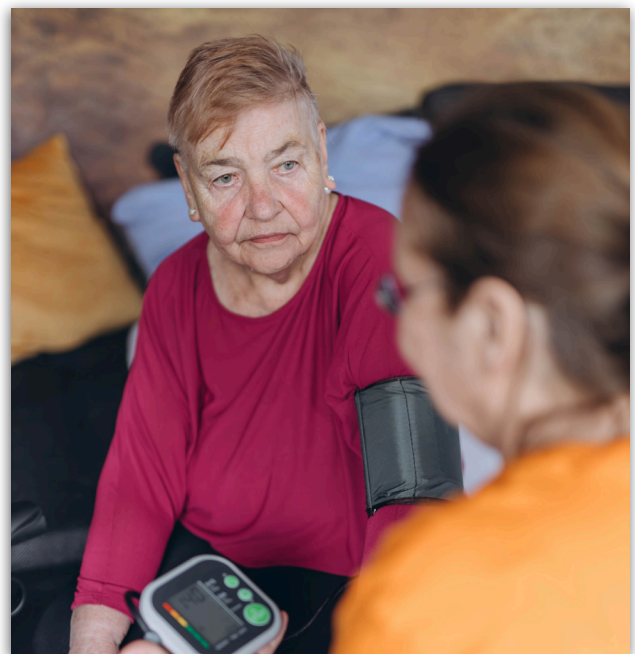
With continued funding through 2026, the initiative will grow throughout the community to expand public spaces into vibrant hubs of health, connection, and opportunity.

Empowering Grassroots Organizations

In partnership with Saginaw Community Alliance for the People (CAP), MiHIA funded a full-time staff position enabling Saginaw CAP to secure \$1 million+ in grants for the following community-led initiatives.

Healthy Community Zones

In Saginaw, a forgotten skate park became a symbol of renewal. Through the Healthy Community Zones initiative, residents will paint murals, host kickball games, and launch youth golf programs. This \$499,978 project—funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and coordinated by Saginaw CAP—empowers grassroots organizations to address racial disparities in health outcomes.



Resilient Roots

Qiana, a resident of Saginaw, refused to let the lack of access to fresh produce within the city limits stand in her way. Determined to make a difference, she built a hoop house to extend the garden growing season, providing fresh fruits and vegetables for her family, friends, and neighbors. Qiana embodies the spirit of the Resilient Roots initiative, which seeks to celebrate and inspire more Environmental Heroes—individuals who take bold, grassroots action to strengthen their communities and promote sustainability.

Funded by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and coordinated by Saginaw CAP, this \$499,960 program builds trust between residents and institutions. Through the Community Stewards Institute and educational webinars, 24 environmental projects and 30 episodes will document local impact.

Neptune and Company, a nationally recognized environmental consulting firm, is being engaged through grant funding to support community-driven decision making and engagement strategies. Leveraging their expertise in structured analysis and stakeholder collaboration, they will ensure that local voices are meaningfully included in shaping health and environmental initiatives. With future investment, Resilient Roots can become a model for environmental justice across Michigan.



Justice40 Accelerator

The Justice40 Accelerator is more than a program—it's a movement to empower underserved communities. With funding through Elevate Energy, Saginaw CAP's participation in this 12-month initiative brings funding, training, and technical support to organizations statewide.

Aligned with the MI Healthy Climate Plan, this program addresses historical inequities and builds capacity for sustainable change. Saginaw CAP's leadership ensures that local voices shape climate resilience strategies.

Additional funding will allow Saginaw CAP to scale this model and deepen its impact across the region.

We don't provide the services. We build the capacity, connection, and clarity behind them.

Developing Robust Multi-Sector Partnerships & Innovative Collaborations

Project IMPACT

At Vantage Plastics in Standish, a new employee named James didn't just start a job—he found a lifeline. During orientation, he was introduced to a Community Health Worker (CHW), a connection that opened the door to vital resources and ongoing support. From navigating workplace challenges to accessing health and wellness services, that first meeting became a turning point, helping James thrive both on and off the job.

MiHIA connected the W.E.L.L. Outreach and Central Michigan District Health Department to the de Beaumont Foundation and helped secure a \$100,000 IMPACT grant, that embedded a CHW in the factory, improving retention and safety.

Retention rates improved so dramatically that it became a model of innovation in workforce health for others to follow. When leaders of the Jerky Outlet in Bay City heard about the success that Vantage experienced the company hired a CHW proving that health, well-being and economic growth go hand in hand.

Parent/Child Interaction Therapy

In classrooms across Bay and Arenac counties, teachers noticed a troubling shift: following the pandemic, students struggled to focus. Parent-teacher conferences revealed a deeper concern—children were increasingly dependent on screens, and families felt overwhelmed. In response, MiHIA convened psychology faculty from Central Michigan University, Bay-Arenac ISD, and WellSpring Lutheran Services to introduce Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), a proven approach to improving child behavior and strengthening caregiver relationships.

Supported by a \$196,448 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund—held by Bay-Arenac ISD—this initiative trained therapists, equipped teachers, and empowered parents with tools to reduce screen time and improve behavioral outcomes. This project trained four behavioral health therapists in PCIT and assembled a team of school officials, psychologists, and parents to develop strategies for an ongoing campaign to reduce children's screentime. MiHIA's convening



power brought together unlikely partners around a shared mission toward ensuring every child has the foundation they need to thrive—in the classroom, at home, and beyond.

Tri-Star Trust was so inspired by the program’s potential that it provided additional funding to expand its reach. And to ensure access to care regardless of location, the CMU College of Medicine deployed a portion of its HRSA grant to equip therapists and schools with the technology needed for telehealth counseling. Together, these efforts laid the foundation for a transformative model of care—one that brought public health and education together to ensure every child has the support they need to thrive.

Direct Services Grant—Children Trust Michigan

To support stressed parents in Saginaw, Bay, and Huron counties, the CAN Council implemented the “Make Parenting a Pleasure” (MPAP) program—an evidence-based initiative focused on strengthening families and reducing the risk of child abuse. Grounded in the Strengthening Families Protective

Factors Framework, MPAP helped caregivers build resilience, deepen their understanding of child development, and foster supportive peer networks through parent cafes and group sessions.

With funding from Children Trust Michigan in the amount of \$132,353, and MiHIA serving as the fiscal agent, the program offered mindfulness activities, financial literacy and job readiness training, and access to vital community resources. Fathers received targeted programming, and families participated in social-emotional learning and extracurricular activities designed to support children’s development. The CAN Council also engaged in statewide public awareness efforts, including Child Abuse Prevention Day at the capitol.

By meeting families where they are and equipping them with practical tools and support, MPAP helped build stronger, healthier homes across the region.

**We don't
deliver the
care. We help
those who
do, deliver it
better.**

CAREring Quick Response Team

After surviving an overdose, Alex received a knock on his door—not from law enforcement, but from a peer recovery coach and an EMT. That visit marked the beginning of his recovery journey.

Now in its sixth year, the CAREring Quick Response Team, coordinated by MiHIA, connects overdose survivors with compassionate care and critical resources. The program partners with Peer360 Recovery Alliance, Mobile Medical Response (MMR), Great Lakes Bay Health Centers and Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Services to reduce barriers to treatment and save lives. By meeting individuals where they are—physically and emotionally—the team builds trust and opens pathways to recovery that traditional systems might miss.

Funded by an annual \$200,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), quick response teams have become a cornerstone of regional overdose response that strengthens the continuum of care across mid-Michigan. Each knock on the door is more than a visit—it's a lifeline.

Sunrise Community Resource Center

On a sweltering August day, more than 400 parents and children from Arenac County gathered under one roof to receive backpacks, school supplies, and fresh produce from over 20 partnering agencies. For many families, the relief was palpable—not just from the air-conditioned space, but from the convenience of accessing multiple resources in a single location. That day marked the beginning of a new chapter for a shuttered elementary school in Standish, now being transformed into a vibrant community resource center.

MiHIA, in partnership with the Standish-Sterling Community School District, coordinated the renovation of the facility to house health services, childcare, and a range of community programs. The Central Michigan District Health Department serves as an anchor tenant, while a local childcare provider expands its reach to meet growing demand. As fiscal agent and strategic planner, MiHIA is guiding the development of a sustainable business model and ensuring that community governance remains at the heart of the project.

Funded by a \$1.1 million grant from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), the center is poised to become a beacon of integrated services and rural resilience. What was once an empty school is now being reborn as a hub of opportunity—where families can find support, connection, and a stronger start to the school year and beyond.





Recovery Housing

Recovery doesn't end in the courtroom, it begins with a safe place to call home. Treatment court judges across the region understand that stable housing is the foundation for long-term healing and success. That's why MiHIA is building a coalition to develop a regional supportive housing facility inspired by Andy's Place in Jackson, a proven model that combines permanent housing with wraparound services for individuals in recovery.

This ambitious project is the result of years of visioning, planning, and relationship-building. With strong encouragement from the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals (MATCP) and the unwavering support of regional treatment court judges, MiHIA is actively working to identify a location and secure funding that reflects its commitment to dignity, recovery,

and community-driven solutions. In addition to coordinating partners and planning the facility, MiHIA is also seeking the capital investment needed to bring the project to life.

The future facility will operate through cooperative agreements with treatment courts and behavioral health service providers to offer comprehensive support services tailored to residents' needs. As MiHIA continues to serve as strategic planner and convener, the initiative is poised to become a cornerstone of recovery infrastructure—where justice meets compassion, and where healing is built to last.

Bay City Childcare Initiative

In Bay City, the rising cost and limited availability of childcare left working parents facing impossible choices. Recognizing the urgency, city officials allocated \$750,000 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and called upon MiHIA to launch a multi-step initiative to stabilize and expand the region's childcare infrastructure—ensuring that families and employers alike have access to reliable, affordable care.

MiHIA responded by convening a multi-stakeholder advisory committee, bringing together voices from government, business, education, and childcare to guide the initiative with shared insight and accountability. Through targeted needs assessments, cost modeling, and incentive programs, MiHIA is building a common understanding of the challenges and crafting actionable solutions. Grants to childcare providers are improving access and elevating quality, while

**We don't run the programs.
We make sure they run stronger,
smarter, and together.**

funding for employers is being used to pilot Michigan’s innovative Tri-Share program—an approach that splits childcare costs between employers, employees, and the state.

MiHIA’s strategic approach is not just about facilities and funding—it’s about creating a system where families thrive, businesses grow, and children are nurtured in safe, enriching environments. As the initiative gains momentum, Bay City is emerging as a model for how communities can respond to childcare challenges with innovation, collaboration, and heart.

Fresh Food Access in NEMI

In Northeast Michigan (NEMI), students are learning where their food comes from—and eating healthier because of it. The NEMI Healthy Food Initiative connects schools with local farms through Farm to School programs, bringing fresh produce and agricultural education into classrooms across the region. With \$284,870 in funding from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund and \$49,977 from the USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program, these projects strengthen local food systems, expand produce prescription efforts, and promote food access in rural communities.

MiHIA serves as the fiscal agent and played a key role in identifying the experts who lead its implementation. Their leadership created a Healthy Food for Northeast Michigan Health Network—made up of representatives from health care providers, senior centers, schools, farmers and growers, farmers markets, food policy councils, and others—to coordinate efforts across northeast Michigan to identify, pilot, and expand ways to support a healthy food environment. Sterling Area Health Center and Thunder Bay Community Health Service are among the key partners driving this initiative, bringing vital guidance and deep community engagement to the collaborative.

This project has also expanded programs that provide access to healthy, locally produced foods by partnering with the Michigan Farmers Market Association to increase the number of pop-up local food markets at senior centers, churches, schools, and food pantries in the region. By increasing participation in community supported agriculture programs, this project helps bring locally grown seasonal produce to convenient pickup locations.

Together, these efforts ensure that residents in rural northeast Michigan have access to fresh, locally grown produce while building stronger connections between farms, families, and classrooms. With continued investment, the NEMI Healthy Food Initiative is poised to reduce health disparities and create lasting impact across the northeast region.



We don't treat patients. We strengthen the systems that do.

Data-Driven Advocacy and Systems Change

ARM4Health

Managing medications can be overwhelming, especially for older adults juggling multiple prescriptions. Through the Achieving the Right Medications (ARM) for Health initiative, clinical pharmacists were integrated into primary care teams to improve safety, reduce risks, and support better health outcomes across the region.

Funded by a nearly \$500,000 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, with MiHIA serving as fiscal agent, ARM4Health united partners including Meijer, hospital pharmacies, CMU College of Medicine, and Great Lakes Bay Health Centers. Practitioners and care teams participated in sessions focused on safer prescribing and deprescribing, guided by the AGS Beers Criteria for adults 65 and older.

By embedding pharmacists into care teams, the program strengthened clinical decision-making and protected vulnerable populations from adverse drug events. The initiative offered clarity and confidence in managing complex medication regimens and laid the groundwork for smarter, safer prescribing practices across the region.

Patient Safety Taskforce

Hospital administrators from MyMichigan, McLaren, Covenant, Ascension, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, and Sterling Area Health Center assembled with a shared goal: eliminating preventable harm and improving patient safety across the Great Lakes Bay Region. Under the banner of the Zero Harm

initiative, MiHIA's Patient Safety Taskforce facilitated a collaborative effort that transformed competition into partnership, uniting hospitals around a mission to reduce infections, falls, and other adverse events.

The taskforce convened leaders from employers and health systems to review LeapFrog patient safety grades and explore best practices. Together, they focused on four strategic pillars: reimagining primary care, optimizing electronic medical record (EMR) portals, strengthening emotional intelligence among care teams, and establishing a Learning Consortium.

Through the Learning Consortium, developed with LeapFrog and leading hospital systems, administrators engaged peers nationwide to learn how others reduced rates of CLABSI, CAUTI, and traumatic falls. These insights shaped a regional action plan presented to participating hospitals in February 2024.

MiHIA's role as convener catalyzed this cross-institutional effort, fostering a culture of shared learning and continuous improvement. Beyond improving patient outcomes, the initiative revealed a critical financial benefit: reducing preventable harm can save health systems millions annually in avoidable treatment costs, penalties, and extended stays. The strategies developed continue guiding hospitals in implementing safer practices and building more sustainable, high-performing care environments.



About Bloom: Thriving Together

Bloom: Thriving Together is the natural evolution of THRIVE (Transforming Health Regionally in a Vibrant Economy), a regional framework originally developed through a multi-sector collaborative convened by MiHIA. Like THRIVE, Bloom is not MiHIA's initiative alone, it is the culmination of collective efforts across sectors, organizations, and communities working together to build a healthier, more vibrant region.

In 2024, MiHIA facilitated listening sessions with more than 75 partner organizations to revisit and refine the goals of THRIVE. These conversations led to the development of Bloom's three focused impact areas:

- **Strengthening Families and Households**
- **Revitalizing Neighborhoods and Communities**
- **Optimizing Health and Care**

Each impact area is guided by a bold vision statement, co-created with regional partners to reflect the values, needs, and aspirations of our communities. Bloom aligns with the national movement Building the Will to Thrive Together, championed by the Rippel Foundation and The CaseMade, and represents our region's commitment to advancing health, well-being, and shared prosperity.

Bloom is more than a framework, it is a movement. It invites everyone to contribute to a future where families flourish, neighborhoods thrive, and health systems serve all with excellence and dignity.



Our Donors

A backbone organization's work is often quiet and behind the scenes, but its impact is transformative. Thanks to our donors' generosity, MiHIA has leveraged contributions to secure more than \$4 million in additional grant funding for the region. These vital gifts sustain our lean, largely virtual infrastructure, fuel early-stage program development, convene cross-sector partners, and unlock grants requiring matching funds. Because of this support, millions of dollars have flowed into our communities, most directly to local businesses and nonprofit initiatives improving lives across the region. Our donors are not just supporters; they are co-architects of a healthier, more resilient future.

Anchor Investors

MiHIA's ability to think boldly and act strategically is made possible by the unwavering support of our institutional partners. These organizations have provided multi-year funding or significant seed investments that empower us to plan ahead, build sustainable initiatives, and respond to emerging opportunities with agility. Their commitment allows us to move beyond short-term fixes and instead cultivate lasting solutions. We are deeply grateful for their continued partnership in driving collective impact forward.

Ascension Northern Ministries
Bay Area Community Foundation
CMU College of Health Professions
CMU College of Medicine
CMU Medical Education Partners
Covenant HealthCare
Delta College
Dow Foundation
Frank N. Andersen Foundation
Great Lakes Bay Health Centers
McLaren Bay Region
Midland Area Community Foundation
MyMichigan Health
Nickless Memorial Foundation
SVSU College of Health and Human Services
Wickson-Link Memorial Foundation

Collective Impact Champions

Behind every milestone MiHIA achieves is a network of dedicated individuals whose annual support fuels our mission. Their generosity is a powerful testament to the belief that meaningful change is only possible when we work together. We are truly grateful for their generosity.

Reverend Andreas Teich
Angelia Williams
Augustine Osagie, MD, MBA, MAS, FACP, SFHM
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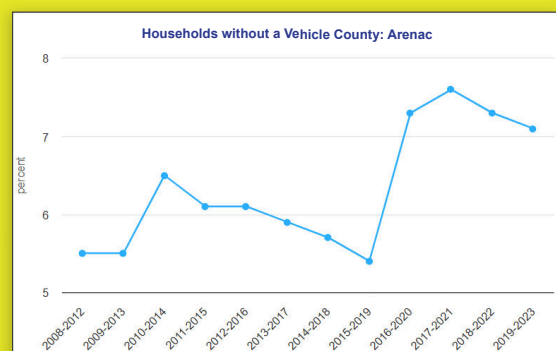
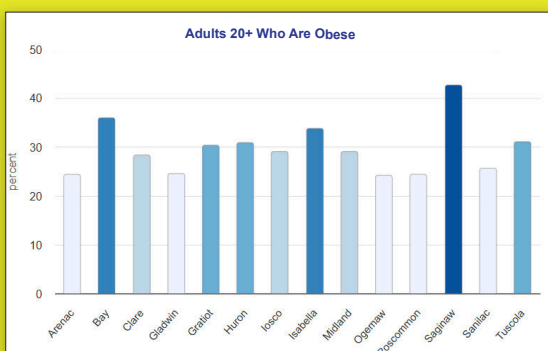
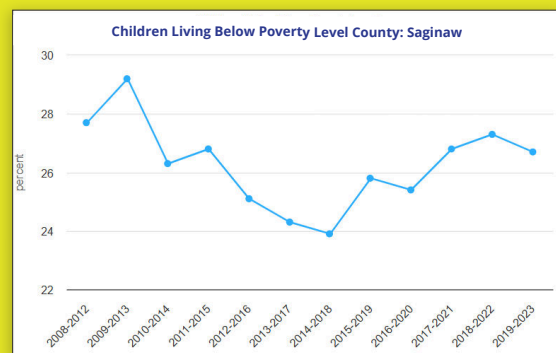
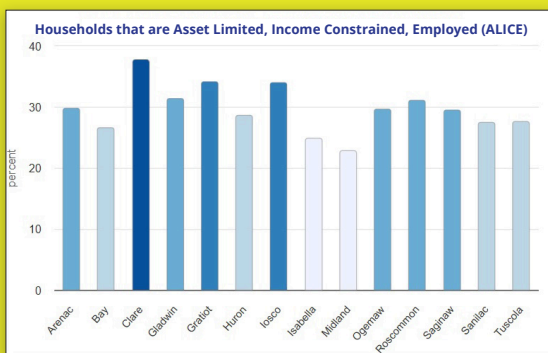
Data Matters

The Michigan Health Improvement Alliance (MiHIA) Health Dashboard, powered by Conduent, is a dynamic data platform designed to support changemakers across central and eastern Michigan. In these uncertain times, building capacity requires more than good intentions, it demands actionable data to identify significant barriers, track trends, and measure progress toward equitable outcomes.

MiHIA's Dashboard offers high-quality community health data, individualized county scorecards, and visual tools that empower users to make informed decisions, build compelling cases for support, and explore new funding opportunities. It serves as a foundation for strategic collaboration, enabling organizations to align efforts and amplify their impact.

MiHIA's Dashboard is more than a data repository, it's a catalyst for learning, alignment, and action. By integrating multiple data sets and fostering regional collaboration, it helps build the will and the way to create a thriving, equitable future for all.

Below are just a few examples of the many data snapshots that are at the fingertips of every resident in the region. It's data for us, by us! (<https://dashboard.mihia.org/>)



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Michigan Health Improvement Alliance

Unites leaders, builds capacity, and drives systems change. Through Bloom, we turn vision into action, securing millions, advancing well-being, and empowering communities. Together, we create health, resilience, and prosperity where every resident can thrive.

Your Support Builds the Future

MiHIA has leveraged contributions to secure more than **\$4 million in grant funding** for our region. These vital gifts fuel innovation, sustain our lean infrastructure, provide customized health data, and enable us to pursue funding that brings resources directly into our communities.

Now more than ever, we need your help to keep this momentum going. Scan the QR code to join us, your support builds the foundation for lasting change.

