

Recognizing Saginaw's **GROUNDBREAKING** Work in Transforming Community Health

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2024

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER



As I reflect on our work throughout the last fiscal year – September 2024-September 2025 – I can't help but share my optimism about the collective work Saginaw County has and is doing to become a healthier community.

In spite of federal stop work orders issued in early spring for several of our programs, the SCHD team has persevered and will continue to do so in the coming year as we face a loss of \$3 million in funding.

Just recently, several members of my staff and I attended the 2025 Michigan Premier Public Health Conference where we received the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) Director's Award for our leadership in creating and sustaining BWell Saginaw.

In presenting the award, MDHHS noted that BWell Saginaw is more than a program – rather a “united movement” of 12 organizations in Saginaw determined to become one of Michigan's Top 25 healthiest communities. Led by SCHD as a neutral convener, the BWell Partner Coalition is creating a culture of health where everyone – regardless of background – can live, work, play and thrive.

From podcasts to public school programs, BWell Saginaw is meeting people where they are – online, at school and at home. And, at SCHD, we have aligned our work to this single, powerful strategy to better connect clinical care, education, grassroots efforts and public health. Through one voice and one vision, BWell Saginaw has proven that authentic partnership – not competition – is the future of public health.

So, join me in reflecting on exciting progress in 2024/2025 and optimistically looking forward to continued success as a community working together!

Christina Harrington, MPH

Health Officer

Photo: In May, Chris Harrington presented information about challenges to maternal/child health in Saginaw County to the Michigan House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Health.

FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR



As we look ahead to the coming year, the health care environment is likely to be full of changes and challenges. Proposed reductions in Medicaid funding and a shifting national focus away from equity-based initiatives will challenge us to do more with less – and to think creatively about how we serve those who rely on us most.

While these developments may test our systems and resolve, they also reaffirm the importance of the health department's leadership, collaboration with our BWell partners and others, and innovation in serving our community. Our mission – to protect and improve the health of every resident – remains unchanged. In fact, it has never been more critical. And we are a very determined community!

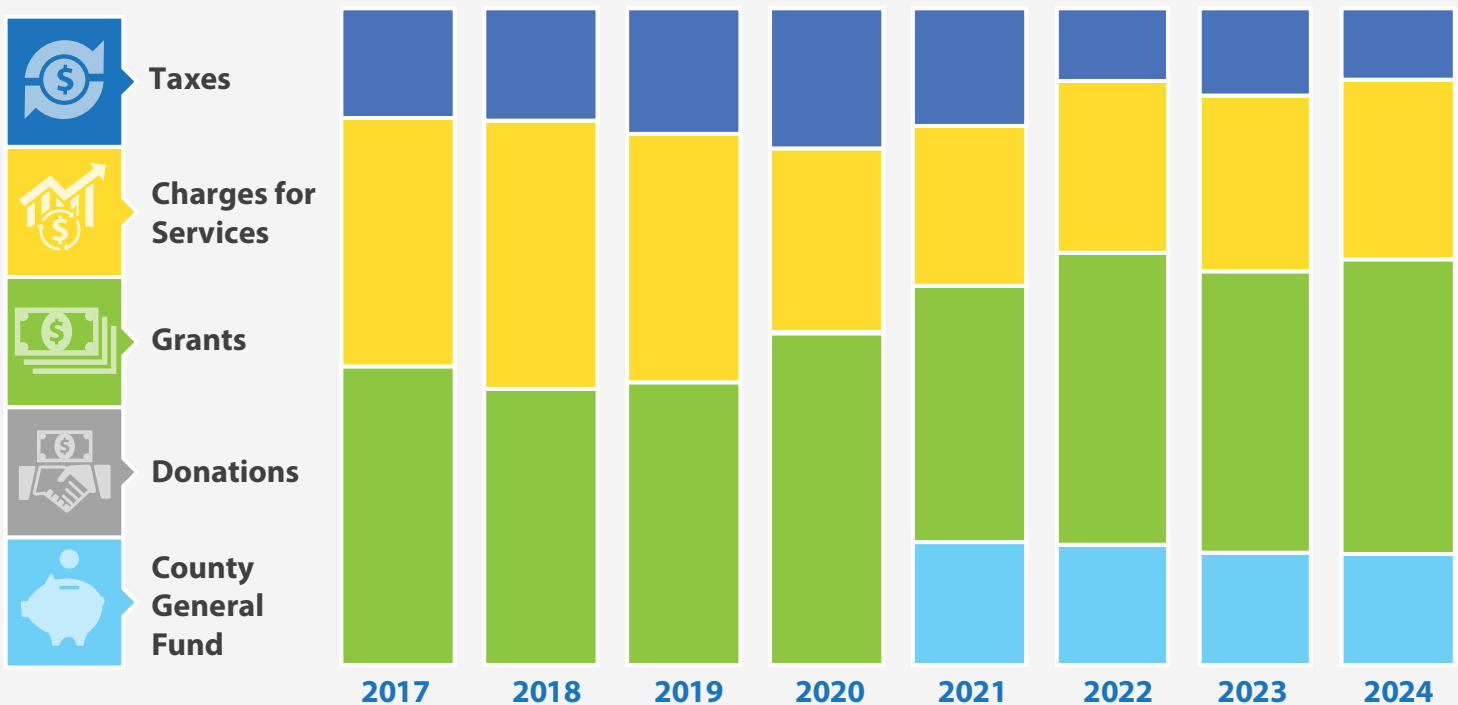
Together, we will continue to strengthen partnerships, advocate for our community, and seek solutions that promote access, quality, and fairness in care. I have every confidence that our shared commitment will guide us through these changes and toward a healthier, more resilient future.

Delicia Pruitt, MD MPH FAAFP DABFM
Medical Director

Photo: Dr. Pruitt is chair of the American Association of Family Physicians Subcommittee on Public Health Issues and represents Saginaw County on the national level in many beneficial ways.

FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

Revenues by Category 2017-2024



Health Department Funds Help Fuel Our Community's Health

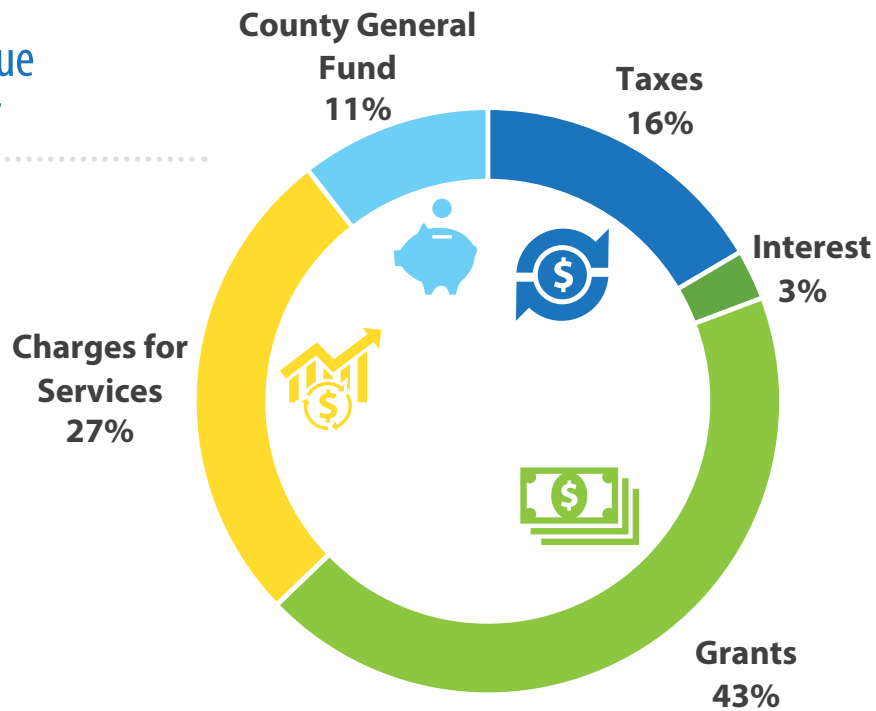
We have a great deal to be grateful for in FY 2024/2025, including:

- County-wide millage funds used as promised for staffing, mobile service delivery, outreach, and BWell activities...and managed wisely to help offset the over \$3 million shortfall in federal funding.
- County general fund support meeting state "maintenance of effort" guidelines and demonstrating our county's commitment to public health.
- Additional grant funds empowering us to innovate and realign our services to produce outputs that strategically impact health outcomes.
- Impactful results from mandated and other traditional services, funded by both grants and county general fund dollars.

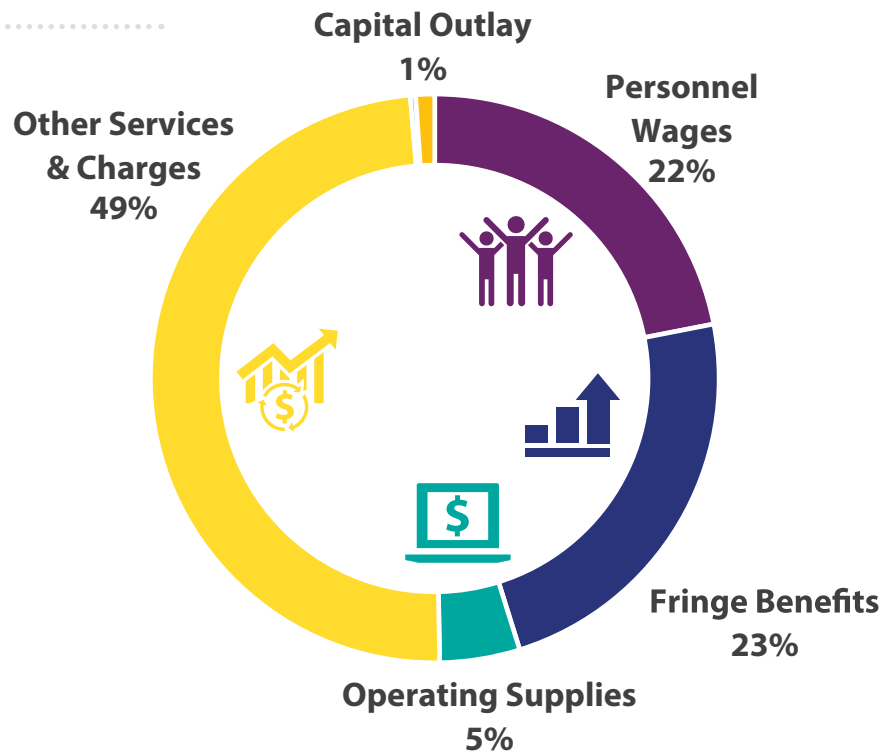
This report features examples of how our dollars are well invested in helping Saginaw become one of Michigan's Top 25 healthiest communities.

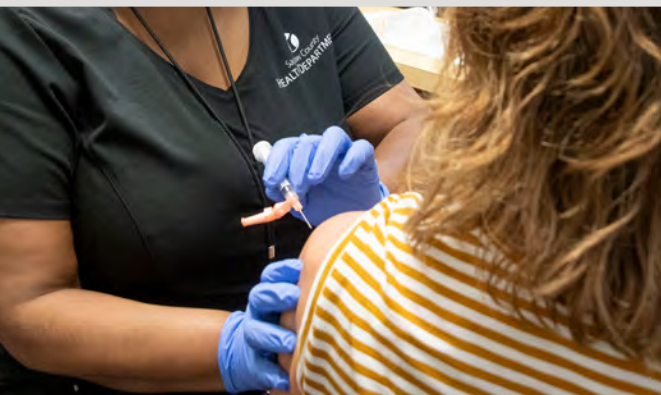
Financial Totals Showing Percentages

FY24 Revenue by Category



FY24 Expenditures by Category

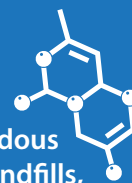




MORE NUMBERS SHOW OUR IMPACT

Behind the scenes, health department staff protect the community's health and wellbeing through disease surveillance and prevention, family and parent support, and expertise to monitor and enforce safe food and clean water and air. We cannot be a healthy community without them!

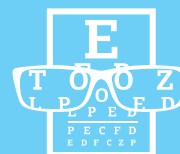
243,793



pounds of household chemicals, electronics, hazardous substances, and medications diverted from local landfills, thanks to our Clean Sweep program, which preserves and protects our ground water and environment

8,715

school-age children
screened for hearing



9,992

school-age children
screened for vision

1,518

food service inspections

25,826

tests performed
in our laboratory,
including 12,170 water samples
and 10,853 drug tests



406

TB tests

104

well permits

370

radon kits distributed
to protect families by
measuring this radioactive
gas and to check for
potential health risks

1,825

visits for STI testing and
treatment, including HIV



3,015

vaccinations given to prevent the spread of disease. Saginaw's immunizations rates continue to be above state averages, signaling our community's commitment to prevention. We want to maintain and grow this trend. Childhood immunizations are essential for preventing serious diseases, reducing child mortality, and ensuring long-term health. They contribute to herd immunity, control outbreaks, and protect vulnerable populations.

324

temporary food licenses

194

sewage permits



2,637

average number of families enrolled in WIC on a monthly basis to receive free, healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other health and social services. WIC improves the health outcomes of pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five, leading to healthier births, better infant diets, and improved cognitive development in children.

839

families supported with Children's Special Health Care, a supplemental insurance and case management program implemented by SCHD for children with chronic health conditions



1,000

Nurse Family Partnership visits for first-time pregnant women to improve outcomes, child health and development



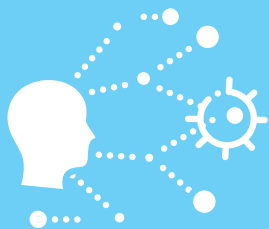
738

visits to Room 202, where SCHD and Peer 360 provide lifesaving peer support and resources including clean syringes, injection supplies, smoking and snorting supplies, wound care supplies, and hygiene kits along with NARCAN and fentanyl test strips. According to the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, substance users who engage in harm reduction services are 5x more likely to enter a drug treatment program thanks to "helpers" like the health department.

154



complaint investigations for pools, restaurants, body art salons, housing, mold, food borne illnesses, and septic systems



10,665

communicable disease reports from data provided by health care providers, hospitals, and schools for residents of Saginaw County. We utilize the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) to accept case reports, follow-up on treatment of cases, and report disease data to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Communicable diseases are categorized as food-borne, vector-borne, influenza and flu-like diseases, meningitis, rabies, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, vaccine-preventable diseases, and "other" including strep throat, head lice, and gastrointestinal diseases. Five years of data trends are available at www.saginawpublichealth.org/resources/reportable-disease-trends/.



BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A ROBUST PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM FOCUSED ON EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Saginaw's New Electronic Superhighway Promises More Efficient – Yet Warmer – Service Referrals

What if our community's "helpers" could spend less time searching and more time serving people? Soon, they will be able to do just that, thanks to the Saginaw Information System (SIS). SIS is a new electronic platform being built by SCHD, Covenant, MyMichigan, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, CMU Health, Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, Saginaw County Commission on Aging, PartnerShift Network, Saginaw County Community Action Center, United Way of Saginaw County and 211. It is designed to help community health workers, hospitals, doctor's offices, social service providers, case managers, and organizations connect residents to the right services – faster and more efficiently than ever before.

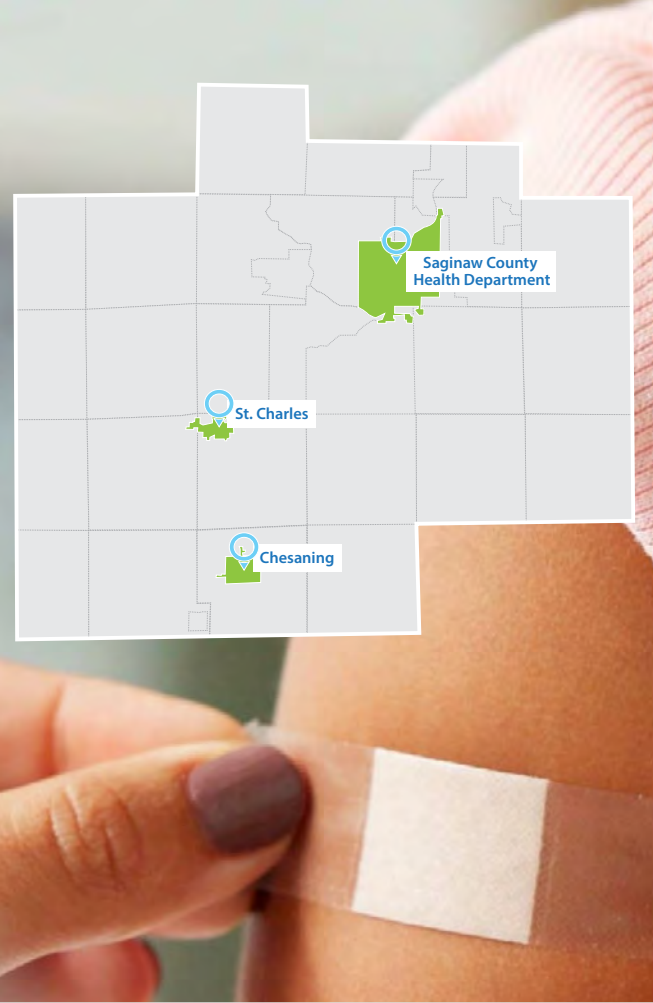
Fully integrated with 211, SIS provides a single point of entry for better incoming and outgoing referrals – without redundancies, duplication of effort or unnecessary obstacles – while providing a 360 feedback loop back to the referring organization.

It provides one-stop shopping to match individuals to services they need with real-time access to what is available and what they qualify for. It tracks referrals so no one falls through the cracks. And, it uses data and shared insights to improve outcomes and strengthen community partnerships.



Saginaw Information System





SCHD Partners with Pharmacies to Deliver Free Immunizations

Our Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is what allows SCHD to provide free childhood immunizations to children meeting certain eligibility criteria.

Through an innovative partnership with pharmacies in Chesaning and St. Charles, residents of these out-county communities will soon be able to get childhood immunizations closer to home. Administering VFC vaccines along with regular pharmacy services is a complex process with rigorous inventory and reporting requirements. Broad Street Pharmacy and St. Charles Pharmacy are the first in the county to enroll in the VFC program partnering with SCHD and expanding access for families who may face transportation, scheduling, or provider-availability barriers.

By working together with SCHD, these local pharmacies will offer greater appointment flexibility and convenience. Our collaboration strengthens health equity, countywide public health capacity, supports continuity of care for pediatric patients, and helps increase overall childhood immunizations rates, which are higher than the state's average in Saginaw County.



SCHD Public Health Lab Expands

In 2024, SCHD expanded services in our public health laboratory to better serve the needs of the community:

- **FREE respiratory testing** – individuals with symptoms such as a cough, sneezing, chest congestion, chills, headache, or body aches now provide one specimen to test for all three respiratory illnesses – COVID, flu and RSV. Results are available in 24 hours. Knowing the diagnosis allows symptom sufferers to connect with the right treatments to minimize the severity of the illness and get back to work or school more quickly.
- **ENHANCED drug screening services** – including 12-panel drug screenings with two integrity factors (meeting state requirements for driver's license reinstatement) and urinalysis for fentanyl testing. At SCHD, we offer direct observation during sample collection to enhance sample integrity. Results are available in 3 business days.
- **IMPROVED well water testing** – increased from 5 to 7 analytes, with rapid results in 24-48 hours, and open to customers in all Michigan counties.
- **MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE** – partnering with Saginaw County Mosquito Control to implement proactive mosquito surveillance activities to minimize mosquito populations countywide and reduce the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses.

The health department lab also provides paternity testing, legionella testing, blood lead testing, STI and pregnancy testing, along with disease prevention and surveillance. The lab is accredited, certified, affordable, accessible, and regional, providing highly trained staff and leading-edge science equipment.

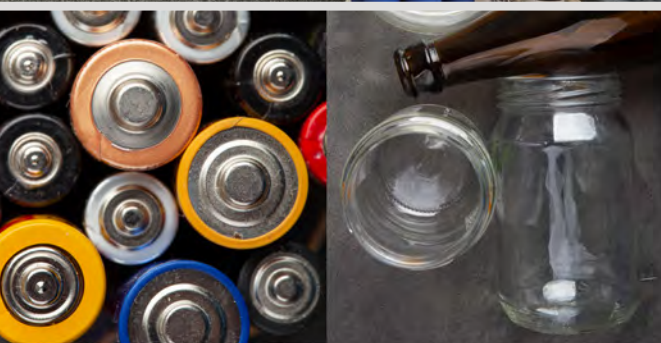


Taking Glucose and Cholesterol Testing out into the Community

For the first time ever, SCHD is regularly providing glucose and cholesterol testing out in the community where people need it most – beyond health fairs – to Saginaw County Commission on Aging feeding sites, churches, businesses, shelters, schools and pharmacies.

Our goal is making preventive health care significantly more accessible and identifying at-risk individuals earlier. We are meeting people where they already gather, reducing transportation barriers, and increasing participation – especially among seniors, working adults, and families. In doing so, we:

- Build trust by partnering with familiar community institutions
- Create natural opportunities for education, referrals, and follow-up care
- Strengthen the health department's visibility and outreach
- Reinforce our role in chronic disease prevention
- Contribute to better long-term health outcomes across the community



SCHD Leads Materials Management Planning in Saginaw Co.

Our environmental health staff work incredibly hard to keep Saginaw County clean and healthy. Because of our expertise and dedication, we took on leadership of Saginaw's materials management planning – an enormous and complex undertaking requiring work with many partners. Under the leadership of SCHD, the county is developing a new roadmap for responsibly handling the things we throw out. The materials management oversight committee and plan will help ensure trash, recycling, and hazardous materials are handled safely, cost-effectively, and in ways that protect public health and the environment. In doing so, SCHD is helping Saginaw County meet state requirements, extend the life of landfills, and prepare for future waste challenges.



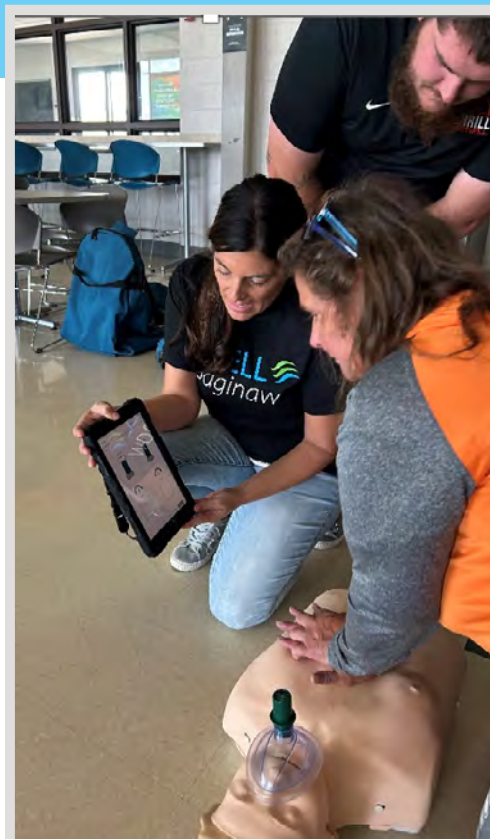
SCHD Helps Schools Earn MI HEARTSafe School Recognition

We put our kids' lives in the hands of their school every day. It should be reassuring to know that Saginaw's school communities are willing to go through a process to know how to recognize the signs of a sudden cardiac arrest and respond quickly by calling 911, using CPR and an automated external defibrillator until emergency services arrive.

Thanks to a partnership between SCHD's health resource advocates, Central Michigan University's Pulse3 Endowment for Community Cardiovascular Health and BWell Saginaw, every high school building in Saginaw County is receiving the education and resources needed to qualify for MI HEARTSafe School recognition.

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services MI HEARTSafe award recognizes a school or school district's efforts to prevent sudden cardiac death of the young by preparing for cardiac emergencies. In early FY2024, more than 110 staff from eight Saginaw County school districts were CPR trained – one step in a series of award requirements that also includes creating a cardiac emergency response team, completing a cardiac emergency response plan, and running cardiac emergency response drills.

Already, many Saginaw Township Community Schools are HEARTSafe certified. The remaining districts are in various stages of completion, with all area high schools likely to apply for the designation soon.



SCHD Builds Capacity with Community Health Worker (CHW) Network

From handwashing education to 300 elementary students...to health screenings at Morrow Center and wellness discussions at Emmaus House, community health workers (CHWs) are making an impact in Saginaw. Together with Partnershift, SCHD is building a connected, capable CHW workforce to deliver education, screenings and resource navigation with reach extending across neighborhoods, schools, and community organizations. This strong and coordinated CHW presence directly strengthens many of our initiatives including the Saginaw Information System (see page 8).

While Partnershift leads countywide coordination, SCHD amplifies this work by promoting monthly CHW meetings and encouraging broad engagement across local partners.

Within the health department, we maintain a highly trained and well supported CHW team through ongoing professional development and continuing education. In our CORE Office (Room 312), CHWs connect individuals in real time to essential services, provide on-site blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol screenings, and extend these services into the community through outreach events that advance early detection, prevention, and wellbeing.

SCHD CHWs are also embedded throughout the community, partnering with the Community Action Center on door-to-door lead exposure and safe sleep best practices education, collaborating with schools, nonprofits, health systems, and civic partners. CHWs also contributed to the Men's Know Your Numbers initiatives (see page 20) by conducting dozens of blood pressure checks, glucose and cholesterol tests, and body composition scans. In the Carrollton School District, they provided CPR Hands-Only and Stop the Bleed training, vaping and substance-use prevention education, AED inspections, helmet fittings supported by Covenant Health, and safety programming reaching hundreds of students.



BUILDING AND EXPANDING BWell SAGINAW TO COLLECTIVELY IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES



BWell *Saginaw*

BWell Saginaw Creates a Countywide Culture of Health

BWell Saginaw is a united movement of 12 organizations doing work to connect clinical care, public health, education and grassroots efforts into a single, powerful strategy – to make Saginaw one of Michigan’s Top 25 healthiest communities. The top three health priorities include obesity & related chronic disease, mental health & substance use, and maternal & child health.

Lead by SCHD and largely funded by county millage dollars along with financial support from BWell Saginaw Coalition partners (see page 18), BWell is not only winning awards...it is drawing statewide attention as a model for the future of public health because of the breadth of collaboration across sectors and communities.

Here are several highlights from FY2024/25 demonstrating how BWell Saginaw is creating a culture of health and meeting people wherever they are in Saginaw – home, work or school.



- Each month, there are 4 million reminders to place babies alone on their back, in a crib, thanks to a collaborative safe sleep campaign created by CMU Health that SCHD supported along with other BWell partners. Since its inception, Saginaw County has seen just one unsafe sleep related infant death compared to 9 the previous year.
- More than 700 walkers and runners registered for the BWell Strides Toward Wellness race series – more than triple the number when the race began 3 years ago – which included BWell + WorkWell teams from area employers who are Saginaw County Chamber members.
- Healthier Me, a new podcast featuring inspiring Saginaw County residents who share their health stories, launched on Spotify, Apple and Amazon Podcasts with over 100 faithful listeners, 66,000 views on Facebook, 20,500 views on TikTok, 6,700 views on Instagram, and 1,100 views on YouTube. Hosted by Alexandria Rene, marketing specialist for CMU Medical Education Partners, the most downloaded episodes feature Rwaida Bates, local fitness center owner, Arshen Baldwin, educator and mom, Jessica Larsen, PCOS sufferer, and Lionel Baldwin, college student.

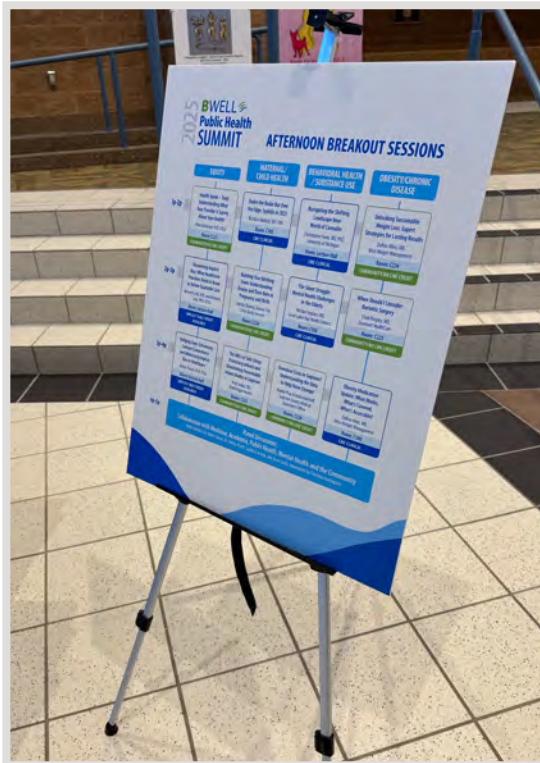


- 800+ pregnant women in the City of Saginaw, Bridgeport and Buena Vista will soon benefit from RxKids – no-strings-attached cash payments to help defray the costs associated with having and raising healthy, young children – and to help stop poverty at a point where families are experiencing more expenses with less time at work. RxKids is happening in Saginaw County thanks, in part, to private funding from health champions like Tri Star Trust Bank and Covenant HealthCare.

- Our first-ever overdose fatality review team has formed with BWell Partner organizations and subject matter experts to collectively gather data and study local substance use issues, ensure resource accessibility, and to lead Saginaw County's opioid settlement fund distribution. \$26 million opioid settlement dollars are available to local organizations over a period of several years to prevent and address the adverse impacts of drug overdoses.



- The lives of 1 staff member and 1 student were saved through a BWell Saginaw sponsored and SCHD supported HeartSAFE school program designed to train staff and prepare schools to respond to sudden cardiac death (see page 12).



- 200 healthcare providers and members of the general public attended the BWell Saginaw Summit, an annual event to participate in implicit bias training and learn from local, state and national health leaders about solutions for our county's top three health priorities: obesity & related chronic disease, maternal & child health, and mental health & substance use.



- Mental health IS health. That's the message of an anti-stigma video campaign spearheaded by BWell partner and close SCHD collaborator Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA). One of the biggest obstacles with promoting mental health services collaboratively – and directing viewers somewhere for help – is a single text, email or phone number. These videos direct viewers to SCCMHA where they can talk to our county's mental health experts for services or referral to other resources.



BWell Breaking Mental Health Stigmas
- Friendship and Mental Health



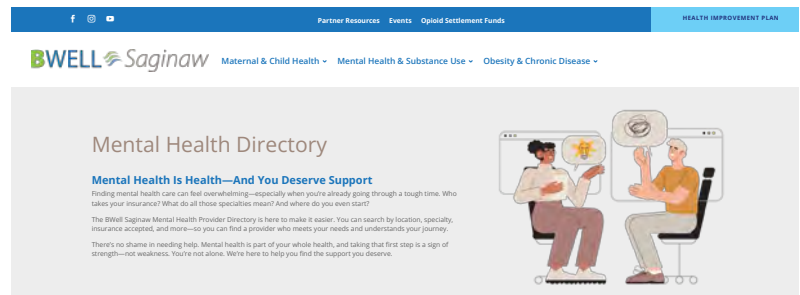
BWell - Breaking Mental Health Stigmas
- Finding Balance



BWell Breaking Mental Health Stigmas
- Suicide Prevention

- Increasing access to professional mental health care begins with identifying where care is available! One of BWell Saginaw's 12 workgroups is developing an accurate and up-to-date behavioral health provider directory – a living document soon to be available at bellsaginaw.org and maintained by designated BWell partner staff.

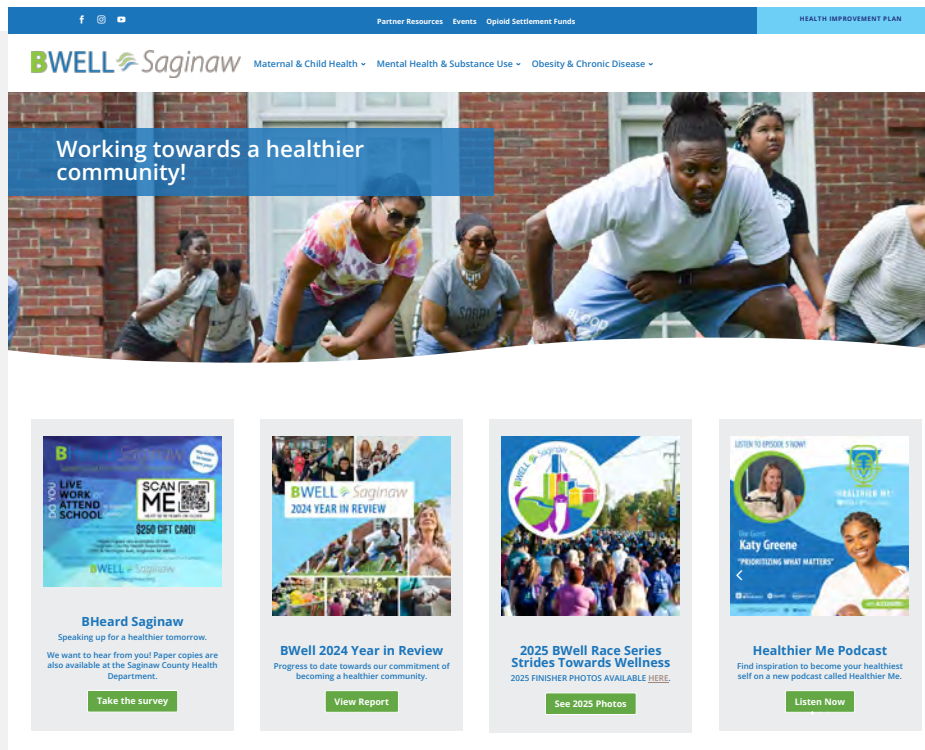
The group will be sharing cards with QR codes linking to the directory with emergency departments, schools, physician offices, food pantries, churches, and other community-based organizations.



County	FACILITY INFORMATION	SERVICES PROVIDED	INSURANCES ACCEPTED	WEBSITE	MISC
Saginaw	Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority 500 Hancock Street Saginaw, MI 48602 Phone: 989-792-3400	Care Management, Psychiatry, Therapy ACT, CommunityPeer Support, Enhanced Health Services, Crisis, IOD Services Specialty Services: Autism	Medicare/Medicaid, Private		

BWell Saginaw Coalition Partners





Resources Available at BWellSaginaw.org

[BHeard Community Health Assessment Questionnaire](#)

[Community Health Improvement Plan](#)

[Partner Resources:](#)

- [Safe Sleep Campaign](#)
- [Soon. Someday. Primary Care Campaign](#)
- [Start a Conversation with Your Doctor Campaign](#)
- [Mental Healthopedia Promotional Tools](#)
- [Library of Mental Health Anti-Stigma Social Posts](#)

[CORE \(Room 312\) Walk-In Services](#)

[Provider Toolkits/Obesity Summit:](#)

- Prescription pad
- Exercise information sheets
- Nutrition information sheets
- List of local fitness facilities
- "How to Measure Waist Circumference" videos
- Nutrition video library

[Saginaw County's Health Report Card](#)

[Data-at-a-Glance Sheets for Top 3 Health Priorities](#)

[Parenting Street Smarts Video Library](#)

[Mental Health Anti-Stigma Video Library](#)

[Men's Health Symposium Toolkits](#)

[Opioid Settlement Fund information and application](#)

[BWell Saginaw Brand Assets – logo, style guide](#)

[Events calendar](#)

[Health Advisory Council Focus Group](#)

[Report, Meeting Minutes and Schedule](#)

[Mental Health Resources:](#)

- [Youth Mental Healthopedia](#)
- [Smart phone apps](#)
- [Articles](#)
- [Crisis information](#)
- [Self-care/anti-stigma social media post library](#)

PRIORITIZING HEALTH EQUITY SO THAT EVERYONE – REGARDLESS OF BACKGROUND – CAN LIVE, WORK, PLAY AND THRIVE

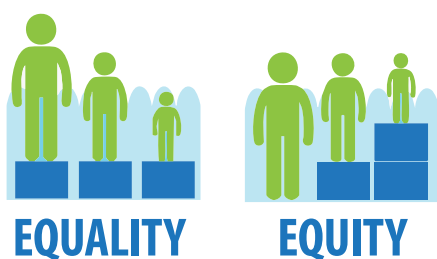
Saginaw's Health Advisory Council Advocates for Health for ALL

The Health Advisory Council (HAC) placed emphasis on cardiovascular health in FY 24/25, including support for the Men's Health 1st symposium, certified men's health educator course, Pancakes & Prostates event, and Saginaw's Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity 15th All Men's Health Fair. With a goal of aligning programming with public health best practices, clinical engagement standards, and culturally responsive community outreach, Men's Health 1st and the HAC strengthened partnerships with healthcare providers, fraternities, churches and public health networks.

The resulting initiatives linked more than 400 participants with 13+ health screenings and important discussions about heart health, mental health, and preventive care – thanks to more than 10 organizational partners.

To keep these conversations and behavioral changes going, Men's Health 1st and the HAC equipped community members with tools to effectively educate and communicate with men and boys about their health. In doing so, 25 men and women completed the Certified Men's Health Educator course and are now continuing the work in schools, churches and health centers to encourage Saginaw men to make health a priority, to understand their health risks, and to talk to their doctors about health goals.

The HAC also spearheaded Implicit bias training through Saginaw Valley State University. Implicit bias training helps healthcare professionals recognize and reduce the unconscious attitudes or stereotypes that can influence how they interact, communicate and make decisions with patients and clients.



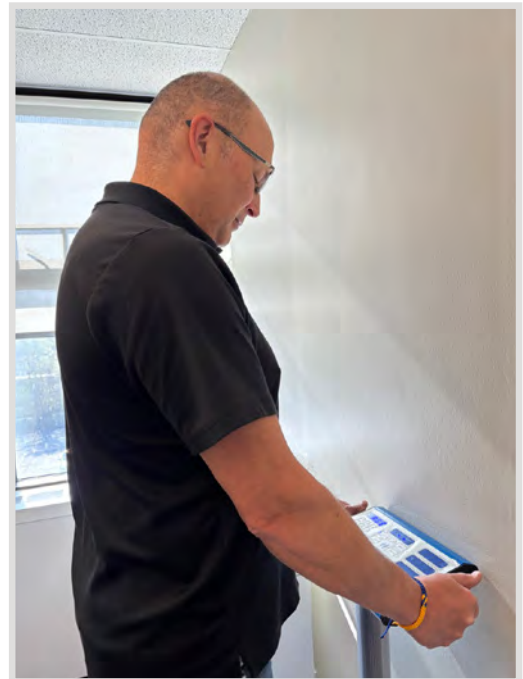
LISTENING AND RESPONDING TO WHAT OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

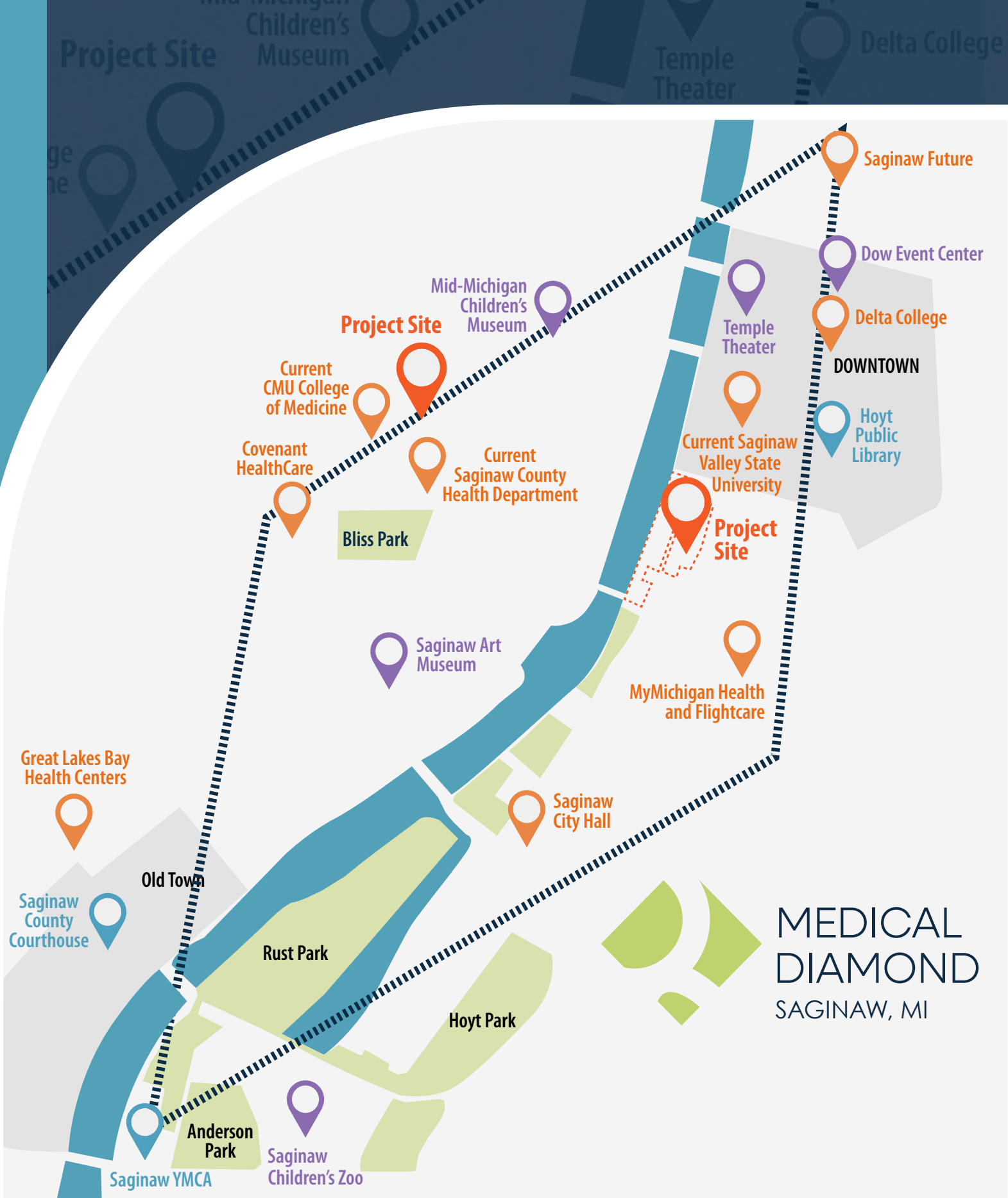
Walk-In Community Outreach & Resource Exchange Room (CORE) Makes it Easier for Saginaw to Stay Healthy and Safe

Our Community Outreach & Resource Exchange (CORE) office on the health department's third floor is a new place where residents can walk in without an appointment or a referral to connect with caring staff for preventive health screenings, resource navigation & connection, and access to free or low-cost health and safety supplies.

Our goal is to catch emerging health issues early, guide people toward appropriate care, and help residents overcome everyday barriers. In the process, we believe we can stabilize their health and well-being and also reduce household risks. Overall, the space functions as a one-stop hub that builds trust, reduces inequities, and makes it easier for people to stay healthy and safe.

- Preventive health screenings
 - Blood pressure checks
 - Body composition scans
 - Glucose & cholesterol testing
- Resource navigation and connection
 - Locating food pantries and distributions
 - Connecting to resources for baby supplies
 - Scheduling healthcare appointments
 - Completing forms and phone calls
 - Applying for SNAP benefits
 - Linking to care management or disability attorneys
- Access to free or low-cost health and safety supplies
 - Smoke alarm coupons
 - COVID-19 at-home test kits
 - Radon test kit coupons
 - Gun locks
 - Lock boxes for marijuana







SCHD Collaborates with Covenant to Expand & Enhance Medical Diamond

To further complement the transformational Medical Diamond project in Saginaw, Covenant HealthCare and SCHD are exploring new facilities in and around the former Rite Aid building on Michigan and Genesee.

We have signed a development agreement to create convenient, community-focused health sites focused on increasing patient access to urgent care, primary care, and public health services for residents in 48602 and surrounding areas. While still in the exploratory phase, the health sites will enable the hospital and the health department to deliver their respective services as well as collaborate on initiatives that enhance care for all.

It's all about expanding access to essential health services. Our community – especially those in need of safety net services – will be able to access community health resources from several key locations within the Medical Diamond.





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