

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

ADDRESSING FOOD AND NUTRITION INSECURITY

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According to a 2021 Feeding America report, 13% of Michigan’s population is food insecure including more than 550,000 children. To help address this issue, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and its Foundation partnered with the Michigan Health Endowment Fund and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to **support \$650,000 in grant funding to 14 community-based organizations** for evidence-based, sustainable initiatives that address food and nutrition insecurity to improve health equity through Michigan’s local food systems. The collaboration invited proposals from Michigan-based local food policy councils and nonprofit organizations seeking funding for strategies tailored to the local needs and culture within their communities.

The Addressing Food and Nutrition Insecurity to Improve Health Equity initiative serves Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed (ALICE) individuals and families, seniors, mothers and children, and Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities. Innovative initiatives tailored to the community that included collaboration among multiple stakeholders, addressed health equity and with strong sustainability plans were prioritized.

The work these grant recipients will do over the next year will strengthen local food systems, improve health outcomes, and reduce risk to chronic diseases, and empower individuals and families to achieve greater economic stability.

“This funding will provide 30,000 nutritious meals to those with a special or unique need whether that’s a chronic illness, a disability or transportation issue that often prevents them from coming to get food in some of the more traditional ways. The underserved in our community, those who face systemic barriers to access, will benefit the most because of this generosity of this grant.”

– Michelle Lantz, Greater Lansing Food Bank

