



MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2025

Driving Environmental Justice Forward: Action, Equity, and Impact



Agenda



- 8:30 Welcome and Conference Kick-off
- 8:45 The Commitment to Moving EJ Forward
- 9:00 Break and move to buses or discussion tables
- 12:00 Lunch, Resource Tables, and Documentary Screening
- 1:00 Keynote Address
- 1:20 Panel: Advocacy to Action - What's in the Air?
- 2:05 Panel: At the Table - Equity and Economic Opportunity
- 3:00 Health Equity Fireside Chat
- 3:20 Panel: Resilience & Resources to Power the Fight for Justice
- 3:55 Panel: Advocacy to Action - What's in the Water?
- 4:30 What's Next Fireside Chat
- 5:00 Networking Reception



MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2025

Driving Environmental Justice Forward: Action, Equity, and Impact

EGLE

Thank you to our Sponsors!





Connect with EGLE!

1. Go to **Michigan.gov/EGLEconnect**

2. Follow us on social media



3. Subscribe to our email lists
**Environmental Justice*

4. Subscribe to the interactive EGLE Calendar





MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2025

Driving Environmental Justice Forward: Action, Equity, and Impact



Looking for help on an environmental issue?

Contact the Environmental
Assistance Center

800-662-9278

EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



Looking for help on an
environmental issue?

Having difficulty finding
the right person to contact?

Interested in
environmental training?

Call or email the Environmental Assistance Center:

800-662-9278 • EGLE-assist@michigan.gov

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Environmental Assistance Center (EAC) serves as a single point of entry into all Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) programs. By calling the EAC, you will receive direct one-on-one assistance or referral to technical staff within EGLE. We can help with topics related to air, land, waste, water, and more.

For pollution emergencies, call the Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS) at 800-292-4706.

Michigan.gov/EGLE | 800-662-9278



Additional Information from Speakers / Panelists



MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2025

Driving Environmental Justice Forward: Action, Equity, and Impact



Office of Climate & Energy - Current Resources @ State of Michigan

- ✓ **MI Healthy Climate Fellows** – *applications for host sites due 9/30*
 - ✓ **Elective Pay Ambassador Program** – *applications for host sites due 10/10*
 - ✓ **NextCycle** – *applications due 10/29*
 - ✓ **MI Home Energy Rebate, Clean Diesel, and Charge Up Programs**
 - ✓ **Accounting Service Support & Resources for Elective Pay for clean energy tax credits**
-
- ✓ **Technical Assistance Provider network** – *organizations and individuals supporting your projects!*
-
- ✓ **Sign up for the Michigan Climate Action News & Updates newsletter**



Are you an educator? Visit
www.michigan.gov/egle/public/egle-classroom

Questions?
Reach out to us at
EGLE-OCE@Michigan.gov



MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2025

Driving Environmental Justice Forward: Action, Equity, and Impact



Office of Climate & Energy Resources beyond State of Michigan

Federal Residential Clean
Energy Tax Credits



Lawyers for Good
Government

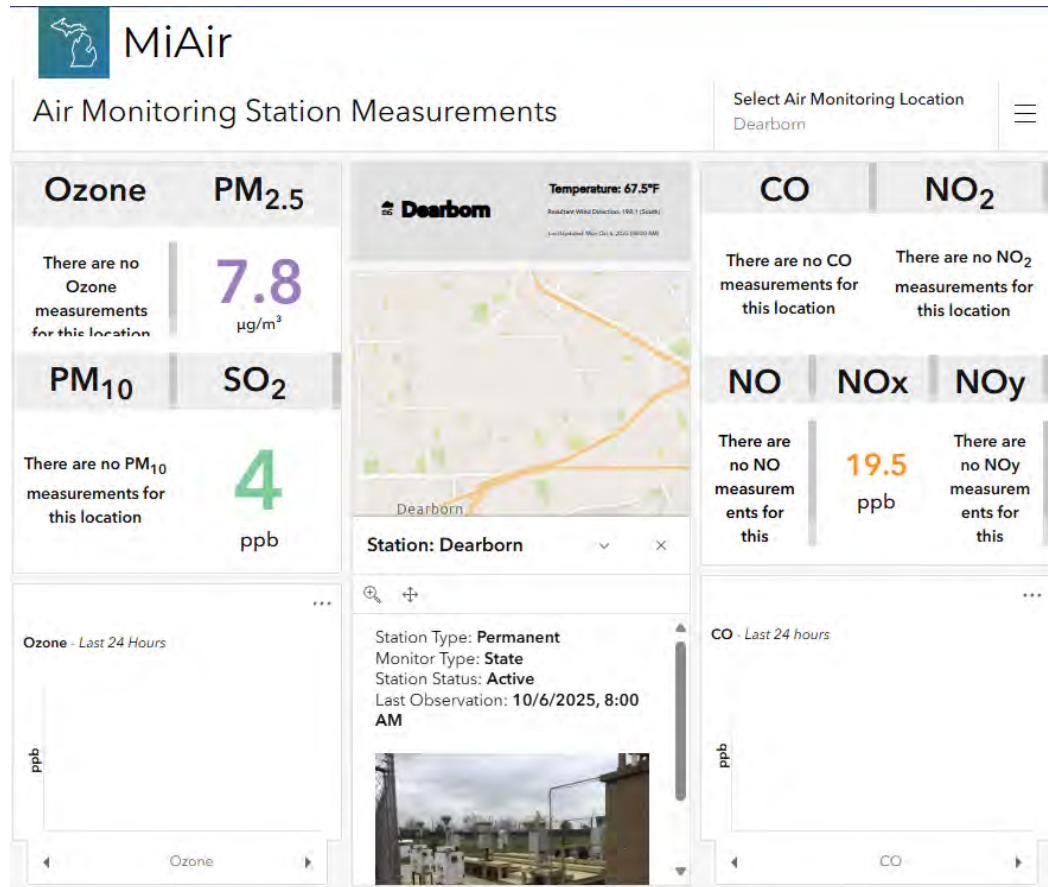


Environmental Protection
Network





MiAir - EGLE Air Quality Division's ambient air monitoring hub site!



<https://air-egle.hub.arcgis.com/>

- Comprehensive hub for up-to-date and historical air monitoring data across Michigan.
- Explore real-time pollutant monitoring data alongside the color-coded Air Quality Index (AQI) to stay informed about air quality conditions.



Environmental Justice Impact Grant Projects

Thank you to our grantees for sharing the following information (slides 6-61) about their work to drive environmental justice forward!



Restoration and Climate Resiliency of the Grassroots Detroitters Community Center

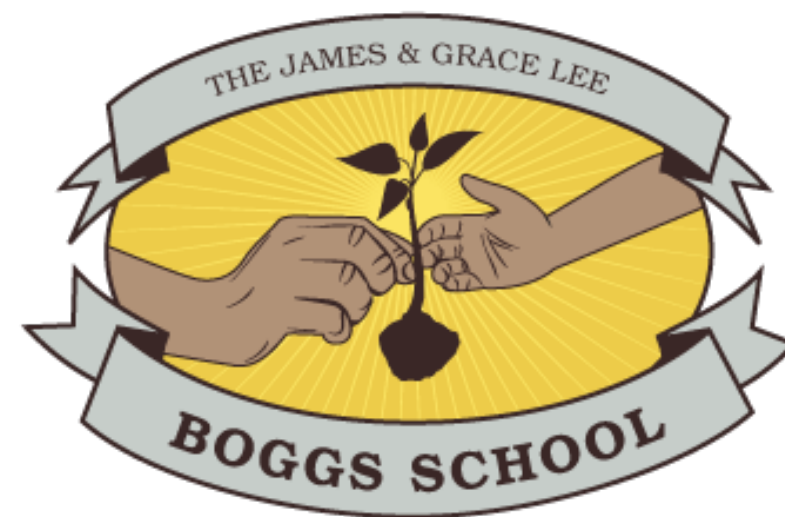
- 48207-11 Grassroot Detroitters Community Center was built in 1945. It was recently damaged in a torrential rain.
- We provide many services, food, home improvement grants, mentoring. Community gathering, and much more!
- Grant money will go toward transforming our flood damaged building according to green construction principles.





Healthy Spaces Support Healthy Minds

- Community improvement project to enhance student, staff, and their family's health and well-being
- Combines environmental justice education, pollution monitoring at the school, and a staged retrofit of the 20,000-square-foot building where educational programming takes place
- Part of a long-term plan to create a sustainable campus





Building Resilient Environmental Infrastructure at D-Town Farm

- D-Town Farm is a community farm committed to improving food security for Detroit's Black community
- Planned upgrades include:
 - Environmental landscape assessment
 - Flood mitigation
 - Renewable energy installations
 - Enhancements to the rainwater retention pond
 - Composting infrastructure
 - Improvements to community spaces





Whaley Park Soil & Water Testing, Outreach & Education

- Investigation of the recurring contamination affecting soil and water near the Whaley park outfall
- Introducing community education programs to raise awareness
- Samples will be analyzed to
 - Identify pollutants
 - Tracing discharge sources
 - Develop a targeted remediation strategy



FLINT RIVER
WATERSHED COALITION
protect • promote • improve



Stoudamire Wellness Center

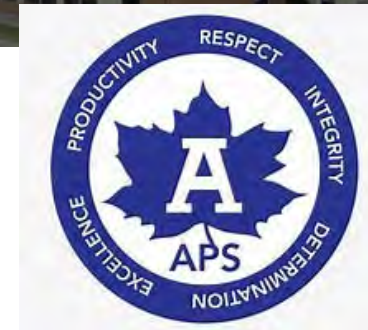
- Wellness Campus in Detroit's Lower East Side
- Connecting the Stoudamire Wellness Hub to Manz Playfield
- The project will clean up polluted land and add green buffers to protect residents from traffic and industrial pollution
- Will offer a safe, peaceful environment that supports health and brings the community together





Adrian Public School District - Improved Air Quality Project

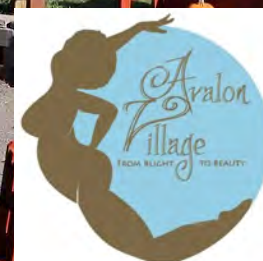
- Seeks to address environmental health challenges in its disadvantaged community
- Upgrade outdated HVAC system and building controls
- Improves Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)
- Reducing health risks





The Avalon Village Healing House

- Converting blighted Highland Park home into community health and wellness clinic
- Will offer essential services to residents
- Uplifting a neighborhood with limited resources
- Turning a neglected space into a place of care and well-being





The Green Revolution: A Youth Leadership & Eco-Friendly Community Project

- A three-pronged approach to GREEN community development
- Youth & community Environmental Stewardship Training
- Development of a 5,000 square foot rooftop garden space on a major Freeway
- Creation of green spaces planted across the City of Highland Park





The Green Revolution Impact

- Next-generation environmental advocates will be cultivated through workshops, exposure to eco-technology careers, and urban gardens
- Reduced carbon footprint through improved air quality, heat island effect, and health outcomes in one of the most heavily polluted areas of the State
- Changing the City's landscape with GREEN spaces and a resilience hub which will serve as a “demonstration model” for communities across the country





Centers For Family Development, Inc.

Centers for Family Development, Inc.'s HOPE Mobile

Community Improvement Project

Goal: Reduce Environmental Health burdens and impacts.

Project Start Date: *October 1, 2025*

Focus area: 48213 zip code and surrounding zip codes 48205, 48234, 48224, and 48202

Previous Program Impact:

Outreach to **4,913** individuals lead to **145** police and/or hospital diversions





Centers for Family Development, Inc.'s HOPE Mobile

Objectives:

- Help **400** community youth, adults and families annually access neighborhood-based integrated behavioral health services.
- **Reduce** hospitalization, incarceration, and formal system escalation of community residents.



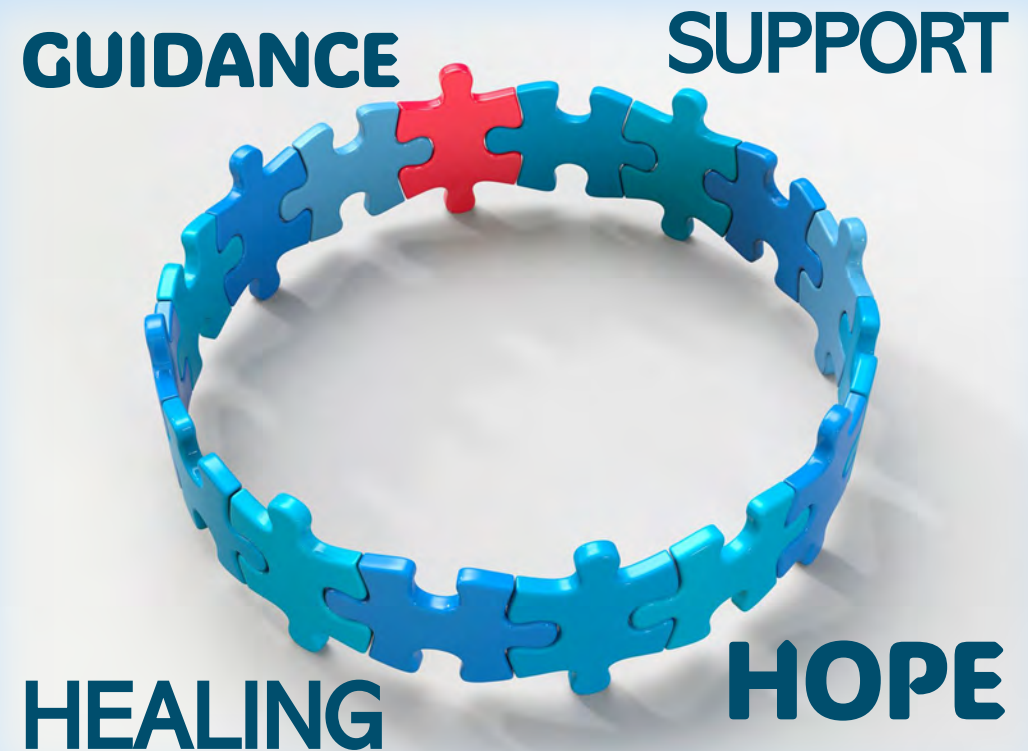


Centers For Family Development, Inc.

Centers for Family Development, Inc.'s HOPE Mobile

Mobile Response Services uses one response team to provide both, mobile outreach and mobile crisis intervention:

- Program Supervisor/Mental Health Therapist
- Van Transportation Driver
- Parent Support Partner
- Youth Peer Support Specialist
- Community Health Worker/Restorative Practices Coordinator





Clean Air for Detroit Seniors

- Providing IAQ monitoring & air cleaners for **125 at-risk residents** to promote healthier living spaces & alleviate local air quality concerns
- Actively tracking IAQ improvement & impact on public health throughout next 3 years
- Educating outer community on air quality awareness & home health by sharing IAQ improvement data from participating homes
- Collaborating w/Original United Citizens of SW Detroit, St. Patrick Senior Center & Timilon



**BRIDGING
COMMUNITIES**



Clean Air for Detroit Seniors

- Progress to date:
 - 71 residents' homes across 48217 area onboarded into program (out of 125)
 - Equipped participants' homes with SMART Science™ IAQ monitors & SMART Air Systems
 - Currently conducting 90-Day Baseline IAQ Measurement: Actively monitoring PM2.5, PM1, TVOCs, & CO2 in homes
 - Next steps: Baseline Health Screenings for participants to-date



**BRIDGING
COMMUNITIES**



A 4 Asthma Program: Benton Harbor/Berrien County

- Educate and Support
- Youth/Students to Seniors
- Schools, Churches, Community
- BECAUSE WE CARE!



A4 ASTHMA
PROGRAM





MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2025

Driving Environmental Justice Forward: Action, Equity, and Impact

EGLÉ

A4 ASTHMA
PROGRAM

May Asthma 2025 Awareness Event: Benton Harbor/Berrien County, MI



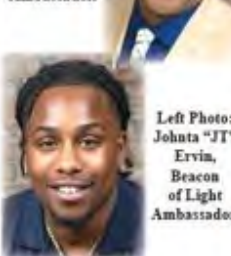
Above Photo: Beacon of Light Ambassador, Kim Jordan (left) holds her award certificate, along side her hand-drawn portrait, created by artist Oalliyah Hornes (right).

(Photo Below) Beacon of Light Ambassador, Ebony Sanders holds her award certificate (right) with her two sons (left), and Program Director Princella Tobias (far left).



Above Photo: Beacon of Light Ambassador, Ethel Clark-Griffin (left) holds her award certificate, along side her hand-drawn portrait, by Oalliyah Hornes (right).

Right Photo: Dr. Kelvin Butts, Beacon of Light Ambassador.



Left Photo: Johna "JT" Ervin, Beacon of Light Ambassador.





Clean Air for Children Program

- We've provided air cleaning and monitoring equipment to **41 licensed home-based childcare centers** to create healthier learning environments for children
- Program focuses on underserved communities in **Kalamazoo, Benton Harbor & Battle Creek**
- We are actively tracking positive air impacts of IAQ solutions on home health & child comfort through project duration
- We are educating childcare providers on importance of healthy IAQ for early childhood development through education events, e-learning toolkits, shareable resources, and real IAQ data





Clean Air for Children Program

- Current program milestones:
 - 41 homes onboarded with IAQ equipment, training, and e-learning resources
 - Homes have SMART Science™ air systems & IAQ monitors installed, with mobile tracking system for IAQ data & alerts
 - Completed 90-day baseline IAQ measurement, and now are in active improvement stage
 - Conducted 3 trainings with program participants on IAQ basics, equipment operations, and understanding IAQ data





Bobo Brazil Community Center

- Revitalizing the blighted downtown building of the Bobo Brazil Community Center
- A resilience hub for recreation, community engagement, and health promotion
- Guided by community input
- Addresses blight and strengthens neighborhood connections





Flint In-Home Plumbing

- Partnering with the Greater Flint Health Coalition and Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Repair in-home lead and galvanized plumbing
- Targeted outreach to residents whose water has tested positive for lead in the past
- Will support the Lead Based Paint Hazard Program to complement ongoing work on residential walls and windows



GREATER FLINT
HEALTH COALITION



LISC



Grand Rapids Urban Agriculture

- Expanding support for community organizations leading urban agriculture efforts in local parks
- Lowering food costs, cleaning air, encouraging healthier food practices, and educational opportunities to residents
- Prioritizing neighborhoods facing environmental justice challenges



CITY OF
GRAND
RAPIDS



Blight Remediation of 525 N. 24th St., Springfield

- Cleaning up large piles of shredded plastic left behind by a failed waste program
- Stopping health and air quality problems
- Making the area safer and improving life for nearby residents





Covert Public School District Elementary School Improved Air Quality Project

- Seeks to address environmental health challenges in its disadvantaged community
- Upgrade outdated HVAC system and building controls
- Improves Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)
- Reducing health risks





Covert Elementary School HVAC Initiative

- Add air conditioning
- Add ionization





Covert Elementary School Building Controls Initiative

- Add CO₂ sensing and control
- Add Relative Humidity (RH) sensing
- Provide reports to ensure desired IAQ is achieved and maintained





Check out our website for more information on:

- Collaborative engagement and initiatives
- MI EJ Screen - an interactive mapping tool that identifies Michigan communities that may be disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards
- How to sign up for email updates
- How to submit an EJ concern

Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate





Dearborn Green Schoolyards at Salina

Every child should experience the joys and benefits of nature regardless of where they live.

Dearborn Green Schoolyards will support 21st Century education, promote children's health, well-being and joy, and function as ecologically rich community schools that connect children and their neighborhoods to the natural world right outside their classroom door.





Food Sovereignty Initiative

- The newly formed, Michigan Food Sovereignty Collective Network (MSFCN) meet bi-monthly, brainstorming solutions, for farmers.
- Semi-annual MFSCN retreats allow the team to solidify action plans to foster food autonomy.
- Operational funds (\$75,000) is being provided to farmers in Battle Creek, Dansville, and Detroit.
- The state of global majority farmers is being studied via survey and regional in-person focus groups.



**FLINT
INNOVATIVE
SOLUTIONS**



Food Sovereignty Initiative

- Flint and Genesee Food Policy Council held its 1st biannual food summit, gathering food ecosystem partners.
- The Flint Eats App (FEA) leverages technology to increase access and education for healthy food.
- Flint Innovative Solutions (FIS) held community listening sessions to inform the mobile app's revisions.
- Regranting funds (\$30,000) to global majority farmers in Genesee County.

2025 FLINT FOOD SUMMIT
Celebrating
Leaders, Growers, Thinkers, & Eaters
of the Flint & Genesee County Food System

Register Today!
QR Code
bit.ly/3GXt0Xk

3 BREAKOUT TRACKS

- URBAN AGRICULTURE**
- HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS**
- FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

EVENT SPONSORS

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension
GENESEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION
GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION
FLINT EATS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FLINT INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
GENESEE HEALTH SYSTEM
NORTH FLINT FOOD MARKET
Environmental Justice Impact Grants
EGLE
Michigan Department of AGRICULTURE & Rural Development

810.529.6607
<https://crim.org/flint-food-summit/>



Eastside Environmental Justice Impact Program

Purpose

- Advance health & environmental justice in Poletown East & McDougall Hunt
- Promote healthy lifestyles through trees, greenways & community connection

Major Activities

- Engage Residents
- Identify and Secure Sites
- Create greenspace designs
- Clean up and prepare sites
- Install walking paths
- Plant trees and gardens
- Maintain landscapes



Project Lead:

**DETROIT
FUTURE
CITY**™

Community Partners:





DPSCD Air Quality Improvements

- Repairing 28 boiler systems in up to 47 K-12 school locations in Detroit
- Ensuring proper heating so students have healthy school environment
- Deploying new facilities and maintenance software to improve management of heating and cooling systems management
- Improving overall indoor air quality





Environmental Health Inequities for Older Adults by Built Environment Improvements

- Project will improve air quality for older adults in Southwest Detroit by upgrading HVAC systems and offering health-focused education
- Will create a plan to manage indoor air quality that fits the community's needs and share it with others
- Over 300 seniors will learn how clean air can support better health and well-being





The DREAM Center

- Community Center
 - office space
 - digital literacy lab
 - retail space for small businesses
- In the Dexter Linwood neighborhood on Detroit's Westside.





The DREAM Center

- First economic development in Woodrow Wilson in 25 years
- Adjacent park for families
- Only community center of its type within walking distance for most of our neighbors





Climate Resilient SW Detroit Homes

- Retrofit 10 Southwest Detroit homes for climate resilience
- Prevent power outages & flooding impacts for medically-vulnerable residents
- Model a neighborhood-level resilience program led by community





Imlay City EV Rides

- Project will provide three accessible minivans to help Imlay City residents get to medical appointments
- Many residents lack cars and public transit isn't available so this service will reduce missed appointments and improve health
- Helps remove transportation barriers and supports better care in underserved neighborhoods





Climate READY Detroit: Fostering Healthy Homes for a Sustainable Future

- Engages 150 Detroit households in flood-prone neighborhoods to complete assessments and provide resources.
- Households receive rain barrels, rain gardens, downspout extensions, and other flood-mitigating and air quality fixes.
- Air purifiers and dehumidifiers improve indoor air quality; air monitors show live data to residents.
- Air quality testing and more monitors improves availability of air quality information in the area.





Detroit-Hamtramck Environmental Health Project

- Project will establish an air quality monitoring network and implement public health interventions in Detroit- Hamtramck neighborhoods
- Partnering with JustAir and local leaders, the project will deploy:
 - Monitoring equipment
 - Collect data
 - Develop strategies to reduce environmental health risks
 - Empower community residents with actionable insights to improve air quality and public health





Equitably Resourcing Residents to Positively Lead and Sustainably Impact the Community

- **Invest in RiA's infrastructure to serve as a central hub** for grassroots initiatives/partners
- **Leverage development of RiA's Community Center** to launch activities to improve public health
- **Support resident strategies and lived experience perspectives**
- **Build momentum from previous community projects**





Grand Traverse Band Community Revitalization

- Will be cleaning up blighted properties on tribal lands
- Removing junk vehicles, unsafe buildings, and leftover debris to make neighborhoods safer and cleaner
- Helps protect health, supports property values, and safe living conditions for the tribal community





Redevelopment of Vacant and Contaminated Site in Muskegon Heights

- A vacant property in Muskegon Heights will be turned into a new community hub
- The project includes:
 - Building a health center
 - Daycare services
 - Job training programs
 - Commercial kitchen
 - Library



HACKLEY COMMUNITY CARE
For Your Whole Life



Keweenaw Bay Indian Community – Baseline Metals Survey

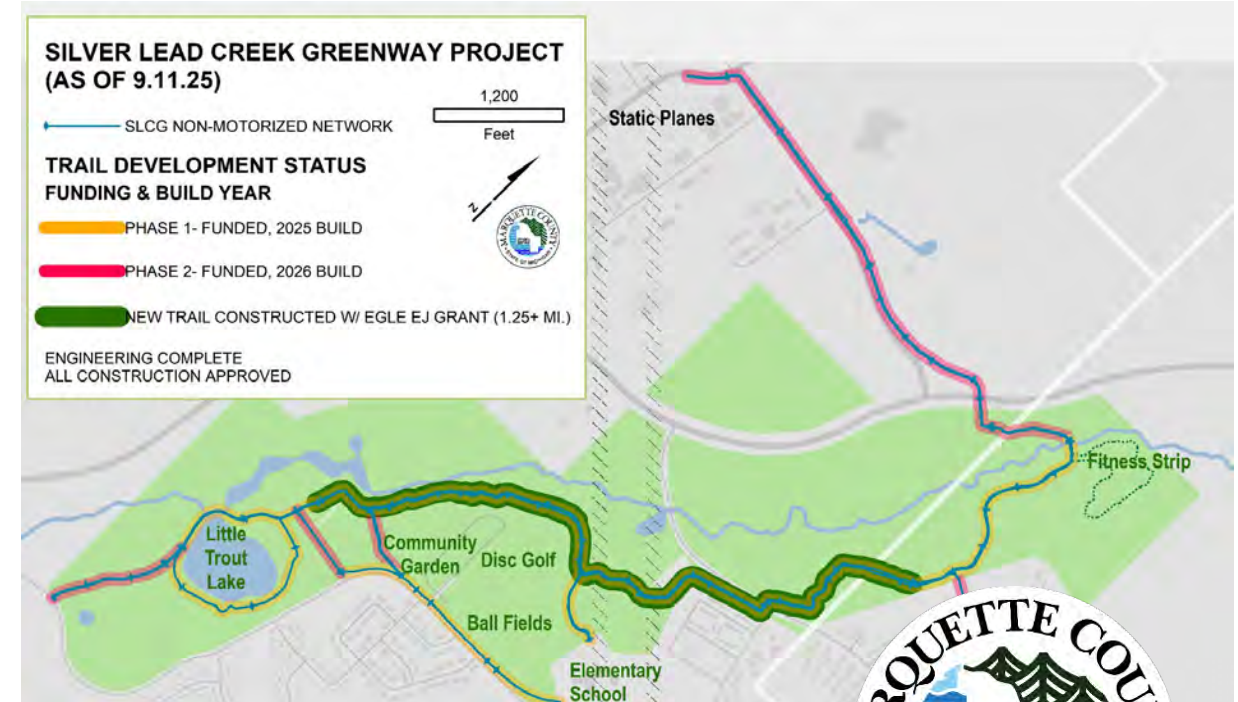
- KBIC lands are an interconnected system of lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands
- Critical mineral exploration is increasing in the Upper Peninsula and across the ceded territory
- Baseline metals monitoring will help us protect the aquatic ecosystems we rely on





Silver Lead Creek Greenway Trail – KI Sawyer

- Creating a safe, non-motorized trail connecting neighborhoods, parks, and key destinations
- Expanding access to outdoor recreation for all ages and abilities
- Promoting transportation equity by reducing car dependency





Silver Lead Creek Greenway Trail – KI Sawyer

- Connecting people to places, nature, and each other
- Supporting active lifestyles and better public health
- Investing in community identity and quality of life





Silver Lead Creek Greenway Trail – KI Sawyer

- Preserving green space and natural habitat for future generations
- Attracting employers with improved livability and recreation access
- Delivering environmental justice through partnerships and lasting benefits

GOAL:

To create a **community wellness corridor** connecting **KI Sawyer residents** to **NATURE**, school, **parks**, **work**, **HOME**, & **each other**.

A linear landscape encouraging everyone to get outside and play

A non-motorized path to businesses and services

A one-of-a-kind community resource right out your back door

A safe route for kids to commute and an outdoor classroom corridor





Advancing Wellbeing Equity (AWE) and Environmental Justice in North Flint

- **Youth-elder partnerships drive community assessment:** A cohort of younger residents will work with elders as change agents to identify and map North Flint's wellbeing assets and challenges.
- **Greening investments and microgrants build resilience:** Assessment results will guide community greening projects and microgrants that increase belonging, connection, and safety while addressing public health burdens, including violence.





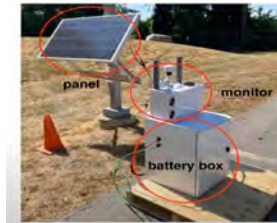
Hubbard Richard: Clean Air, Healthy Homes, Greener Communities

The Project will:

Address air pollution and environmental health disparities in Detroit's Hubbard Richard neighborhood:

- Two black carbon monitors to track emissions
- Home air filtration units to affected residents
- Environmental assessments on the former Greyhound Bus depot land
- A neighborhood tree replanting program

Installation Options



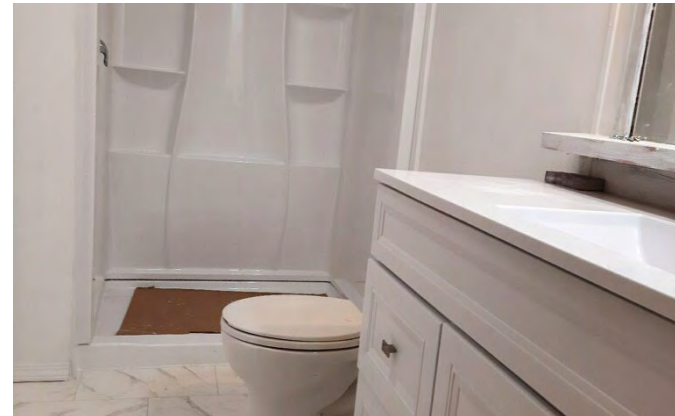


Oakland County Neighborhood & Housing Development, Mobile Home Repair Program

- \$10,000 grant program
- Income Qualified (Base on HUD Guidelines)
- Owner occupied mobile homes
- Typical repairs include bathrooms, roofs, furnaces, water heaters, and other building components



Mobile Home Bathroom-Before (Holly, Mi)



Mobile Home Bathroom-After (Holly, Mi)



Oakland County Neighborhood & Housing Development, Home Improvement Program

Home Improvement Program

- Deferred Loan (0% - Up to \$23,000.00)
- Income Qualified (Base on HUD Guidelines)
- Single Family Owner Occupied and Owner-Occupied Duplexes
- Essential Health & Safety Repairs (Roof, Heat Systems, Water & Waste Systems, Water Heater, Electrical Hazards, Windows, Entrance Doors, Lead Based Paint, Municipal Code Violations)



Home Improvement- Before (Southfield, Mi)



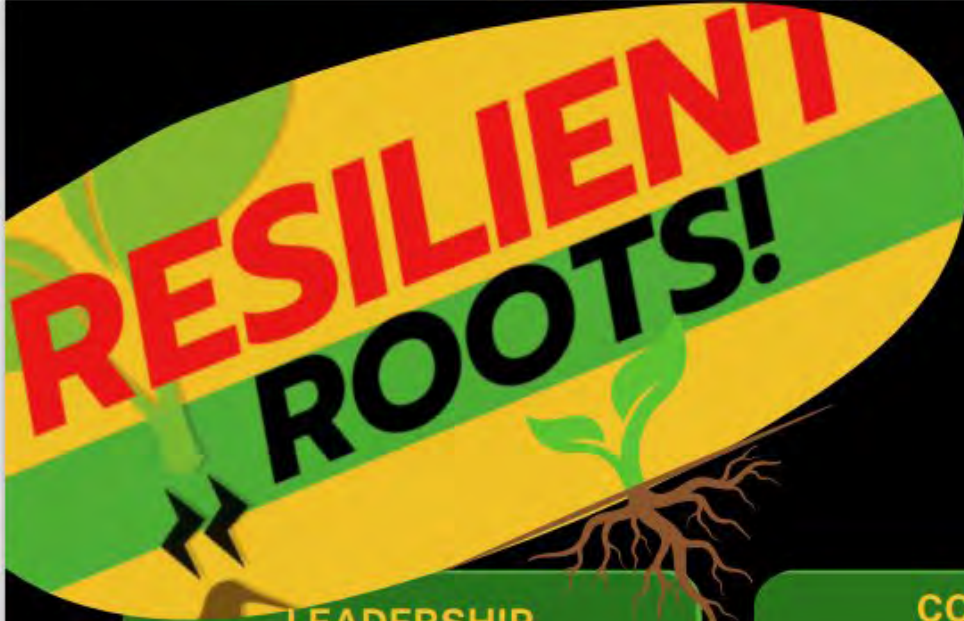
Home Improvement- After (Southfield, Mi)



MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2025

Driving Environmental Justice Forward: Action, Equity, and Impact

EGLE



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Builds environmental justice leaders through education, storytelling, and hands-on projects

COMMUNITY INSPIRATION

Highlights Community Heroes in a web series to inspire resilience and action

EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT

Fosters equity, collaboration, and long-term empowerment across generations

RESILIENCE BUILDING

Strengthens Saginaw's resilience to climate, health, and economic challenges

SAGINAW
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR THE PEOPLE
CAP





Trusting Our Tap – Mobilizing Community to Understand Context and Data of Water Quality

- Mobilizing Detroit residents to trust their tap through a data dissemination series
- Teaching We the Youth of Detroit skills in data analysis, GSI mapping, website design, data visualizations, and community presentations
- Disseminating results in culturally-relevant ways to generate community trust and community-driven responses





Addressing Disparities in Cancer Care and Community Health Impact for the American Indian Population in Michigan

- Eliminating barriers to cancer medication access for American Indian residents in Michigan.
- Improving access to cancer care for vulnerable patients.
- Preventing cancer medication waste from harming land and waterways.
- Equipping tribal health clinics and communities with infrastructure and resources for long-standing impact.

yesrx

yesrx.org



The Otsego Story Project: Uplifting Voices to Improve Public Health

We are academics, students, and community members working together to address community health concerns.

- We have three primary goals
 - Create an interactive, online Storybank designed to honor the knowledge and experiences of Otsego residents.
 - Conduct citizen-led environmental sampling to increase awareness of the presence or absence of local contamination.
 - Create a Fellowship program for Otsego high-school students to inspire the next generation of environmental justice professionals.





Longway Planetarium Asbestos Abatement Project

- 35,938 individuals of all ages visited Longway Planetarium during the last fiscal year
- 51,583 students participated in educational activities
- 14,036 students attended Longway Planetarium shows





Playscape on Remediated Site in Pullman

- **Transformed** formerly arsenic and lead contaminated 2.5 acres site into safe, green recreational space
- Includes a nature playscape and covered pavilion, promoting **physical and mental health** for over 200 youth and residents
- **Reclaims** polluted land for communal wellness and play, turning an environmental hazard into a vibrant community asset





Addressing Historic Dumping and Blight Conditions on Tribal Properties

- Purchased properties may have buildings on them that need to be removed for health and safety reasons.
- These buildings will be assessed for asbestos and lead and abated prior to demolition.
- Removal of dilapidated, dangerous structures and associated refuse.





Upcoming EGLE Events

Upcoming events



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Local Leaders Webinar Series



Join EGLE for a monthly webinar series to learn how to address environmental issues in your community.

Monthly topics include odors, wetlands, inland lakes, septic systems, contaminated property, illegal dumping, and more.



Michigan.gov/EGLEevents

Upcoming events

CATALYST COMMUNITIES

Webinar Series



EGLE

October 9, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Common Recycling Myths Busted - Plastics

Michigan.gov/EGLEevents

Upcoming events

Michigan Sustainability Conference

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2025 - GRAND RAPIDS, MI



Register by October 21.

Michigan.gov/EGLEevents

Upcoming events



Save the date!

Michigan.gov/EGLEevents