

## Medicaid Low Birth Weight Project

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services-Medical Services Administration (MDHHS-MSA) implemented an initiative for Medicaid Health Plans to specifically address Michigan's 10.4 percent low birth weight rate. This project is a multi-year, statewide initiative to align MDHHS efforts to promote health equity in maternity care and infant care.

A comprehensive literature review yielded several prenatal factors associated with increased risk for infant low-birth weight, including:

- Maternal chronic disease
- Pregnancy acquired (gestational) diabetes
- Maternal stress and depression
- Substance misuse
- Maternal smoking

Current literature and experience in the Michigan Medicaid population suggest the factors that seem more apt to positively impact Michigan's low birth rate weight include:

- Timely entry into prenatal care
- Maternal smoking reduction/cessation
- Appropriate identification and treatment of women with short cervix
- Home visiting programs that incorporate community health workers

### Project Goals

- To promote the collective efforts of Medicaid health plans, existing home visiting (Maternal Infant Health Program) and Community Health Worker programs, to:
  - Design and implement a project addressing documented health disparities and health inequities
  - Improve infant health outcomes
  - Reduce the low birth weight rate in Michigan

### Prosperity Region 6 - Genesee County Project

Molina Healthcare, McLaren Health Plan and HAP Empowered are working jointly to implement member and provider interventions to reduce the low birth weight rate of 13.5 percent in Prosperity Region 6. Genesee County is the focus of the project because 70 percent of the collective births of the three health plans occur here.

### Provider Training and Resources

- Provider Health Equity Training can be found at [hap.org/empoweredproviders](http://hap.org/empoweredproviders) or by visiting [michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://michigan.gov/mdhhs) then: *Keeping Michigan Healthy; Chronic diseases; Office of Equity and Minority Health; Health Equity Online Training*. This training will help to better understand:
  - Health equity and health disparities
  - Factors that contribute to health inequities
  - Populations that are most affected
  - The impact of health inequities
  - How to improve the health equity for Michigan residents
- The resources below can be found at [hap.org/empoweredproviders](http://hap.org/empoweredproviders).
  - Notification of Pregnancy Form
  - MIHP Referral Tool Kit
  - Tobacco Quit Line Program Information (National Jewish Health)
  - BH/SUD information for referral to the PIHPs