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Detroit Coalition Receives HHS Funding to Develop Health Information Technology Infrastructure to Combat Diabetes

The Southeastern Michigan Health Association (SEMHA) was chosen this week to receive funding under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) new Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program.

The Beacon Community Program was established through funding by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to accelerate the development of a nationwide health information technology (HIT) infrastructure. Selected communities use funding to identify the most prevalent health issues affecting local residents, and then use HIT tools to link health providers and other community resources in new and innovative ways, and to share best practices and lessons learned with other communities who want to implement similar strategies.

SEMHA will receive \$16.2 million over three years from HHS through the Program. SEMHA and its partners in the greater Detroit area will use HIT tools and strategies to improve diabetes care in Detroit by facilitating the sharing of medical information among health systems, physicians, Community Health Centers, health insurers, and laboratories.

Diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in Michigan, and plays a role in 23 percent of all hospital admissions in metropolitan Detroit.

The grant to SEMHA is one of 17 similar grants made to organizations in communities across the country this year to further develop electronic medical record and health information exchange.

Michigan Primary Care Association is among the 50-plus collaborating organizations and associations involved in this project.

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For more information about the Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program, go to <http://Healthit.hhs.gov/Programs/Beacon>. For more information about the Southeastern Michigan Health Association, visit www.semha.org.

About Michigan Primary Care Association

Michigan Primary Care Association has been the voice for Community Health Centers and other community-based providers in Michigan since 1980. It is a leader in building a healthy society in which all residents have convenient and affordable access to quality health care. MPCA's mission is to promote, support, and develop comprehensive, accessible, and affordable quality community-based primary care services to everyone in Michigan. For more information, please visit www.mpca.net or call 517.381.8000.

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