

MidMichigan
Community
Health Services

9249 West Lake City Road
Houghton Lake, Michigan 48629-8902
Phone (989) 422-5122
Administrative Fax (989) 422-6838
Clinical Fax (989) 422-4378

November 18, 2013

To the Promise Zone Review Committee:

MidMichigan Community Health Services (MCHS) is pleased to submit this letter of support for the consortium of partners, led by Northern Transformation, in the effort to obtain promise zone status for the 6 county region of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw, and Roscommon counties. This area is one of the most impoverished, particularly childhood poverty, and economically depressed of all counties within the state of Michigan.

MCHS is a federally qualified health center dedicated to the mission of providing high quality, community oriented, patient-centered health services for all. While resources continue to be extremely limited, health care access for the low income and uninsured continue to be high priorities. The organization has had some success in providing improved health care resources and access. Some of these successes are, in fact, at least partially due to the receipt of some federal and state grants over the years. Results of a recent comprehensive needs assessment clearly document, however, that extensive needs within most of these northern Michigan communities continue to be very great. More specifically, some of the continuing high priority needs include: 1.) More community health center sites within the region, 2.) the need for a low income dental clinic, 3.) the need for more extensive mental health and substance abuse services, 4.) improved access to emergency services, 5.) the need for more community fitness/wellness services, 6.) the need for transportation assistance, and 7.) the great need for more local jobs and economic opportunity.

Our organization is community-based, community-focused, and fully committed to partnering with other organizations and entities to address each of these high priority needs. MCHS is pleased to be a participating partner in the Promise Zone initiative, and looks forward to the advantages and benefits that the Promise Zone designation can potentially have for our area.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Milner, MPH
Executive Director
MidMichigan Community Health Services
9249 West Lake City Road
Houghton Lake, MI 48629
Phone (989) 422-5148
Fax (989) 422-6838
Darrell.Milner@MidMichiganhs.org