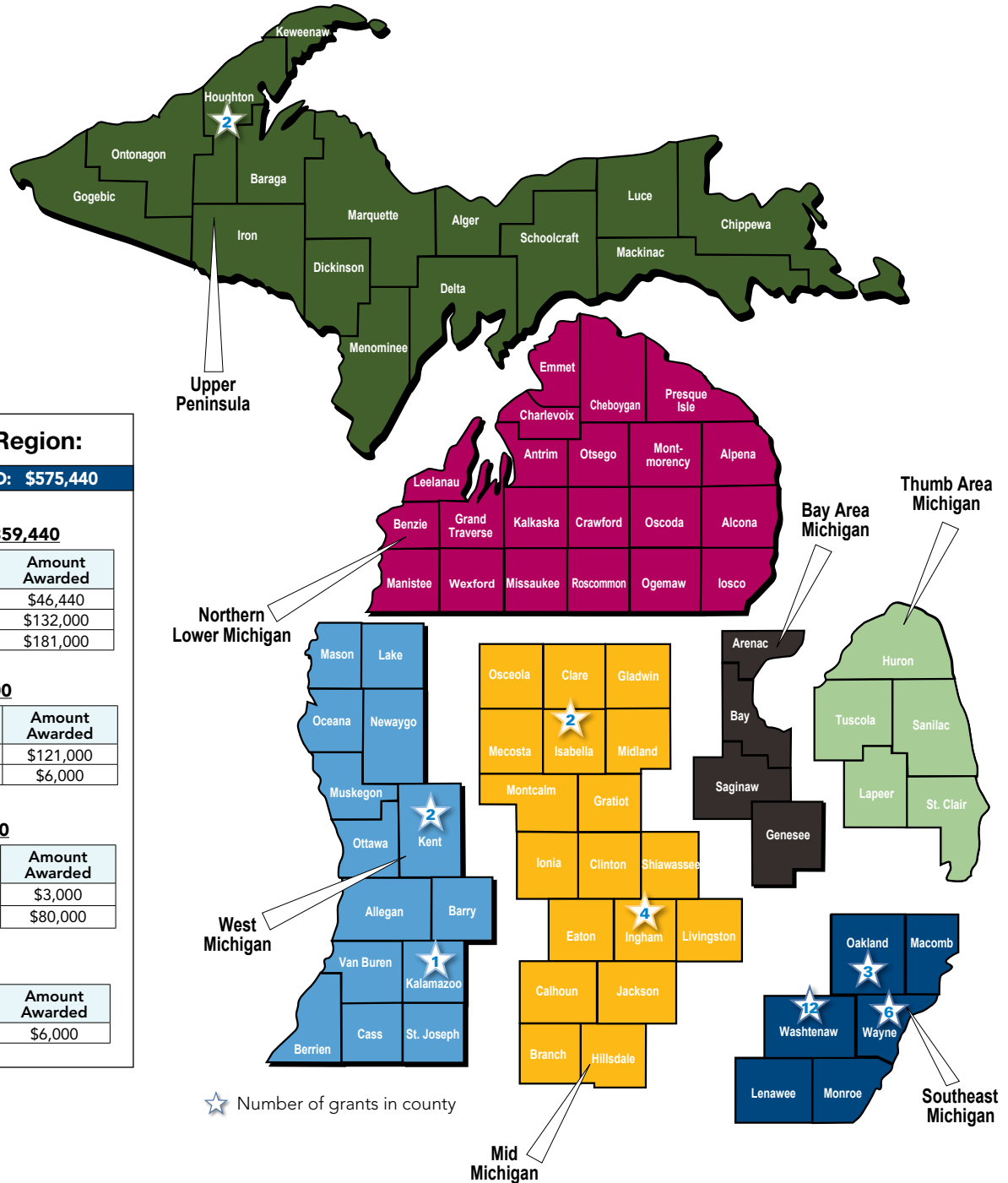


# BCBSM Foundation 2026 Grant Highlights



Total Grants by Region:		
<b>TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED: \$575,440</b>		
<b>Southeast Michigan: \$359,440</b>		
County	Grants Awarded	Amount Awarded
Oakland	3	\$46,440
Washtenaw	12	\$132,000
Wayne	6	\$181,000
<b>Mid-Michigan: \$127,000</b>		
County	Grants Awarded	Amount Awarded
Ingham	4	\$121,000
Isabella	2	\$6,000
<b>West Michigan: \$83,000</b>		
County	Grants Awarded	Amount Awarded
Kalamazoo	1	\$3,000
Kent	2	\$80,000
<b>Upper Peninsula: \$6,000</b>		
County	Grants Awarded	Amount Awarded
Houghton	2	\$6,000

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# 2026 BCBSM Foundation Grants Detail

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GRANTEES			
\$359,440			
Organization Investigator/Project Director	Grant Summary	Amount Grant Program	County
Brilora Fertility Foundation Lauren Clements	Brilora will expand statewide navigation and behavioral health supports through in-person Peer Support Socials, evidence-based virtual group therapy cohorts, and plain-language "Brilora Support Index" guides, with a goal of connecting 150 Michigan families to clinical and mental health resources, strengthened health literacy, and reduced isolation and distress across the fertility journey.	\$40,000 Community Health	Oakland
Downtown Detroit Partnership Eric Larson	The Fitness in the Parks project aims to provide intentionally accessible fitness opportunities to the Detroit community, with a special emphasis on senior adults.	\$35,000 Community Health	Wayne
House of Hope Ministries, Inc. Brooke Holtslag	External grant writing support to improve food access, youth mentorship, and mental health programming for youth and families living in targeted mobile home communities.	\$3,440 Proposal Development Award	Oakland
NAMI Washtenaw County Alison Paine	This project will create a free, Michigan-based film and resource initiative designed specifically to support parents and caregivers following a youth mental health crisis. Grounded in both clinical expertise and lived experience, the project will address common gaps families face by offering clear, practical guidance for navigating care after crisis, communicating with providers, and understanding how parents can participate as informed partners in recovery.	\$40,000 Community Health	Washtenaw
Oakland University School of Nursing Lindsay Colby	Examines how nurse caring behaviors, missed nursing care, and nurse well-being interrelate within virtual nursing models, providing evidence to guide supportive policies and practice redesign.	\$3,000 Student Award	Oakland
St. Patrick Senior Center SaTrice Coleman-Betts	To expand the use and evaluate a digital wellbeing assessment tool that not only measures older adults' wellbeing but also provides actionable, personalized guidance to individuals, service providers, and community organizations. With the diverse community comparison, the project aims to ensure the tool is equitable, demographically responsive, practical, and effective in translating assessment data into meaningful action.	\$40,000 Community Health	Wayne
Starfish Family Services Roxanne Brinkerhoff	To eliminate structural barriers that prevent vulnerable children from accessing early developmental intervention during critical growth periods. By embedding coordinated therapy services within early education settings, Starfish ensures equitable access to proactive intervention rather than delayed, eligibility-based support.	\$45,000 Community Health	Wayne
University of Michigan College of Engineering Yili Wang	Develops a data-driven framework to select optimal recipients for marginal kidney transplants, comparing outcomes such as wait-time, transplant rates, and five-year graft survival.	\$3,000 Student Award	Washtenaw
University of Michigan College of Pharmacy Olubukola Tikare	Uses mixed-methods research to capture breast cancer survivors' and providers' perspectives on medication management, creating a patient-centered survivorship care plan to improve post-treatment medication use.	\$3,000 Student Award	Washtenaw
University of Michigan Medical School John Biziorek	Uses mixed-methods to uncover disability-related barriers throughout acute trauma care, producing a framework and recommendations for disability-inclusive trauma protocols in Michigan.	\$3,000 Student Award	Washtenaw

# 2026 BCBSM Foundation Grants Detail

## SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GRANTEES *cont'd*

Organization Investigator/Project Director	Grant Summary	Amount Grant Program	County
University of Michigan Medical School Joshua Chen	Examines how private-equity ownership of fertility clinics influences IVF processes and outcomes, with primary focus on changes in singleton live-birth rates.	\$3,000 Student Award	Washtenaw
University of Michigan Medical School Roger Hsieh	Identifies early, non-invasive predictors of progression and attrition among living liver donor candidates to streamline selection and improve transplant outcomes.	\$3,000 Student Award	Washtenaw
University of Michigan Medical School Kyle Latack, MD	Aims to assess the long-term durability of different surgical approaches for prolapse repair, as well as to assess the relationship between prolapse surgery and patient geography.	\$10,000 Physician Investigator	Washtenaw
University of Michigan Medical School Mitchell Mead	Analyzes patterns in delayed time to treatment for head and neck cancer patients across clinical and patient demographics within Michigan and the overall impact on oncologic outcomes.	\$3,000 Student Award	Washtenaw
University of Michigan Medical School Lauren Mamer, MD, PhD	This study will assess the diagnostic value of brain-injury biomarkers for evaluating TIA and minor stroke in the emergency department in patient populations 65 years and older.	\$55,000 Investigator-Initiated	Washtenaw
University of Michigan School of Dentistry Ritwika Bera	Investigates a radiation-sensitizing target and biomarker in oral cancer, aiming to reduce required radiation doses and improve patient quality of life.	\$3,000 Student Award	Washtenaw
University of Michigan School of Public Health Yoonkyoung Cho	To estimate fracture risk following different osteoporosis treatment strategies while accounting for changes across menopausal transition.	\$3,000 Student Award	Washtenaw
University of Michigan School of Public Health Zirui Zhou	Develops an integrated modeling approach that combines incomplete data from multiple Michigan surveillance systems to produce more accurate estimates of influenza infection burden.	\$3,000 Student Award	Washtenaw
Wayne State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Bradley Dixon	Validates a novel associative-learning task for older adults, demonstrating its sensitivity to subtle cognitive changes and potential as a low-cost early-detection tool for dementia risk.	\$3,000 Student Award	Wayne
Wayne State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Nika Eringros	Explores how childhood adversity and alexithymia predict psychosocial and functional recovery after moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury, identifying high-risk patients for targeted rehabilitation.	\$3,000 Student Award	Wayne
Wayne State University Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences Victoria Tutag Lehr, Pharm.D.	Aims to characterize opioid overdose rates pre- and post-naloxone unit implementation in high-risk locations in Detroit-Wayne County to develop a model for sharing with other Michigan communities facing similar challenges.	\$55,000 Investigator-Initiated	Wayne

# 2026 BCBSM Foundation Grants Detail

MID-MICHIGAN GRANTEES			
\$127,000			
Central Michigan University College of Medicine Nathanael Brookshire	Conducts a statewide needs-assessment survey of student-run free clinics to identify key medical, social, and structural barriers, generating actionable data to enhance health care access.	\$3,000 Student Award	Isabella
Central Michigan University College of Medicine Emma Butler	Investigates clinicians' perceived barriers and facilitators to pain assessment and treatment in patients with intellectual disability, aiming to promote standardized, patient-focused pain-management pathways.	\$3,000 Student Award	Isabella
Michigan League for Public Policy Anne Kuhnen	The purpose of the Kids Count project is to measure the health and well-being of children at state and local levels and to use that information to advance public policies that improve the lives of kids and families. Kids Count provides comprehensive data on more than 150 measures that are published both online and in print (every other year). The Kids Count Data Book is a valuable resource for organizations, lawmakers, and advocates across the state who work to improve children's lives.	\$50,000 Community Health	Ingham
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Tamanna Afroj	Quantifies the independent and combined effects of maternal cardiovascular health components on preterm birth risk to pinpoint modifiable pathways for improved pregnancy outcomes.	\$3,000 Student Award	Ingham
Michigan State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Christophe Delay	Creates a real-time toxic-stress reactivity tracking system and predictive risk model to guide early, targeted interventions that prevent progression to poor mental health.	\$3,000 Student Award	Ingham
Michigan State University College of Social Science Jae Puckett, PhD	The Michigan Health Equity Assessment across Locales (HEAL) study will assess Michigan communities' health and healthcare needs by assessing health disparities in Michigan and associations with identity-based factors, while identifying multi-level risk and protective factors that may exacerbate or reduce risk for disease.	\$65,000 Investigator-Initiated	Ingham
WEST MICHIGAN GRANTEES			
\$83,000			
Bridge Street Ministries Ryan Waalkes	Support to expand health-related learning labs for middle school youth from Grand Rapids Public Schools.	\$40,000 Community Health	Kent
Senior Neighbors, Inc. Aruna Kamara	Support for the Access to Care program that provides case-management navigation, certified Medicare counseling, and transportation coordination for older adults.	\$40,000 Community Health	Kent
Western Michigan University College of Arts and Sciences Morgan Palmer	Tests a culturally responsive, process-based ACT protocol tailored to perinatal participants' most impairing psychological-flexibility processes, aiming to reduce depression and anxiety during pregnancy and postpartum.	\$3,000 Student Award	Kalamazoo

# 2026 BCBSM Foundation Grants Detail

## UPPER PENINSULA GRANTEES

**\$6,000**

Michigan Tech University College of Computing Zixin Shi	Applies causal-inference techniques to imaging to isolate biomechanical determinants of hip fracture risk and generate individualized, actionable risk-reduction estimates.	\$3,000 Student Award	Houghton
Michigan Tech University College of Sciences and Arts Kamand Sedaghatnia	Develops and validates a GLUT5-targeted PET tracer to enhance early detection of breast cancers with low glucose uptake, improving diagnostic sensitivity.	\$3,000 Student Award	Houghton

## GRANT PROGRAMS

Community Health	Community Health Matching Grant program provides grants to community nonprofit organizations to develop community-inspired health improvement programs.
Investigator-Initiated	Investigator Initiated Research Award program provides grants to doctoral-level and medical researchers to address critical gaps in health-related research.
Proposal Development Award	Proposal Development Award provides grants to nonprofits to contract with a grant writer to develop, write, and submit health-related grants.
Student Award	Student Award Program grants support the health-related research of medical, doctoral, or terminal degree students.
Request for Proposal	Request for Proposal Program provides grants to organizations to develop interventions for health improvements that are population-led and community inspired.
Physician Investigator	Physician Investigator Research Award Program provides support to physicians who conduct research to improve health care access, value, and quality.



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