

Benefits to Community Members for Those Sharing Their Stories

[Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action](#) (MiCCA) represents a coalition of health professionals spanning various disciplines and career stages. As such, we can offer a network of healthcare providers from across the state, as well as potential access to other health, environmental, energy, and justice organizations with which we collaborate. In addition, we have connections to a variety of media outlets as well as advocacy experience with state and federal policy-makers.

We are keenly aware that we still have much to learn from those on the frontlines of disparate environmental practices and are seeking input from these communities about what a healthy, just transition should look like.

1. Awareness and Advocacy:

Storytelling serves as a powerful advocacy tool. Individuals sharing their stories contribute to raising awareness about the real and immediate impacts of climate change, motivating others to take action. Recognizing the disenfranchisement that low-income and BIPOC voices face, even as they tell their own story, we hope to use our networks and privilege to share, with permission, their accounts. As doctors, nurses, and other clinicians, we know that our voices are some of the most trusted. Using the power of our collective clinical voice, we hope to amplify the stories of those who have been disproportionately impacted by unfair environmental practices, especially as it relates to the climate crisis.

With consent, we plan to share either individual or compiled anonymized versions of the stories to a range of potential groups including 1) other practitioners, 2) community health centers and hospital administrators, 3) the next generation of health professional students, 4) policymakers, and, 5) the broader Michigan public.

a. Among Healthcare Providers and Health Centers

Understanding the impact of climate change on patient health empowers healthcare providers to better care for their patients and advocate for equitable policies. By delivering firsthand accounts to community health centers and hospital administrators, we hope to inform the development of mitigation and resiliency plans, ensuring that they are responsive to the needs of the community. Our findings will be preferentially delivered to the relevant health centers, advising them to use community-specific insights to craft geographically relevant mitigation and resiliency plans.

b. Among Politicians

Community-based climate health stories will inform our organization's perspective on policies on which to advocate in order to propel equitable climate action. While we lack the power to definitively determine policy, our role in various coalitions provides opportunities to present these first-hand accounts to lawmakers, health societies, and media outlets. Combining peer-reviewed data with clinical stories strengthens the case for just and equitable policy solutions.

Health practitioners are trained to utilize peer-reviewed data to inform outcomes. Coupling this data with the clinical story is powerful and persuasive and achievable with our qualified volunteer base.

By uplifting the firsthand and current experiences of climate change in Michigan, our partnership will provide policymakers with real-world insights that can inform the development of targeted, equitable policies that spur climate action and a just energy transition.

c. With the Public:

Humanizing data through storytelling can change public narratives. Anonymized or consensual stories will be published in newspapers, potentially reaching audiences disconnected from frontline experiences. Paired with actionable items, these publications aim to influence both public opinion and real-world outcomes, encouraging support for policies fostering equitable climate action.

2. Building a Supportive Community:

One aspirational goal is to provide a venue where practitioners and administrators would listen directly to community members as they share their stories, with the intention to:

- Increase awareness of:
 - The circumstances, including those related to our changing climate that create disparate clinical problems.
 - Potential barriers to a patient's abilities to fulfill the practitioner's guidance.
- Provide a series of follow-up group sessions with resources for practitioners who attended.
- Connecting hospital systems and providers to resources that support fulfillment of identified resilience goals illuminated by the listening sessions. One priority

would be to assess, through direct discussion and/or surveys, if providers and/or health centers would be able to fulfill such resilience goals based on capacity and availability.

In summary, our Listening Tour aims to create a comprehensive repository of personal climate-health stories that will both benefit the storytellers and influence public awareness, policy decisions, and a collective commitment to addressing climate change. Whether through videos, written narration, or social media posts, the impact of these stories resonates on a societal level.