



## MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTER *Michigan*

### **Summary of the PHTC**

The mission of the Michigan Public Health Training Center (MPHTC) is to increase the knowledge and strengthen the skills of Michigan's present, and future, public health workforce. This includes people working in community-based organizations, divisions of health care organizations and health plans, educators, and state and local health departments, among others. People who may benefit from the training and services offered are those who promote and encourage healthy behaviors, assure the quality and accessibility of health services, improve the quality of life for communities, protect against environmental hazards, prevent epidemics and the spread of disease, prevent injury, and respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery. In addition to workforce development, MPHTC is building infrastructure among state and local government public health workers and those workers and agencies outside 'traditional' public health. Partner organizations include the **University of Michigan School of Public Health**, Michigan Public Health Institute and the Michigan Department of Community Health.

### **Impact of the PHTC**

- In less than two years, the MPHTC has provided training to almost 600 members of Michigan's workforce representing 38 of 45 local health departments, 34 community-based organizations, 11 health systems, and organizations serving the Native American, African American, Arab, Catholic, Jewish, and Latino populations.
- Onsite courses in Flint and Detroit, two large underserved communities in Michigan, have benefited the workforce, as well as the general population in those communities.
- Distance learning courses offered through the Michigan PHTC have allowed access to training in the most remote of Michigan's rural communities.
- In the summer of 2003, 10 public health graduate students were placed with community-based organizations in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Dearborn, Michigan. Students worked in diverse communities on priority health issues such as: perceptions of breast cancer and mammography among Arab women; nutrition planning with African-American youth; HIV/AIDS prevention among Arab men who have sex with men; and health/mental health issues among migrant farm workers. The MPHTC provides this field based training in order give the students "real world" public health experiences in organizations that address public health issues in underserved communities.