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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 9, 2025**

**University of Michigan Collaborates with the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department to  
Study New Home-Based Program to Improve Chronic Pain & Social Connections**

Researchers at the University of Michigan are inviting adults, ages 60+, with chronic pain and experiencing loneliness to participate in a new, paid study. The Strengthening Connections to Overcome Pain (SCOOP) study is a collaboration between the University of Michigan and the Northern Michigan Health Consortium, including Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department and District Health Department #10.

“We know there are many seniors in our counties that have difficulty participating in social activities due to chronic pain” states Michelle Klein, Director of Personal Health at the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. “The opportunity to partner with U of M on this study will hopefully help our residents manage their pain, decrease social isolation, and improve overall well-being.”

This study is testing a telephone-based educational program that teaches skills to manage chronic pain symptoms and to enhance social connections. Participants must be 60+ years, have chronic pain that interferes with daily activities, and be experiencing some degree of loneliness. The entire study can be completed from the comfort of home.

Participants will be randomly placed in either 7 weekly telephone sessions with a Community Health Worker or a one-time workshop. All participants will be invited to complete two telephone surveys and will receive up to \$50 for completing both surveys.

The SCOOP program and workshop are provided free to participants in addition to program materials. To find out more, contact [SCOOP-info@umich.edu](mailto:SCOOP-info@umich.edu) or call 1-844-456-4668.

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