

# Michigan Community Outreach and Strategies to Address Financial Toxicity (MI-COST): Engaging Community Members to Develop Resources to Address Financial Hardship for Cancer Survivors

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## Introduction

- Financial hardship is common among cancer survivors and includes both direct medical costs (e.g., co-pays) and indirect costs (e.g., transportation, reduced income due to work disruptions).
- Community stakeholders identified addressing financial hardship in cancer care as a top priority area for research and intervention.

## Methods

- In response to community priorities, we created Michigan Community Outreach to Address Financial Toxicity in Cancer (MI-COST), a community-academic partnership designed to connect people with cancer to information and resources to prevent and mitigate financial concerns.
- We convened a community advisory board (CAB) of 7 cancer survivors, caregivers and advocates to prioritize topics and develop resources.
- CAB members were asked to complete a feedback survey to assess satisfaction with CAB participation.

## Results

- In collaboration with the CAB, MI-COST developed written educational information and a database of financial resources.
- CAB members reported high levels of satisfaction and a strong sense of pride with the CAB and CAB activities.

**Table 1:** CAB member participant satisfaction (n=6)

Survey item	Mean response
I am proud to tell others I am on this CAB <sup>a</sup>	4.83
I feel strongly committed to this CAB <sup>a</sup>	4.83
I feel a strong sense of pride in CAB accomplishments <sup>a</sup>	4.83
The impact of the project on my community <sup>b</sup>	4.67
Progress on the project <sup>b</sup>	5.0

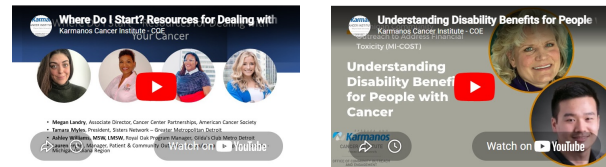
<sup>a</sup> Scale: 1=Strongly disagree, 5=Strongly agree; <sup>b</sup> Scale: 1=Extremely dissatisfied, 5=Extremely satisfied



## Results

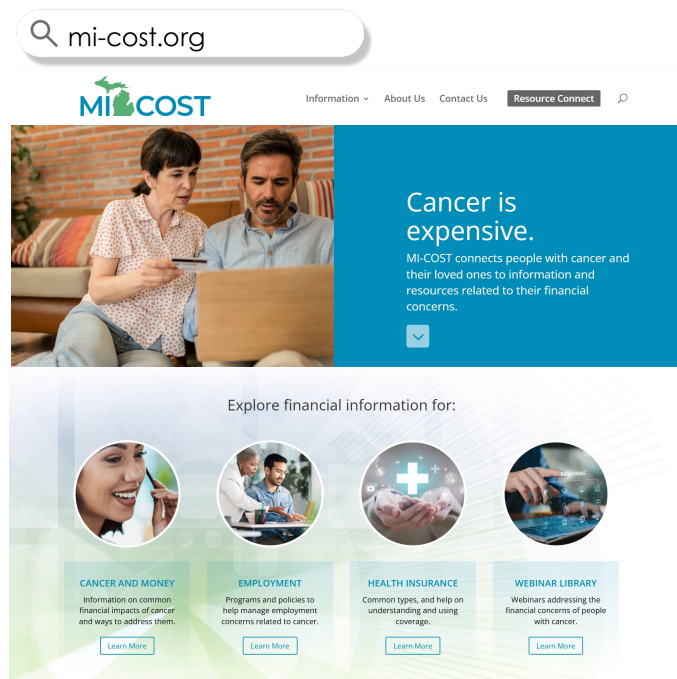
- MI-COST sponsored 5 webinars to address priority topics, including insurance, employee and disability benefits, financial assistance resources, and discussing cost concerns with providers (**Figure 1**).

**Figure 1:** Selected MI-COST webinars



- In 2024, MI-COST resources were developed into a publicly available website (mi-cost.org; **Figure 2**), featuring the recorded webinars, educational content, and a searchable resource database

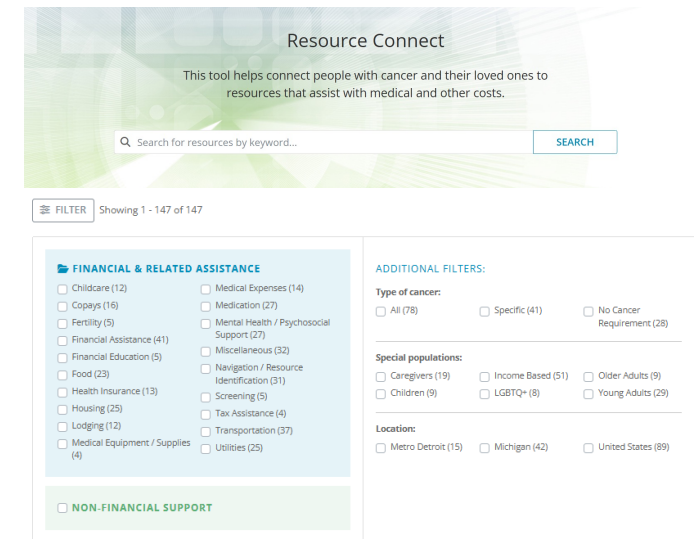
**Figure 2:** MI-COST website homepage



## Results

- MI-COST's searchable database, called Resource Connect, includes financial assistance resources available to Michigan residents, with options to filter resources by type of assistance, cancer site, geography, and special populations (**Figure 3**).

**Figure 3:** MI-COST Resource Connect



## Implications

- MI-COST was developed with community partners in response to community priorities. CAB members expressed high satisfaction with participation.
- MI-COST is now being adapted into a digital financial navigation intervention with ongoing community collaboration.

Scan to visit [mi-cost.org](https://mi-cost.org)



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