

Happening in SRO

You can find this “Happening in SRO” and all similar newsletters on the SRO Intranet Home Page, located at: <http://isr-wp.isr.umich.edu/srointranet/> under Key Updates.

If you have items for the newsletter or if you would like to highlight an event, please let Brenda Spaulding or your unit director know.



Reminder – SRO Closure Day on Friday, March 27

This is a reminder that Friday, March 27, 2026, will be a SRO Closure Day – our nod to “Spring Break.” Staff members have the option to take the day as vacation time or, if preferred, may arrange with their supervisor to work.

The New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (NYCHVS) Training and Production Launch (Maureen O’Brien)

The NYCHVS in-person interviewer training was held from January 20th – January 27th, 2026, in New York City. 13 SRO trainers from Ann Arbor, two PMs, two PCs, and 13 TLs trained 176 interviewers across two trainings, T1 and T2. The majority of the interviewer pool was composed of New Hires, aside from five On-staffers who were hired as travelers. In addition to the training staff, 11 SRO support staff (from DCS and TSG) attended the trainings. The research team from New York City’s Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), as well as HPD support staff, attended training each day.

99 interviewers were trained at T1 in six community rooms, while 77 interviewers were trained at T2 in five rooms. Interviewers were trained on NYCHVS core concepts, the Big Apple sample management system, and conducting interviews for the three housing unit types; occupied, vacant, and usual residence elsewhere. HPD partnered with the City University of New York (CUNY) to assist with the recruitment of 69 interviewers who attended training, while SRO recruited the remaining 107 from the general population.

Each interviewer received approximately 12 hours of GIT training and 36 hours of study specific training, including home study and in-person. Bilingual interviewers received an additional 4.5 hours of Zoom synchronous bilingual training that was conducted by HPD staff in two parts.

There are currently 140 interviewers staffed, of which 92, or 66%, are approved to conduct interviews in a language other than English. 37 interviewers have been certified in Spanish, eight in Russian, five in Haitian Creole, eight in Bengali, 10 in Simplified Chinese, and four in Traditional Chinese. The interviewers certified in Chinese speak Cantonese, Mandarin, or both. Additionally, 20 interviewers have completed bilingual training for conducting interviews in a language other than the seven programmed languages. The languages these bilingual interviewers speak include Hindi, Urdu, French, Arabic, Turkish, Fulani, Polish, Ukrainian, Slovenian, Punjabi, Belarusian, Japanese, Korean, and Tagalog.

On January 28th, production successfully launched and the first interview was completed. During the two days immediately following in-person training, January 28th and January 29th, interviewers participated in mentoring sessions with NYCHVS TLs. These mentoring sessions provided interviewers an opportunity to work in small groups with TLs on actual production sample.

The NYCHVS has been in production for almost four weeks. As of 2/24/2026, 510 interviews have been completed (4.1% RR), and the goal is to complete 10,650 interviews (71% RR) by August 31, 2026.

Thank you to everyone at SRO who contributed to the successful NYCHVS training and production launch! Even if you did not directly contribute, it is likely that your project was impacted by the effort needed across SRO. Special thanks go to the Tech Team for their extraordinary efforts to ensure that NYCHVS security requirements were met, that systems were ready, and that the survey instrument was programmed and tested in seven different languages. Additionally, the NYCHVS team is grateful to SRO's dedicated support staff, trainers outside the core project team, and the talented field leaders for their invaluable contributions.



Full Group Ballroom, Day 1



Breakout Room on the 37th Floor



PIs and CUNY interviewers



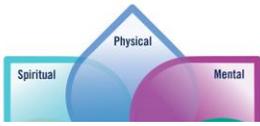
Caitlin Waickman (Co-PI) interviews an interviewer for social media



Karin and Grant help to integrate HPD materials into the interviewer's bags



Saray Gonzalez (PM) assembles interviewer starter packs



SRO Wellness News (SRO Wellness Committee)

Please reach out if you are interested in being part of the SRO Wellness committee or if you have ideas to share. srowellcomm@umich.edu
[March 2026](#) Calendar from Action for Happiness.

MCard Discounts

There are many discounts available as a U-M employee when using your U-M MCard. New discounts added periodically. [Click Here to View Available MCard Discounts](#)

MHealthy Resource Coach

Are financial challenges taking a toll? Feeling overwhelmed? You're not alone – confidential support is available. The [MHealthy Resource Coach](#) takes the guesswork out of navigating the system and links you to the right resources at U-M and in your community.

M-Healthy Champions in SRO

M-Healthy Champions are liaisons between their department and M-Healthy to help create an environment of well-being in their department. At SRO, our M-Healthy Champions are also a part of our SRO Wellness Committee that focuses on well-being activities for SRO staff. Most departments have a M-Healthy Champion on their teams and they meet periodically to share information and talk about future programming at ISR for all staff.

M-Healthy Champions serve a two-year term with options to renew for additional terms with supervisor pre-approval. The M-Healthy Champion application period is open June 1 - July 31 of each year.

SRO Wellness Committee

Ashanti Harris - M-Healthy Champion
Bree Walton
Chelsea Graham - M-Healthy Champion
Debbie Seale
Deb Wilson
Jeffrey Smith
Nicole Kirgis
Rebecca Gatward

We look forward to hearing suggestions and requests from fellow staff members. srowellcomm@umich.edu



Calm Health is free!

You can now access [Calm Health](#)—a leading mindfulness app designed to support your well-being. This is covered for employees and dependents through Blue Cross Blue Shield/Blue Care Network (BCBS/BCN).

FASCCO Presentations/Groups Winter 2026

The FASCCO (Faculty & Staff Counseling & Consultation Office) team is offering five presentation topics this winter as well as a discussion group and two ongoing support groups. "Mental Wellness Mondays" will continue on the first Monday of each month. All are via Zoom. Please see this [flyer](#) for more information and registration.

Upcoming M-Healthy and U-M Activities

- ★ Introduction to Intuitive Eating, Weight Stigma and Weight Inclusivity - Webinar
 - Wednesday, March 4, 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 - More information and link to register - [HERE](#)
- ★ Protecting Financial Well-Being: Recognizing Risky Lending Practices - Virtual Workshop
 - Thursday, March 5, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 - More information and link to register - [HERE](#)
- ★ Learn How to Communicate More Effectively in the Workplace - Organizational Learning has courses that will help build or strengthen your communication skills.
 - Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the upcoming courses.
- ★ Well-Being Collective has resources to support your well-being. Click [HERE](#) to explore faculty and staff resources.

Happy Retirement to Pam Swanson and Peter Sparks!

After more than 58 years combined, Peter Sparks and Pam Swanson are retiring from U-M. Peter's last day is March 4 and Pam's is April 7. They will both be missed by everyone.

A retirement party was held to honor Pam and Peter on Wednesday, February 18.

