



HEALTH EQUITY PROJECT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Omega Men of Horry County (OMHC) in Partnership with Iota Tau and Upsilon Beta Beta Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc

The “No Excuses - Promises (NEP)” – Staged Interventions to Reduce Cancer Disparities Among African American Men project will focus on staged interventions to reduce anxieties among African American men related to early cancer screening. The staged interventions will focus on colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers. According to reports by the Cancer in African American Men in South Carolina (2018) and Cancer In South Carolina, 20-year Trends in Incidence, Mortality, and Survival, with DHEC’s South Carolina Central Cancer Registry (SCCCR) Lung Cancer is far and away the leading cause of cancer death in SC. While Colorectal Cancer for both incidence and mortality rates, continue to be substantially higher in African American men. Prostate Cancer - surveillance data for in SC reveals strong downward trends, but incidences and mortality rates among African American men remain much higher compared to other races. This project will focus on staged interventions to encourage project participants to engage in early cancer screening that might prove successful in reducing incidences and mortality rate among African American men.

Lowcountry Healthwise Initiative

The proposed project addresses the incidence and prevalence of lung cancer in Beaufort, Jasper, and Hampton counties through 1.) offering free low-dose CT screening to low income, uninsured adults that meet American Cancer Society (ACS) criteria, 2.) assessing the level of understanding about low-dose CT screening in the African American community through quantitative and qualitative data collection, and 3.) developing culturally appropriate educational materials for dissemination at community-based screening events through the Healthwise Screening Initiative (HSI). African American males residing in rural areas of Beaufort, Hampton, or Jasper counties will be the primary focus of this project. However, individuals who meet the screening criteria will not be excluded from participation.

The goal of the project is to provide an opportunity for low income uninsured adults to be screened for lung cancer through low-dose CT screening at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. Concurrently, this project will be leveraged as an opportunity to collect quantitative and qualitative data on the understanding and acceptability of lung cancer screening when financial barriers are removed. Low-dose CT screening will be available through two avenues: 1.) on enrollment or recertification in AccessHealth Lowcountry, and 2.) to participants in the Healthwise Screening Initiative. Collaborators include AccessHealth Lowcountry (AHL), Beaufort Memorial Hospital (BMH), Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Med-I-Assist program which coordinates the HSI events, and SC DHEC Lowcountry Region (SCDHEC), which will conduct the proposed focus group.

Specific activities include 1.) obtaining comprehensive smoking history from clients enrolling or recertifying for AHL, 2.) identifying participants in the HSI who meet ACS screening criteria and offering free screening, 3.) establishing referral criteria for patients of the free clinics and Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services (BJHCHS) for screening through AHL, 4.) collection of quantitative data related to screening participation or refusal, qualitative data collection from focus group with individuals who obtained screening and those who refused screening; 5.) synthesizing of qualitative data will lead to development of culturally appropriate educational materials for dissemination at HSI community events.



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Darlington County Men's Health Initiative

The Darlington County Men's Health Initiative, DCMHI, is an innovative and inclusive project designed to improve health equity for African American men through community mobilization/advocacy; community awareness/marketing campaign; education; and access. Darlington County First Steps, DCFS, will serve as the community convener, bringing together a wide range of community partners to address the burden of cancer and health disparities in African American men. The support of our Community Partners is key to ensuring successful outcomes for this project. The DCMHI is a collaborative endeavor of caregiving, faith-based, fraternal, clinical, and other community partners coming together for the sole purpose, goal, of reducing health disparities and increasing health equity for African American men.

The DCMHI Project will focus on identifying underinsured and underserved African American men and is designed to endow African American men with the information, knowledge, resources and supports needed to seek care and advocate for themselves while facilitating their connection to health care providers.

Research clearly indicates health disparities among men in general, with men having shorter life expectancy than women and suffering with more life-threatening diseases than women in general. According to the Men's Health Network, "There is an on-going, increasing and predominantly silent crisis in health and well-being of men. Due to lack of awareness, poor health education, and culturally induced behavior patterns in their work and personal lives, men's health and well-being is deteriorating steadily." African American men are at-risk of early death and being a fatality of health disparities. According to Keith Elder, Robert Wood's Foundation, "He is missing from the health care system. He is less likely to hold a job that provides health insurance. Otherwise, he is underinsured. Despite chronic poverty that cries out for relief, he often slips through the cracks of a frayed social safety net. Medicaid, focused on pregnant women and children, rarely includes him. He bears a disparate burden of disease. He dies early and struggles frequently against structures that render him invisible. He is the invisible man." The life expectancy for African American men is 6 years less than white men. Dr. Sherman James, a Hartsville native currently Research Professor at Emory University, published a study titled, "John Henryism and The Health of African-Americans". According to Dr. James, John Henryism provides a cultural as well as historical context for how African American men and women struggle to free themselves from pervasive and deeply entrenched systems of social and economic oppression. Hence, the John Henryism Hypothesis, which is synonymous for prolonged, high effort coping with difficult environmental stressors. Dr. James' research indicates John Henryism is a major contributor to racial and socioeconomic and health disparities. Dr. James advocates for creating identity-safe environments to promote health equity among African Americans. County Health Rankings and Roadmaps lists Darlington County as 35th worse out of 46 counties on health outcomes and 40th worse on life expectancy. DCFS's holistic approach to working with families and their children coupled with our work with young fathers clearly emphasizes the need to address health disparities among African American men, if we are to accomplish our vision: Strong Families—Healthy Communities.

University of South Carolina, College of Nursing

To design and evaluate a 'train-the-trainer' (TTT) program to address health disparities in African American men in South Carolina (SC), using simulation-based education as a conduit. Our primary project objectives are to 1) develop the TTT program, and 2) train two individuals on our TTT program with at least 80% proficiency by 3Q21.