

News from the Collaborative

Featured Content

HCGC Funded to Increase Vaccine Equity & Outreach Efforts through the Central Ohio Pathways HUB

*By Heidi W. Christman, Chief
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In many parts of the United States, including central Ohio, there exists a significant gap in life expectancy between low-income communities of color and their affluent white counterparts. Generations of structural racism and disinvestment have caused Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities to live in environments that are ridden with health outcome inequity. COVID-19 has magnified these disparities, uncovering to some, what has been apparent to organizations like HCGC and the communities that we serve long before the pandemic. The pandemic has revealed startling disparities in death and hospitalization rates. People of color have died of COVID at a rate of between 1.5-3.8 times that of white Americans and have been hospitalized at a rate of between 1.2 and 4.1 times that of white Americans with a COVID infection. It is no surprise, then, that inequity in vaccination has been persistent since the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in early 2021.

In order to address the inequity and the need for education regarding vaccine concern and hesitancy, Partners In Health (PIH) was funded \$11.2 million by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to create a program called “Reaching Equity through Community-based Vaccination Engagement and Resources (RECOVER.)” HCGC is one of 14 sites across the United States that PIH has partnered with to fund community based work force efforts for vaccine outreach. The project has over 40 local partners across the country,

and is targeting 700,000 beneficiaries, primarily in BIPOC and economically disadvantaged communities.

HCGC is honored to have been funded up to \$300,000 of the RECOVER funds from PIH to amplify the work of our community health workers (CHWs) in the Central Ohio Pathways HUB (the HUB). The project aims to do the following:

- *Mobilize Community-Based Workforce:* HCGC is providing support to two of our HUB care coordination agencies (CCAs) to hire four new community health workers, as well as providing ongoing training and technical assistance to our entire workforce of now over 40 CHWs and supervisors.
- *Dialogue and Disseminate information:* In partnership with PIH, HCGC will expand upon our vaccine outreach material development, ensuring that our CHWs have up-to-date, evidence-based educational material to share with their clients. CHWs will continue to engage with their clients 1-1, and HCGC will provide an incentivized hourly rate to CHWs who are doing vaccine outreach in the community. We are thrilled to be able to also provide increased reimbursement rates for CHW services including providing educations related to COVID, and medical referrals for a COVID vaccine beyond what Medicaid managed care currently provides.
- *Reduce Barriers to Access:* HCGC will continue educating our CHWs on updates to the pandemic, including information on new variants, FDA approval of vaccines, and education on booster shots and third doses. We are also looking forward to providing \$3,000 to each of our 10 CCAs to support community vaccine outreach events they are holding or plan to hold in the communities that they serve. We will also provide material resources such as bus passes, gas gift cards, personal care items, and personal protective equipment to individuals that our CHWs engage. Finally, we will continue to support the comprehensive nature of the coordination work that our CHWs do every day.
- *Strengthen Coordination and Learning:* with the other 14 funded RECOVER sites, we will network and learn from their experiences, as well as share best practices from our work here in central Ohio.

While we know that the CHWs in the HUB have worked tirelessly through the duration of the pandemic to provide support and connection to care and services to their clients, we are honored and excited to be able to further incentivize that work with dollars that can provide the capacity to expand and reach more people. These dollars expand HCGC staff capacity to support more HUB vaccine outreach efforts. While the key aim is to connect individuals to vaccination and slow the spread of COVID-19, our efforts are always rooted in meeting people where they are, and providing comprehensive care coordination beyond vaccine outreach. At every client interaction our CHWs are experts at engaging the whole person, and putting them on a path to health, well-being, and future success.

If you have questions regarding the HCGC's RECOVER work with PIH, email heidi@hcgc.org.

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About Partners In Health:

Partners In Health is a nonprofit global health organization that fights injustice by bringing the benefits of modern medical science first and foremost to the most vulnerable communities

around the world. PIH focuses on those who would not otherwise have access to quality health care and partners with the world's leading academic institutions to create rigorous evidence that shapes more sound and inclusive global health policies. PIH also supports local governments' efforts to build capacity and strengthen national health systems. As of today, PIH runs programs in 12 countries (Haiti, Peru, Rwanda, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Malawi, Lesotho, Russia, Kazakhstan, the Navajo Nation and the United States), where it provides direct care to millions of patients through public facilities and community engagement.

Insights from the HCGC Blog



Working with the Community to Improve Health Outcomes: Investing in Quality Improvement

by McKenzie Carter, Communications Manager, Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus

After graduating the first class of the Central Ohio Pathways HUB Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification participants in June of 2021, the Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus (HCGC) will start the second session of the program starting in September.

Under the leadership of Central Ohio Pathways HUB Education Director, Dr. Tanikka Price, the HCGC CHW certification team has been working hard to grow and evolve the curriculum and design of the program based on what we learned from the first session. A major aspect to planning for this session has been collected, analyzing, and applying feedback from the 17 graduates of the inaugural class. Certification staff are excited to incorporate these recommendations as we welcome our new cohort.

With an incoming class of 21 professionals from diverse backgrounds including age ranges from 25 to 61, various genders, diverse races and ethnicities, and varied previous CHW work, we are eager to learn from this group of impressive individuals who are sure to bring unique perspectives to the program. Our certification is again being offered free of charge for participants due to generous funding of our HCGC supporters.

HCGC continues to be grateful to the Care Coordination Agencies (CCAs) participating in the Central Ohio Pathways HUB (the HUB) who have had their CHWs participate in our certification program. Our first session of the program consisted of individuals who were all working as care coordinators for our CCAs in the HUB. We are very excited that the next session of the program will welcome individuals who are both already working in the HUB, and some who are not. Our CCAs have been generous in agreeing to welcome participants to complete their required practicum hours. Such collaboration is key to allow future CHWs to have real-life experience with some of central Ohio's most impactful health and human service agencies.

[Read the full post HCGC's Blog Page](#)



at National Conference

HCGC's Director of Education, Dr. Tanikka Price, and Central Ohio Pathways HUB CEO Jenelle Hoseus attended the 7th Annual Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC). Their presentation focused on the HUB and utilizing CHWs to do care coordination with marginalized and unique populations. HCGC's Board President, Dan Paoletti also presented at the conference in his role as CEO of The Ohio Health Information Partnership.

SHIEC and the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI), HCGC's national affiliate, will soon formally affiliate to create a national collaborative, Civitas Networks for Health. This collaborative will work to use health information exchange, health data, and multi-stakeholder, cross-sector approaches to improve health.

[Visit SHIEC Conference Website](#)

Partner News and Events

[HPIO Analysis Identifies 12 strategies to prevent childhood trauma in Ohio](#)

[Why are Some Ohioans still Resisting Vaccination?](#)

[Immunizations Campaign Toolkit from American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

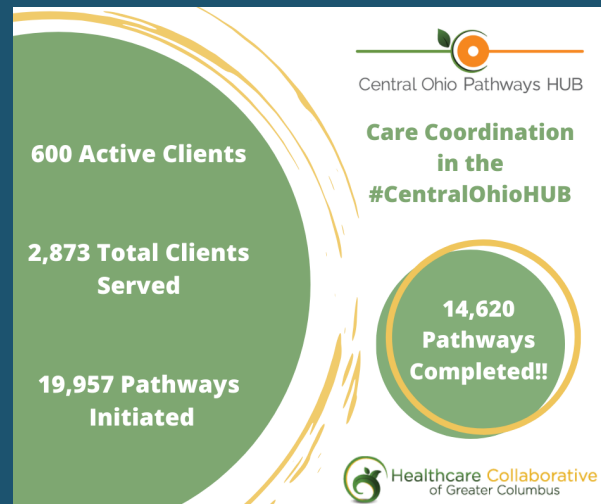
[Overdose Awareness Day: August 31](#)

[FCPH Information on Booster Doses vs. Third Doses](#)

[Columbus Public Health Sets Up COVID Vaccination Clinics for Somalis to Overcome Hesitancy](#)

[Hospital Leaders: Get Vaccinated to Slow Dangerous COVID-19 Surge, Prevent Serious Illness](#)

Central Ohio Pathways HUB Data Update



Monthly Meeting Resources

Following each Monthly Meeting and Regional Learning Session, the agenda, speaker information, slide deck and other relevant resources are uploaded to the HCGC website for your reference. [View resources.](#)

For a Calendar of Events visit:
<http://www.hcgc.org/events.html>

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