

2022 Ingham Health Equity Council Mini-Grant Programs SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

Grant Project Period: December 15, 2022 – May 31, 2023

Total Mini-Grant Funds Distributed: \$125,142 (*see individual award amounts below*)

Brave Space used grant funds to expand the capacity of Brave Space suicide prevention programs to additional schools and to serve students in underrepresented groups (racial/ethnic, gender, and sexual minorities). Brave Space programs help those who battle suicidal ideation, self-harm, and mental health challenges by creating a vulnerable space to encourage healthy coping strategies and empowerment through evidence-based, self-expression-based practices. OUTCOMES:

- Brave Space offered two 6-week workshops at Waverly High School (serving 42 students).
- Brave Space offered two 6-week workshops at Dwight Rich Middle School (serving 20 students).
- Students gave the program positive evaluations and hoped for it to continue.
- Brave Space spoke with East Lansing High School (ELHS) students at a listening session in January 2023 to gauge their interest in Brave Space and hopes to add a program at ELHS.

Cristo Rey Community Center used grant funds to continue providing immunizations to the vulnerable population it serves (its clients are approximately 20% Black, 30% Hispanic, and 48% White; 28% of its clients speak Spanish as their primary language) without accessing its general funds to support this service. Every dollar Cristo Rey spends from its general funds to support immunizations forces it to make cuts to other critical areas of service. OUTCOMES:

- Administered 949 flu vaccines between May 2022 – May 2023 (a 9.2% increase over the previous year)
- Administered 497 pneumonia vaccines between May 2022 – May 2023 (an 83% increase over the previous year)
- Administered 1,191 COVID-19 vaccines between May 2022 – May 2023 (a 32% increase over the previous year)
- Percent of immunizations administered by patient race: 48.3% Hispanic, 28.4% White, 12.8% Black/African American, 14.2% Other

The **Dignified Aging Project (DAP) Service and Resources** used grant funds to provide transitional placement services (specifically, senior placement and care coordination) for BIPOC clients transitioning into new living settings. OUTCOMES:

- 10 Ingham County residents were funded for DAP's transitional placement services program. 92% of the participants served were from the BIPOC community, and 90% of participants served were below the ALICE threshold.
- For these clients, DAP provided care coordination (10 clients), implemented its Dignified Care Guide (7 clients), reviewed medications and resolved errors (5 clients), provided resource facilitation (15 instances), navigated hospital stays and doctor visits, and provided a summary of its care communication tool.
- There was a decrease in hospital visits for this group of clients.

The **Eastside Community Action Center (ECAC)** used grant funds to increase Lansing's at-risk populations' understanding of, and access to, COVID-19 immunizations and boosters. Most of these individuals are BIPOC and have incomes that are below the federal poverty threshold. OUTCOMES:

- ECAC engaged in community outreach to help develop confidence in, and dispel myths about, COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters. 549 BIPOC households were reached through outreach and canvassing.
- ECAC offered its Access-4-All program, a free service for Lansing residents that registers individuals for vaccine/booster appointments, provides transportation to and from appointments, and follows up with clients about booster reminders.
- 71 BIPOC individuals registered for appointments to receive a vaccination/booster.
- 42 BIPOC individuals were transported to their vaccination/booster appointments.
- ECAC formed a partnership with the NAACP.
- ECAC formed partnerships with local senior apartment complexes.

Health Numeric used grant funds to purchase remote patient monitoring devices for participants from BIPOC communities within Ingham County, to support remote device monitoring, and to provide chronic disease management support. OUTCOMES:

- Health Numeric purchased 300 devices (connected glucometers and blood pressure devices)
- Health Numeric hired a nurse to oversee the project.
- Participants received connected devices, collection and analysis of health vitals data, a Behavior Health Assessment, personalized chronic disease management support and education by the on-site nurse or via artificial intelligence, hypertension and diabetes self-management tools, and community services referrals. Patients were also registered in the Health Numeric portal.
- As of May 9, 2023, Health Numeric served 180 individuals from African American churches. More individuals will continue to be served.

Ingham Health Plan Corporation (IHPC) used grant funds to hire a Member Engagement Specialist to provide services in Spanish for Ingham Health Plan (IHP) members. (IHP is a basic health coverage program for low-income Ingham County residents who don't have health insurance.) OUTCOMES:

- IHPC's new Spanish-speaking Member Engagement Specialist has changed how IHP engages with the Latino, Spanish-speaking IHP members.
- The Specialist helps enroll members and provides access to medical, dental, and behavioral health care to people who were previously uninsured.
- The Specialist created and provided a culturally sensitive diabetes education program in April 2023 entitled ¡Vivamos con Diabetes de Manera Diferente!
- The Specialist informs IHP staff of strengths, barriers, and perceptions of the Latino, Spanish speaking community.

The **Lansing School District (LSD)** used grant funds to create a BIPOC Care Closet for students to support recovery from the pandemic and enhance a sense of well-being for BIPOC students. The personal care items were intentionally selected to reflect the needs and preferences of our BIPOC students and families. Advertising materials were also created. OUTCOMES:

- LSD created a BIPOC-focused care closet of free personal care items for students, and all students in the district were eligible to receive products.

- Students were eligible to receive up to 3 products each week free of charge. Items were selected via QR code or link.
- 425 requests were made within the first 4 hours of operation.
- 1,362 requests were made as of the end of the grant period.
- The program received an overwhelming positive response, reduced family economic load in COVID recovery, and increased students' sense of belonging and well-being.
- LSD provided a 50% fund match to support the project and is seeking community partners to maintain the program.

Loaves and Fishes Ministries used grants funds to continue its program of paying for a motel visit for its clients who test positive for COVID-19 while staying at the shelter, and then allowing them to rejoin the shelter homes when they test negative. OUTCOMES:

- Loaves and Fishes provided temporary motel housing and food for clients with active COVID-19.
- Loaves and Fishes continued to assist guests with COVID-19 achieve permanent housing.
- Loaves and Fishes provided weekly COVID-19 testing at its shelters.

The **New Citizens Press (TNCP)** used grant funds to create visual programming to inform the community about issues and resources for COVID-19. OUTCOMES:

- TNCP produced three Special Edition 30-minute vodcast episodes for its "Sociologically Speaking" vodcast, in a series titled "Then & Now: Confronting COVID-19 in Ingham County."
 - Episode 1: Nellie Corzo, COVID-19 Long-hauler, Describes Her Near-Death Experience and Encourages Others to "Take it One Day at a Time"
 - Episode 2: Ernie Cabule was the second person [with COVID-19] to be admitted to Sparrow Hospital on March 21, 2020. While in the hospital he was in a coma and had several transfusions. His survival included several surgeries and being placed on a ventilator. His wife, Janice Cabule, was his voice during that time, and then she contracted the virus. This is a story about dedication and love.
 - Episode 3: The Implications of COVID-19 and the Impact on Mental Health.
- The vodcasts (and transcripts) are available on YouTube and include this acknowledgement: "This vodcast is sponsored in part by the Tyson Family Foundation, Ingham County Health Department, Capital Area Health Alliance, and the Ingham County Health Equity Council (HEC). This series of vodcasts will address COVID-19-related inequities and risk factors among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities within Ingham County."
- TNCP published three newspaper articles to accompany the vodcasts.
- Videos and stories were shared with the Black News Link, with over 800,000 collective readers.
- *After the end of the grant period, The New Citizens Press published a BONUS vodcast episode on June 10, 2023: Episode 4: Navigating the System Being a COVID-19 Long-Hauler with a Graduate Level Degree is Not Easy.*

Next Generation Lactation Service used grant funds to fund lactation visits for anyone who identified as BIPOC, low income, or LGBTQIA+, or fell into any marginalized group, as well as increasing outreach to marginalized families in the Greater Lansing Area. OUTCOMES:

- Funds will cover free lactation services for 18 families in the Greater Lansing area. Visits included home visits, clinic visits, and follow-up visits. Services included weighted feeds; breast, feeding, and oral assessments, and custom feeding plans.
- As of May 2023, Next Generation had served 9 families in the Greater Lansing Area who were BIPOC and/or low income and would not have been able to afford lactation services otherwise. They will offer free services to 9 additional families.
- Next Generation hosted a resource table at a Community Baby Shower and was able to reach multiple families who could receive lactation services at no charge.

North Star Birthing Services used grant funds to host a Community Baby Shower for BIPOC families that have experienced hardships during the pandemic. The Baby Shower celebrated expectant BIPOC parents, linked them to community resources, provided education for birth/postpartum, and provided necessity items for birth/postpartum. OUTCOMES:

- 26 parents/families attended the Community Baby Shower (34 initially registered).
- Attendee demographics: 44.68% Black/African American, 27.66% White, 17.02% Hispanic/Latin(a/o)/Latinx, 6.38% Native American, 2.13% Asian American, 2.13% Other (note that some registrants identified as more than one race).
- Resource tables were selected based on registrants' needs and included resources on financial stability, childcare, health/safety of baby and self, partner/family support, lactation support, mental health support, pelvic floor therapy, and nutrition support.
- All attendees received diapers and wipes.
- Attendees received individualized items based on their requests at registration, including car seats, strollers, cribs, bassinets, postpartum kits, bodyfeeding support kits (including pumps), first aid kits, baby monitors, and baby wraps.
- A "Baby Café" area offered attendees access to donated items including clothes, a bassinet, a baby swing, a rocking chair, bottles, and other items.
- A "Lemonade Stand" hosted by MSUFCU provided children's books on saving money.
- All attendees received maternity portraits.
- North Star created many ongoing partnerships with community organizations and businesses that served as resources at the Community Baby Shower.

One Love Global used grant funds for its community organizing efforts to engage Black youth in the Peace & Prosperity Youth Action Movement (PPM) youth group it supports, address the negative impacts of COVID-19 and counter misinformation, and host healing spaces to help its community reconnect and heal from the impact of the pandemic and related experiences. Funds were used to compensate local organizers, provide food, and cover technology expenses. OUTCOMES:

- PPM Meetings/Youth Engagement activities (e.g., movie night) were held, and PPM youth opened up about mental health issues faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ways to support peers. 15 PPM Lansing members were served.
- Virtual and in-person Healing Circles were held, addressing the impacts of social isolation and mental health. 51 Healing Circle participants were served, and there is ongoing community interest in Healing Circles.
- One Love Global built out its Lansing Racial Equity Scorecard with additional community-based information and indicators. Scorecard indicators were highlighted during One Love Global's

Lansing People's Assemblies. *The Scorecard is a results-based accountability tool developed and maintained by One Love Global that tracks progress toward racial equity in Lansing.*

The Firecracker Foundation (TFF) used grant funds to address the financial barrier to therapeutic care for BIPOC children who have experienced child sexual abuse (CSA), expand the number of trained professionals, and continue providing free and low-cost mental health therapy, full spectrum doula care, caretaker support groups, community education, and advocacy services to families who need it in Ingham County. OUTCOMES:

- TFF provided free and/or low-cost supplies and services for BIPOC survivors and their families with minimal eligibility or reporting requirements.
- Services included full spectrum doula support, caretaker support groups, individual therapy for BIPOC children who have experienced child sexual abuse (CSA), and community engagement and education that includes trainings, Restorative Justice Circles, and skill-building workshops.

Women's Center of Greater Lansing (WCGL) used grant funds to continue offering mental health services and to provide targeted outreach to BIPOC Lansing residents, thereby expanding the services provided to BIPOC Lansing residents (e.g., employment, counseling, workshops, socialization, career boutique, and personal needs). OUTCOMES:

- WCGL provided over 100 hours of counseling to members of the BIPOC and LGBTIA+ communities.
- WCGL hired a clinical director.
- WCGL upgraded its doxy.me account (a secure telemedicine platform) to include three accounts that can share screens and run group therapy and support groups.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing used grant funds to assist in running its Healthy Living Mobile Kitchen, which targets BIPOC communities where food deserts exist and provides food on a daily basis, year-round. The YMCA had additional funding from PNC Bank to provide financial literacy lessons.

OUTCOMES:

- Served 500 at-risk children, many of whom had very little access to food.
- 5,360 meals were served from December 15, 2022 – May 1, 2023, at three separate locations.