

NJHI Upstream Action Acceleration Learning Collaborative Convening

May 1, 2019
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton

Participants

Allies In Caring, Inc., Hammonton, Atlantic County

Project Description: Allies In Caring is leading a two-year project to address the Adverse Childhood Experience of poverty by building on the assets that are already found in Hammonton, and mobilizing individuals, associations, and institutions to come together and create a “Culture of Inclusion.” Hammonton is home to families struggling to get by. Poverty can undermine students’ school behavior and performance, burden families with increased risks for opioid use, obesity, and other factors known to influence health. Yet, Hammonton is also on the rise, with economic growth and a wealth of health initiatives, community-building events, and recreational and educational activities. These opportunities can help residents feel a sense of belonging in the broader community, become engaged community members, develop supportive networks, adopt healthier behaviors and gain useful information. Latinos, among other groups, are not often engaged in these current opportunities. The intent of this project is to create a “Culture of Inclusion” in Hammonton that engages the disengaged and restores a sense of connectedness, beginning with the Latino community. Allies In Caring and its partners will work to ensure that everyone makes the most of all the opportunities available in Hammonton. Allies In Caring and its community partners believe that the most powerful strategy for improving health, well-being, safety, and raising healthy and productive children in Hammonton is to restore trust, build relationships, discover the gifts within every community member, and create opportunities to offer mutual support.

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AtlantiCare Foundation, Atlantic City, Atlantic County

Project Description: The AtlantiCare Foundation is leading this two-year project to build a healthier community by more effectively connecting Atlantic City's community members who are homeless with available social services. By increasing data sharing among Atlantic City's service providers through the wider implementation of Homeless Management Information Software (HMIS), the Foundation and its key partners in the AC Collaborative – a Care AC work group – are working to reduce the duplication of services rendered to individuals who are homeless. The Collaborative is engaging all participating social service providers in the adoption of HMIS as a common client database through this project, enabling those individuals to navigate and receive services more effectively.

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Cape Regional Medical Center, Cape May County

Project Description: Cape Regional Medical Center is leading this two-year project addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as a health factor through the partnership and engagement of Middle Township Police Department, Lower Cape May Regional School District, Cape Counseling Services, and the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce as partners in building resiliency among families in Cape May County. The Medical Center and its key partners in the Cape Regional Wellness Alliance, including representation from over 30 community organizations, are striving to engage partners from all sectors of the community in this work. Through this project, the Alliance is advancing health and equity in Cape May County by creating a universal prevention initiative for parents and caregivers of children ages 0-18 that parallels the Alliance's existing work for the community's school-age children.

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Holly City Development Corporation, Millville, Cumberland County

Project Description: The Holly City Development Corporation (HCDC) is leading this two-year project to build a healthier community by increasing civic engagement among Millville's Center City residents through approaches that build residents' skills in identifying and advocating for change to the policy, systems or environmental changes they find important. HCDC and its key partners in the Millville Neighborhood Alliance, including the Millville Board of Education, the Millville Public Library, the First United Methodist Church, and the Holly City Family Success Center, are working to deploy a team of community builders, form action committees, and extend the Community Counts initiative. Through this project, the Alliance is engaging Center City families in identifying and addressing community needs.

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Ironbound Community Corporation, Newark, Essex County

Project Description: Ironbound Community Corporation is leading this two-year project to increase civic engagement among residents of Newark's East Ward through a tenants' rights approach that supports community members in focusing on housing affordability and potential displacement, the built environment that surrounds their housing developments, and housing conditions that are known to impact health. Specifically, this project focuses on engaging the residents of three public housing sites –Terrell Homes, Pennington Court and Hyatt Court — and the privately-owned, publicly-subsidized housing sites Aspen River Park Apartments, Pacific Apartments, and Pueblo City Housing. Through this project, the Greater Newark HUD Tenants' Coalition is cultivating resident leaders in each apartment building and equipping them with the resources and skills to advocate for a healthier East Ward, creating a model for other communities to replicate.

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NCADD Hudson/Partners in Prevention, North Bergen, Hudson County

Project Description: The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Hudson County (NCADD Hudson/Partners in Prevention) is leading this two-year project to lessen the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on North Bergen youth through increased family access to resources, the implementation of needed support services, and working with the municipal leadership to strengthen local policies and practices. NCADD Hudson/Partners in Prevention is partnering with the North Bergen Municipal Alliance to build a healthier community. By the end of this project, the Alliance will have implemented the evidence-based Rainbow Days school curriculum developed for students 10-17 years old. In addition, the Alliance will have assessed community needs, and engaged parents and families in this work.

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New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Camden, Camden County

Project Description: The New Jersey Conservation Foundation is leading this two-year project to advance community health by increasing the effective use of data tools and resources to guide action. Partnering with the 40-member Camden Collaborative Initiative (CCI), the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, the Parkside Business and Community Partnership, and the greater Camden community, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation is developing a customized module to make the NJ Conservation Blueprint, an online GIS mapping tool, a meaningful planning resource for Camden stakeholders. This Camden-specific module will help leaders throughout the city provide various layers of information in a visual and publicly accessible format. Through this project, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners are creating a tool for policy and systems changes that can build a healthier Camden.

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Raritan Bay Area YMCA, Perth Amboy, Middlesex County

Project Description: The Raritan Bay Area YMCA is leading this two-year project to build a healthier community by addressing housing as a health issue in Perth Amboy through the engagement of housing, redevelopment and green initiative partners. The Raritan Bay Area YMCA and its key partners in the Healthier Perth Amboy coalition are focusing on policy changes around renters' certificate of occupancy, the tracking of inspections and parking, and mixed-use development ordinances. Through this project, the Healthier Perth Amboy coalition is promoting health and equity by reducing the prevalence of substandard housing in the community.

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Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Foundation, Middlesex County

Project Description: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Foundation is leading a two-year project that unleashes the skills and talents of public librarians to advance health equity among residents of Greater Middlesex County. This project mobilizes a grassroots health literacy initiative called Just for the Health of It created by the East Brunswick Public Library, a single branch public library in central New Jersey. With its multi-sector Healthier Middlesex coalition partners, the Foundation is deploying the Just for the Health of It initiative in communities throughout the county based on each community's health literacy needs. By engaging librarians who represent Information Services, Adult Services, and Youth/Teen services, Healthier Middlesex is creating a sustainable network of mobile, trained library personnel with the capacity to provide valuable information regarding chronic conditions and more complex questions to residents seeking to make well-informed health decisions.

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The Gateway Family YMCA, Elizabeth, Union County

Project Description: The Gateway Family YMCA (TGFYMCA) is leading this two-year project to advance civic engagement in Elizabeth through solicitations for Neighborhood Project stipends and strategic Play Streets programming to increase utilization of existing parks. In addition, TGFYMCA is working to increase data sharing among its partner organizations through a common system. The Gateway Family YMCA and its key partners in the Shaping Elizabeth coalition, including the City of Elizabeth, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, the Housing Authority City of Elizabeth, Elizabeth Public Schools, the Community Food Bank, the Elizabeth Public Library, Groundwork Elizabeth and Rutgers Cooperative Extension, have identified these priorities through their ongoing efforts to improve community health. Through this project, Shaping Elizabeth is equipping its partners and community members with the tools and skills to have their voices heard by local, county and state policy makers.

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Trenton Health Team, Trenton, Mercer County

Project Description: The Trenton Health Team is leading this two-year project to increase cross-sector data sharing and geo-mapping to accelerate lead abatement efforts in New Jersey's capital. The Trenton Health Team is partnering with Isles, Inc., in this work to build a healthier community. They are linking clinical records and geo-mapped information in a manner that respects patient privacy and HIPAA regulations and developing custom dashboards to identify issues, trends, and "hotspots" for action. In addition, the Trenton Health Team is sharing the data with health care providers, local agencies and community members to facilitate integrated in-home interventions. At a broader level, other communities will be able to replicate this model to address additional health issues created by substandard housing, including respiratory conditions, trip and fall hazards, and fire safety.

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United Way of Passaic County, Paterson, Passaic County

Project Description: The United Way of Passaic County is leading this two-year project to build a healthier community by addressing the environment/open space as a health factor in Paterson through the engagement of law enforcement, library and youth community partners. Focusing on Community Safety, the United Way of Passaic County and its key partners in the broad, cross-sector Passaic County Food Policy Council, Paterson Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together North Jersey, and Green Acres, are building on their work and goals outlined in the Council's Blueprint for Action. Through this project, the Council is advancing health and equity in Paterson by implementing community safety strategies such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, which emphasizes improving walkability, visibility and green spaces, gardens and parks; and facilitating policy and systems change through formalized agreements with municipal partners to address ongoing maintenance needs.

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