



**North Star**

**Zero racial disparities in infant mortality by 2033.**

**Zip Codes Served**



This project served participants in the following FLOURISH priority zip codes:

**63104, 63106, 63107, 63111, 63112, 63113, 63115, 63118, 63120, 63121, 63133, 63147**

**How much did we do?**



**509**

Individuals introduced to St. Louis' Affordable Housing Report Card



**54**

Trainings held



**7**

Community-based organizations worked as a cohort to address affordable housing



**31**


Public comments organized

**Program Description**

This FLOURISH grant funded Community-Based Advocacy for Affordable Housing at Community Builders Network. The purpose of this grant was to fund affordable housing advocacy by community-based nonprofits and housing advocates for stronger Affordable Housing Trust Funds in St. Louis City and County. This project took place from March 2021 to September 2022.

**Priority Areas**

FLOURISH Community Leaders Cabinet identified priority areas they believe will have the most significant impact on improving conditions for Black families. Infant mortality is a complex issue that can't be solved by one organization alone. Below, you will find population level data where FLOURISH is contributing to changes for Black families alongside other organizations. Community Builders Network is working to move the needle for the individuals they serve in the areas listed below.

FLOURISH Priority Area	Category of Work	Population Level Data
 Social Determinants of Health	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Housing &amp; Transportation Affordability Index</a></li> <li><a href="#">Housing Affordability</a></li> <li><a href="#">Crime Rate</a></li> <li><a href="#">Home Ownership</a></li> <li><a href="#">Severe Housing Problems</a></li> <li><a href="#">Housing Burden</a></li> <li><a href="#">Homelessness Score</a></li> <li><a href="#">Housing Choice</a></li> <li><a href="#">Rent Assistance</a></li> <li><a href="#">Mortgage Assistance</a></li> <li><a href="#">Evictions</a></li> </ul>

FLOURISH uses a **results-based accountability** model of evaluation, because it helps show how collaborative efforts can make an impact on reducing disparities in infant mortality. We focus on how well programs address root causes of the issue and whether Black pregnant and parenting families are better off.

**How well did we do it?**

How were Black pregnant and parenting families impacted by this project?



Individuals who engaged with the housing report card found the data useful in prompting questions about potential solutions. Community organizations who engaged in the peer cohort found it valuable.

**Is anyone better off?**

What change occurred as a result of this project?

  
**\$2M**

In increased investment in Affordable Housing Trust Fund due to successful advocacy efforts.

## Highlights

**Housing Report Card:** Individuals who engaged with the Housing Report Cards told us that they wanted to make informed decisions for their locality and/or advocate from an informed place. They wanted data for rents and mortgages in their area, quality and concentration of amenities and jobs in their area, senior homeownership cost burden, energy cost burden, and the impact of luxury development on the market. There was an array of viable solutions, but affordable housing incentives to encourage affordable housing development for 30 percent Area Median Income (AMI) and below was the most mentioned.



**Peer Cohort of Community-Based Organizations:** Feedback from our peer cohort of 7 Community Based Organization's demonstrated that our support has been responsive to their communities' needs.

**Advocacy:** CBN staff continued to serve as the backbone for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Coalition through spring 2022. We organized public comments for both the fiscal year 2022 and 2023 budget campaigns in the City of St. Louis and presented our own public comments in both the City and County. In 2021, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund was threatened with funding cuts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our advocacy campaign helped to encourage the City's Board of Estimate and Apportionment to reverse course and maintain funding for the Trust Fund at \$6.5 million. Our 2022 campaign successfully secured an additional 30% (\$2 million) for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for FY 2023 (for a total of \$8.5 million, \$2 million of which will come from ARPA dollars). In addition, the St. Louis County Housing Resources Commission received funds for the AHTF for the first time, thanks to a grant award and revenue from medicinal marijuana sales tax. There are several organizations awarded during the Fall 2021 that serve Black community around eviction prevention and/or home repairs. The estimated total funds available is approximately \$520,000 for 2022.



## What's next?

Partners are in conversation about building "phase 2" of the St. Louis Affordable Housing Report Card. There has been a lot of interest in continuing to track affordability and progress toward affordable housing projects in the region. CBN staff is in conversation with several community stakeholders as to how to build capacity for local organizations to increase affordable housing availability in the region, as well as ways to track successes and challenges on a "regular" basis (hopefully annually, as funding and capacity is available). CBN staff and AHTF Coalition partners have been engaged in ongoing conversations with City and County officials about how to leverage Affordable Housing Report Card findings to inform and shape their work and affirmatively further fair housing. St. Louis County has shared their CAPER and Analysis of Impediments Reports as part of this ongoing conversation. Discussions and partnerships around housing quality are starting between the AHTF Coalition, Vacancy Collaborative, and Homes For All St. Louis. Homes For All was recently invited to submit a full grant proposal to MFH's Opportunity Fund to expand the Vacancy Collaborative's Strategic Code Enforcement project for vacant buildings to occupied buildings.

**FLOURISH St. Louis**, an infant mortality reduction initiative powered by Generate Health, is bringing together people and organizations across the region to fix the systems that impact the health of Black families. This organization received a FLOURISH grant which was funded by Missouri Foundation for Health.