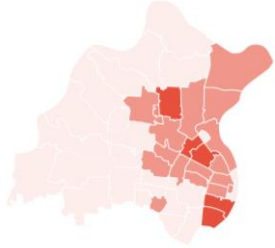


North Star

Zero racial disparities in infant mortality by 2033.

High Infant Mortality Zip Codes



63104, 63106, 63107, 63111, 63112, 63113, 63115, 63118, 63120, 63121, 63136, 63147, 63031

■ Priority Zip Code Served
■ Priority Zip Code

How much did we do?

Coordinated Quality of Care



26

Individuals served



63

Mental health counseling sessions

Resources Provided



1242

Items of clothing



328

Packs of diapers



80

Gas cards



242

Boxes of food



8

Months of Utility Assistance



50

Household product bundles

Program Description

This was the second FLOURISH grant to fund the Parents and Community Connection (PACC) program led by Community of Hope. The PACC program was developed and implemented to build a community support system of mentors, resources and programs for young parents in need. The goal of this project was to expand the PACC program and its outreach services to high priority zip codes. This project took place from November 2021 through October 2022.

Priority Areas

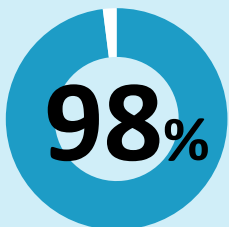
FLOURISH Community Leaders Cabinet identified priority areas they believe will have the most significant impact on improving conditions for Black families. Infant mortality is a complex issue that can't be solved by one organization alone. Below, you will find population level data where FLOURISH is contributing to changes for Black families alongside other organizations. Community of Hope 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	Education & Resources	▪ Access to Resources
Coordinated Quality of Care	Perinatal Behavioral Health	▪ Frequent Mental Distress

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?

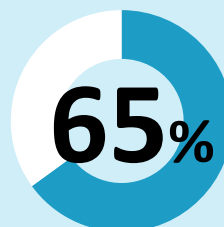
How were Black pregnant and parenting families impacted by this project?



of individuals were connected to the **necessary resources** to thrive

Is anyone better off?

What change occurred as a result of this project?



of individuals became **self-sufficient** by the end of the program

Project Impact



The PACC Program has assisted African American mothers and their families by relieving some of the everyday stresses of life. By providing resources like food boxes and gas cards, and financial assistance to our moms we have alleviated the pressure to choose between feeding yourself and your family or getting to work that week. Rides to appointments have benefited baby and mom. A lot of young moms forego prenatal appointments when they do not have transportation.

We provided journals for them to write down their inner most thoughts and to assist them in the mental health journey. Mentors have been invaluable in providing a guiding force and sounding board for these moms, which coupled with counseling has been essential in a healthy mom.



A highlight of the program is the sisterhood that the clients develop among themselves. Our monthly meeting and group sessions help develop a bond among our moms where sometimes, the mentors do not even have to offer comments. Moms have offered peer support which seemed to have an even bigger impact. Three moms have now graduated from the program and are in training to become mentors.

Success and Learnings



Through this program, we learned:

Active listening is our biggest assets. So much trust has been broken with these moms and their situations and circumstances often keep them from opening up and talking about their challenges. However, when we just become that sounding board for them, they inadvertently inform us of their challenges and lead us in how to assist them. Most of them want to be better, they just need a guiding hand on what that entails for them individually. Once they are receptive, we must care for that trust with delicacy and care.

Challenges

Our biggest challenge is getting those who have gone through so much at such a young age to buy into helping themselves.

Those who are under 18 are still looking for the parental support and guidance that never came. To engage them into believing that they can become self-sufficient, when their own parents didn't provide that physical, emotion and financial safety for them is a challenge.

It is with great sadness that we lost one of our young moms to suicide despite our best efforts to assist her.

Partnerships



FLOURISH St. Louis, an initiative powered by Generate Health, is working to reduce infant mortality in St. Louis. We are bringing together people and organizations from all parts of our region to fix the systems that impact the health of Black families. This organization received a FLOURISH grant which was funded and supported by Missouri Foundation for Health.