



Allegheny County  
Department of  
Human Services

# DHS Provider Briefing

August 26, 2021

\*The briefing will be recorded and posted on [Allegheny County Analytics](#).



# Agenda

- Current and Upcoming Opportunities
- Policy Updates
- Advancing Racial Justice and Gender Equity, Angela Reynolds, YWCA
- Truth Not COVID Campaign Update, Ivan Juzang, MEE Productions
- Q&A

# Opportunities

# Active Solicitations

*RFQ for Forensic Psychological and/or Psychiatric Evaluators*

- Applications due at 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, September 1

*RFP for a Provider of the High-Risk Track of Functional Family Therapy through Child Welfare: An Evidence-Based Intervention*

- Proposals due at 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, September 10

*RFI for a Racial Equity Training and Support Directory*

- A quarterly response deadline for this ongoing RFQ is coming up on Wednesday, September 15 at 3 p.m.

[Link to DHS Solicitations](#)

# Racial Equity Training and Support Directory

- A new edition of the [Racial Equity Training and Support Directory](#) is available!
- The directory now includes information for 20 providers who provide services like racial equity trainings, coaching, strategic planning, policy development, etc.

# September is Suicide Prevention Month



Check out the Suicide Prevention Resource list at the end of this presentation!

## SAVE THE DATE

### **S.A.F.E. Virtual Conference**

(Suicide Awareness is For Everyone)

### **Breaking the Silence: Understanding Suicide**

**9AM – 3PM on October 22, 2021**

*A Community Wide Symposium on Suicide: Every Life Matters. Together We Can Make A Difference*

A full day event featuring a viewing of the documentary film “The S Word”, Discussion with the director, panel discussion, and additional workshops led by leaders in the field.

This is a **FREE** event.

For more information, visit the newly launched SAFE Task Force website:  
<https://www.safepgh.org/>

# Department of Children Initiatives

## Positions Posted

Deputy Director [Careers | Deputy Director | Allegheny County](#)

Office Manager [Careers | Office Manager | Allegheny County](#)

Birth-Five Manager [Careers | Birth to Five Manager | Allegheny County](#)

ECE and OST Workforce Manager [Careers | Early Care and Education and Out of School Time Workforce Manager | Allegheny County](#)

Out of School Time Manager [Careers | Out of School Time Manager | Allegheny County](#)

# Policy Updates



# Policy Updates

- The [PA labor market improved in July](#) as pandemic-related job losses declined from previous months, but PA still lags behind the US job recovery average. PA unemployment rate stands at 6.6%.
- Federal emergency pandemic unemployment benefits will [expire September 4th](#). Regular state unemployment compensation is unchanged.

# Policy Updates

- Beginning October 1, 2021, immigration status can no longer be introduced as evidence in PA criminal or civil proceedings unless essential to the case.
- PA departments of Health and Humans Services launched the [PA Health Equity Analysis Tool \(HEAT\)](#), an interactive map that synthesizes Medical Assistance and population health data to show opportunities for intervention to promote better health and promote health equity.
  - Results are presented at the state, county, zip code, and census tract-level level on a number of population health measures and how they affect local communities and Pennsylvania as a whole.

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Greater Pittsburgh

# Advancing Racial Justice and Gender Equity

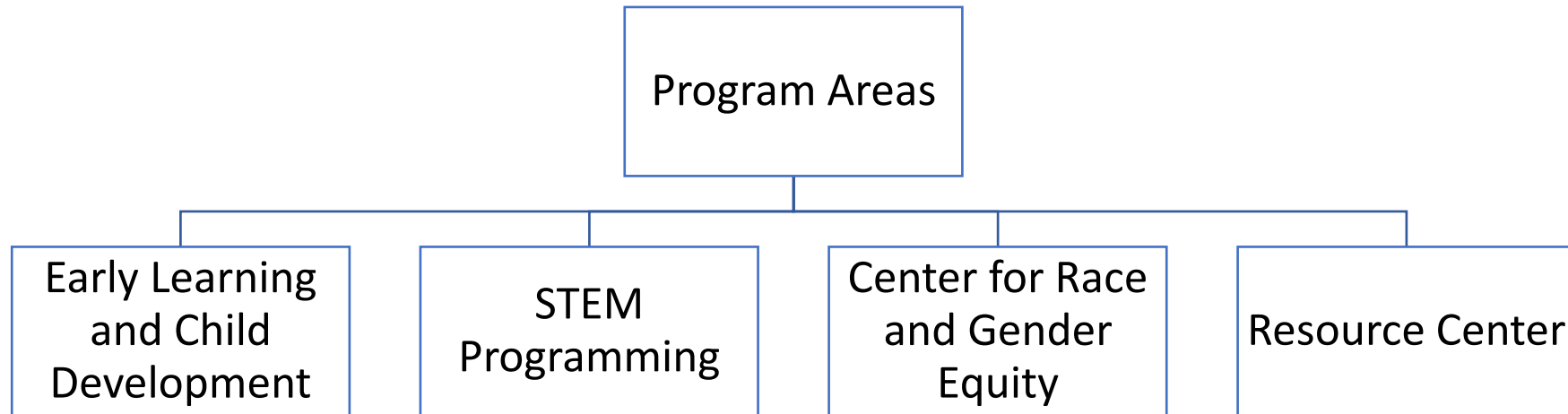
Angela Reynolds | CEO

<https://www.ywcapgh.org/>

## Guiding Principles

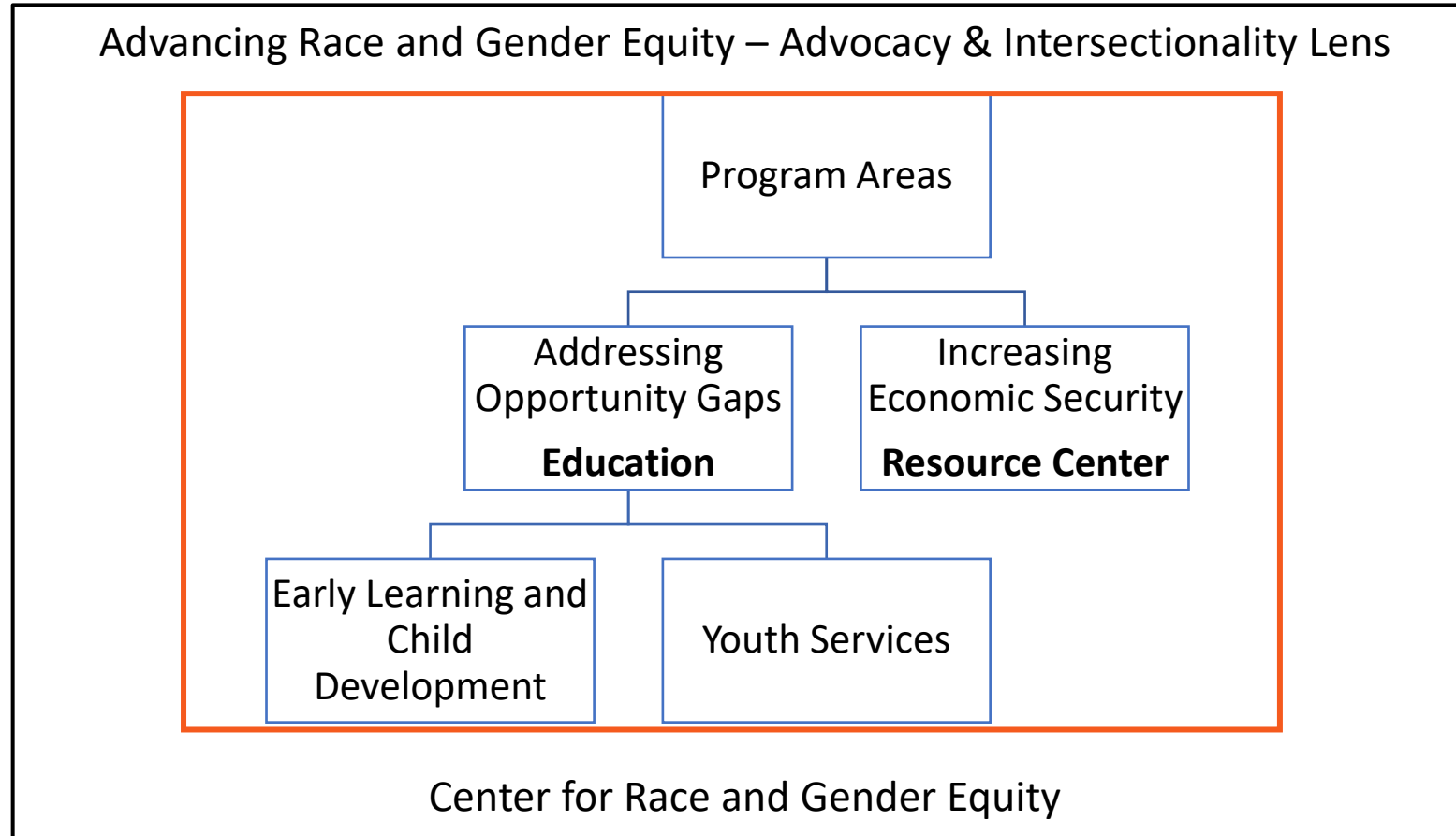
- Advancing racial justice and gender equity requires
  - Deliberate action
  - A collective approach
- Understanding the challenges and triumphs at the intersection of race and gender is paramount to our mission
- Numerous studies highlight disparities – collaborate to implement recommendations

Current (and persistent) disparities are linked to systemic racism and gender discrimination



Not new...Reframe

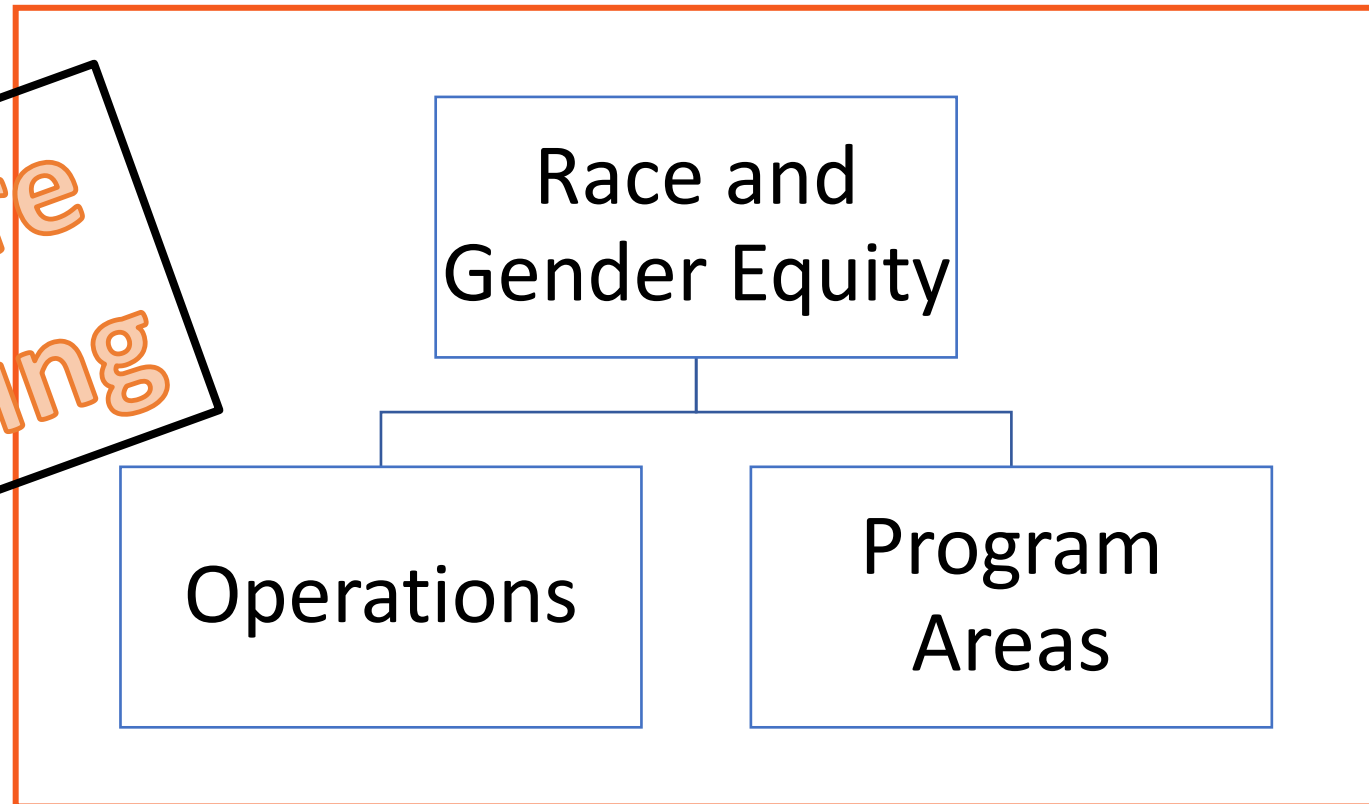
# Current (and persistent) disparities are linked to systemic racism and gender discrimination



Not new...Reframe

Current (and persistent) disparities are linked to systemic racism and gender discrimination

We're Hiring

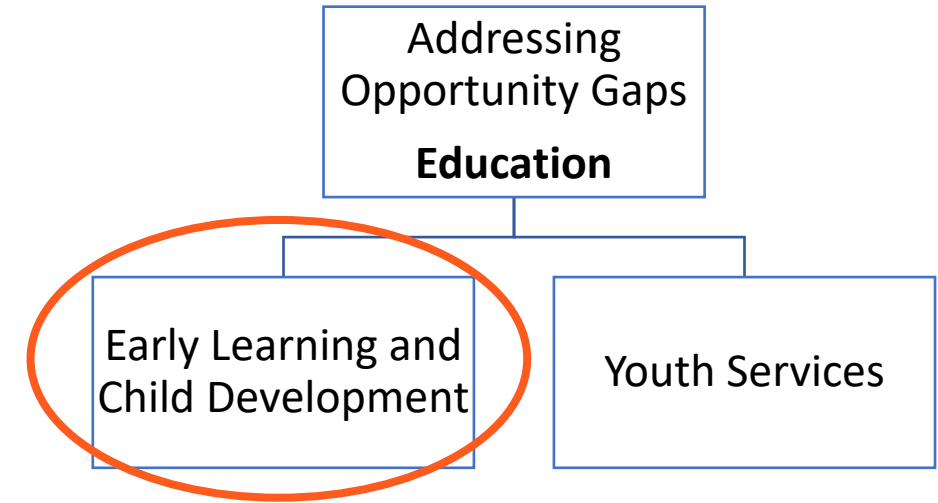


Internal and External

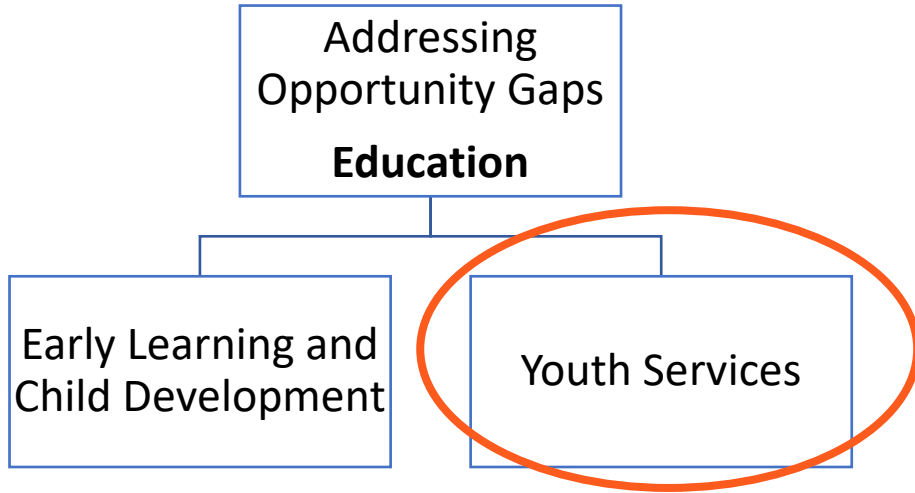
# Intersectionality Lens

- Advocacy
  - Supporting childcare centers and workers
- Curriculum Enhancement
  - Partnership with University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development to integrate P.R.I.D.E (Positive Racial Identity Development in Early education)

Alpha Alpha Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Alpha Omicron Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,







# Intersectionality Lens


- Curriculum Enhancement
  - Profiling women, especially women of color – Virtual Career Cafes

**YWCA Greater Pittsburgh**  
August 20 at 11:30 AM · 🌐

Meet Debbie Guild, Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer for PNC Asset Management Group and Staff Services at PNC Bank.

"I just didn't let anybody tell me not to. There were plenty of times that they tried to, but I never let it sink in."  
[https://youtu.be/z\\_9kX1Hj5U](https://youtu.be/z_9kX1Hj5U)

We share these stories with girls in our STEM Stars and STEM Impact programming to help them envision themselves in science and technology careers. Share them with a girl in your life to inspire!



YOUTUBE.COM  
**Debbie Guild - STEM Career Café Series with PNC Bank**  
 Deborah Guild is executive vice president, head of Enterprise Techn...

YOUTUBE juel



**juel smith**  
 academic dean, STEM educator, scientist

Juel Smith  
 107 views · Jul 10, 2020

YWCA Greater Pittsburgh STEMTube  
 19 subscribers

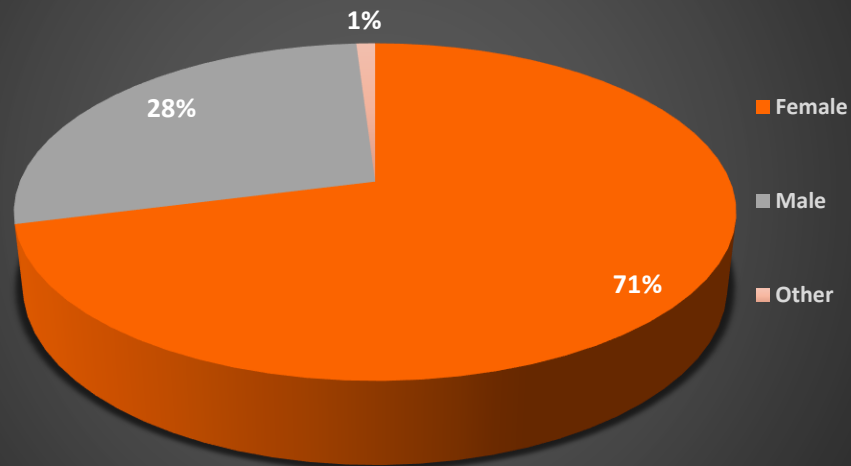
# Meeting Basic Needs

Evictions Prevented

4150



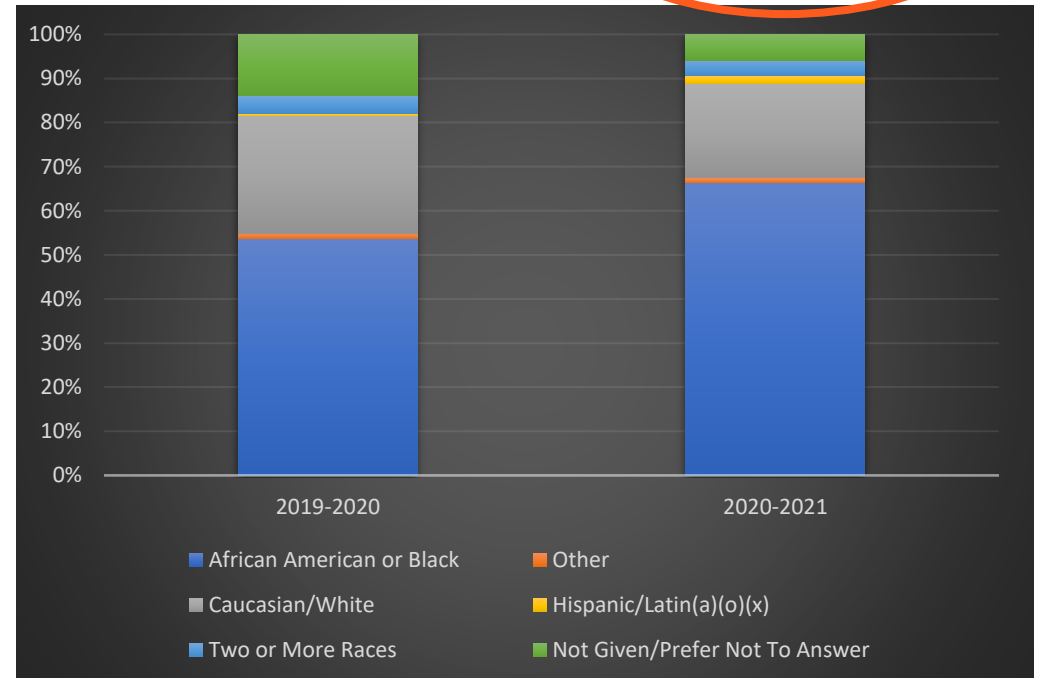
Eviction Prevention by Gender



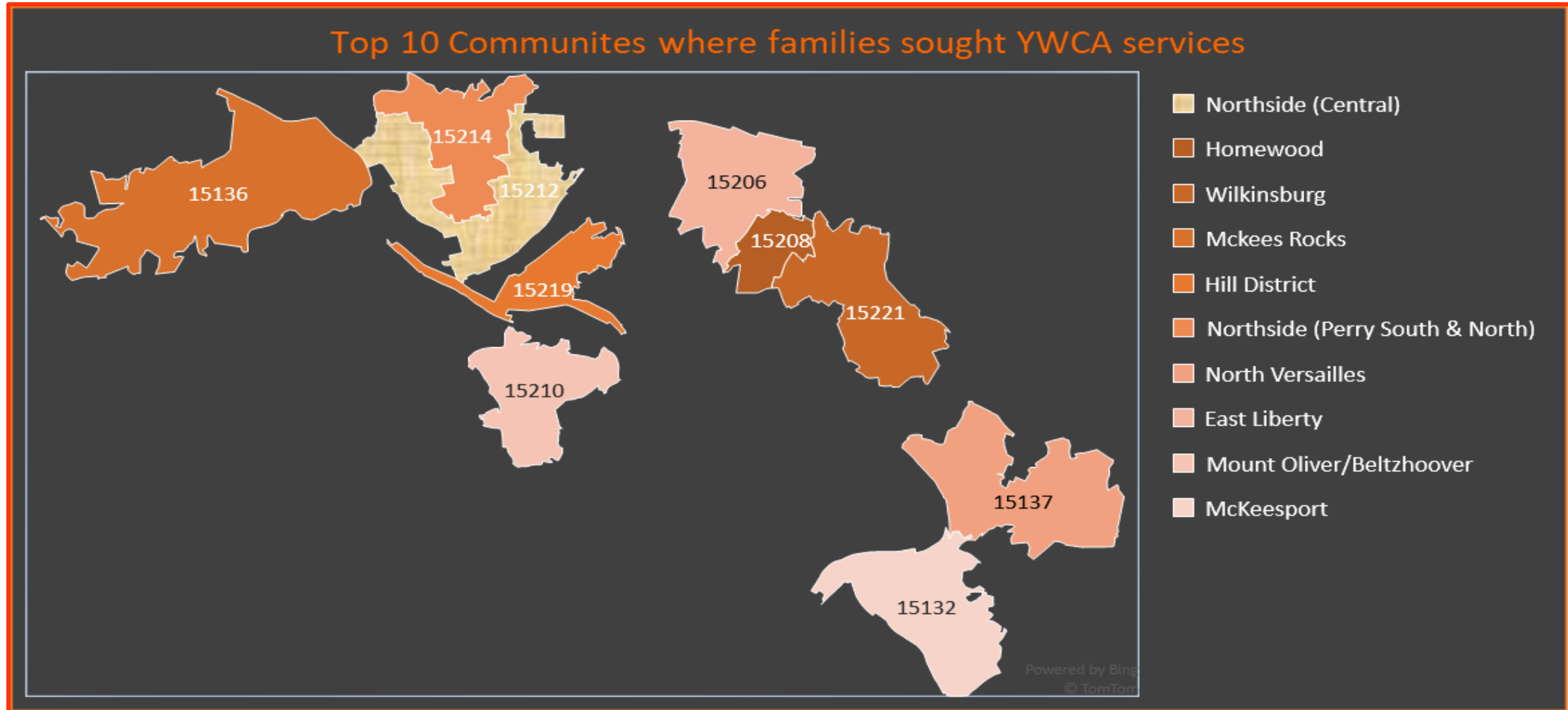
Program Areas

Addressing Opportunity Gaps  
**Education**

Increasing Economic Security  
**Resource Center**



# Racism is a Public Health Crisis



# Opportunities to Engage: Pay Equity Campaign



with Black Women's Policy Center and Women and Girls Foundation

: <https://www.ywcapgh.org/equalpay/> **Share your Equal Pay Day Story** and share with your network.

# Opportunities to Engage: 21-Day Equity Challenge

- In partnership with YWCA Greater Cleveland
- March 2021 – 725 participants
- 3 to 5 five-to-fifteen minute activities (articles, podcasts, videos)
  - Week 1: Reparations
  - Week 2: Sports
  - Week 3: Gender-based Violence
  - Week 4: Environmental Racism
- *April 2022* – Stand Against Racism



# Opportunities to Engage: Action Conversations

Empowering Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)... [See More](#)



- Monthly – Third Wednesday, 12 pm – 1 pm
- Zoom and Facebook
- Upcoming
  - September 15<sup>th</sup>: Censoring Racism in American History
  - October 20<sup>th</sup>: Male Allies and White Accomplices
  - November 17<sup>th</sup>: Black Trans Lives Matter
  - December 15<sup>th</sup>: Women of Color and Mental Health

# Opportunities to Engage: Week without Violence

- YWCA USA Global Movement
- Women of color disproportionately affected
  - Black women 35%
- Stay tuned: partnership with Women's Center and Shelter



# Opportunities to Engage: Statewide Racial Healing Initiative

- with YWCA Tri-County (Pottstown),  
YWCA York, and YWCA Lancaster
- Listening sessions and Volunteer  
Facilitator Training

**Coming  
Soon**





## Additional Efforts

- Racial Justice Education
  - Understanding Racism
  - Cycle of Socialization
  - Sphere of Influence
  - Microaggressions in the Workplace

??? Return to Work ???

Fellowship  
Program

Supporting  
MWBEs



eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

Greater Pittsburgh

Questions?

# **Truth Not COVID Campaign Update**

Ivan Juzang, MEE Productions

Allegheny County Health Department  
and Department of Human Services

COVID-19 Awareness Campaign for Ethnic and Minority  
Communities

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

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# ABOUT THE UNITED AGAINST COVID CAMPAIGN

**Tired of COVID-19?  
You Might Be Done with COVID,  
But It's NOT Done With Our Communities!**

United Against  **REGISTER NOW!**

SPREADING  NOT **COVID**

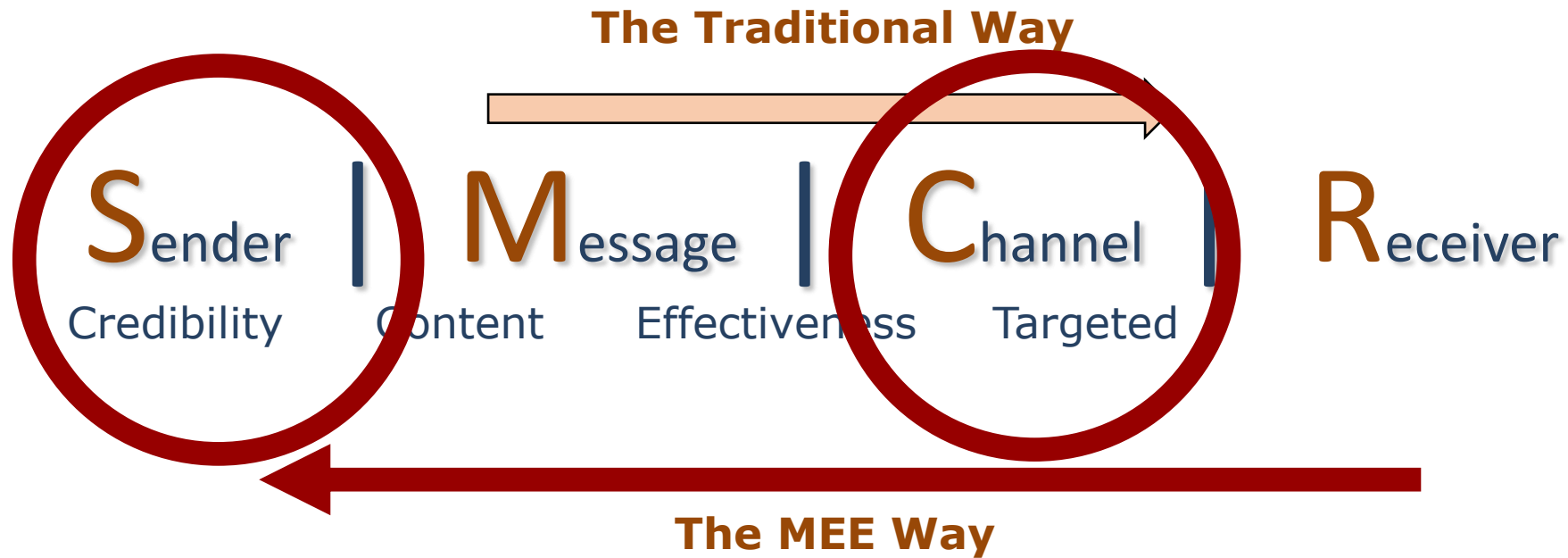
Campaign Partner and Community Leader Toolkit

**Digital Community Engagement Toolkit Training**



# TRAUMA-INFORMED HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS 101

## Behavioral Health Communications



COMMUNITY LEADERS AS A CHANNEL

Building Trust Through  
Community Mobilization

# WHY COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE CRITICAL TO BEHAVIOR CHANGE

- Can engage skeptical residents with low levels of trust and confidence in “the system” (authority; government)
- Addressing risky behaviors in low-income communities requires “dialogue” with the target audience
  - In OCC, the receiver (Contemplating Behavior Change) has the right to challenge the “sender of the message”
  - Community partners are critical for that engagement
- Messages reinforced by people the audience knows and trusts (have more credibility/impact)
  - In advertising terms: channel credibility
  - Human-ology vs. Technology
- Through dialogue & discussion, arguments get countered (i.e., awareness increases; attitudes & norms change)

# ABOUT THE COMMUNITY LEADER TRAINING

## Digital Community Engagement Toolkit Training

**THIS TOOLKIT TRAINING WILL ENABLE YOU TO:**

**BUILD YOUR  
COMMUNITY  
"VILLAGE"**

**LEARN  
VALUABLE  
COMMUNICATION  
SKILLS**

**INCREASE  
YOUR SOCIAL  
MEDIA PRESENCE  
AND IMPACT**

**GAIN  
ACCESS TO  
PROMOTIONAL  
MATERIALS**



# Why Community Engagement Is Essential

- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Trusted, Community-Identified Leaders Have Credibility to Hold Behavior Change Dialogue with Local Resident
  - Have an immediate impact on your community's health
- Community Engagement Increases Connectedness and Social Fabric Among Community Residents
  - Building “Village” is a CRITICAL protective factor (wellness) for families
- Community Engagement Builds the Community's Capacity to Address Other Health Disparities & Underlying Health Conditions ... Beyond COVID
  - Put valuable professional skills into communities (sustainability)

# Have an Immediate Impact on the Health of Your Community

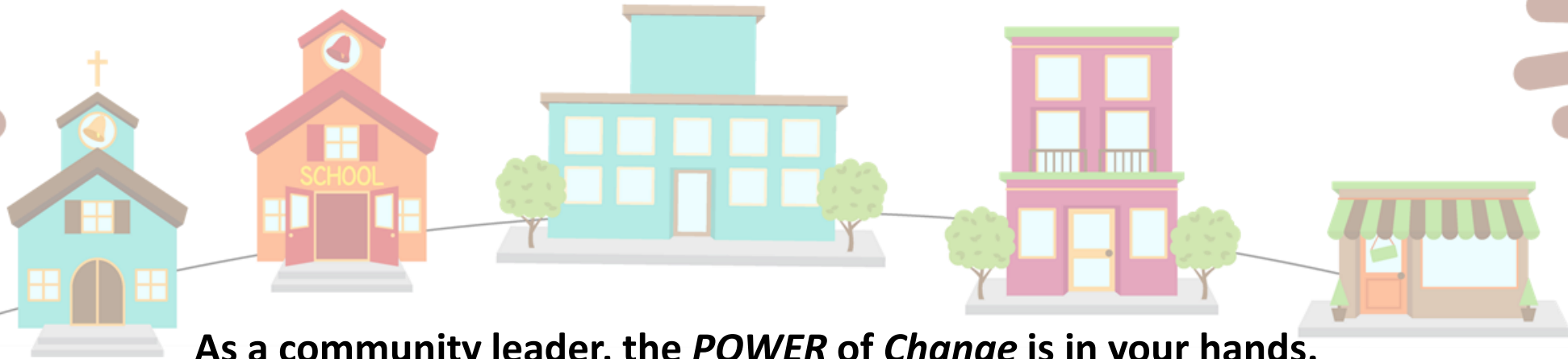


**COVID-19 is here, but it doesn't have to be here to stay.**

**Be that factual source of the best ways to prevent COVID-19 for your community!!**

- If we work together, we can reduce the harm we experience from the pandemic as individuals, as a family, and as a community.
- Make sure *your* community gets the best tips and practices on staying safe at home, at work and when you're out, along with equal access to high-quality medical resources.
- Connect your community to high-quality medical resources.

# Build Your Community's Village (Capacity) Beyond COVID



**As a community leader, the *POWER* of *Change* is in your hands.**

Working together as a community has always been our source of strength during times of struggle.

Only by seriously looking out for each other will we all be able to live our best (possible) lives.

We will always be stronger together!

# Learn Valuable Professional Skills



Get the knowledge you need to protect yourself and others ... at home, at work and in the community.

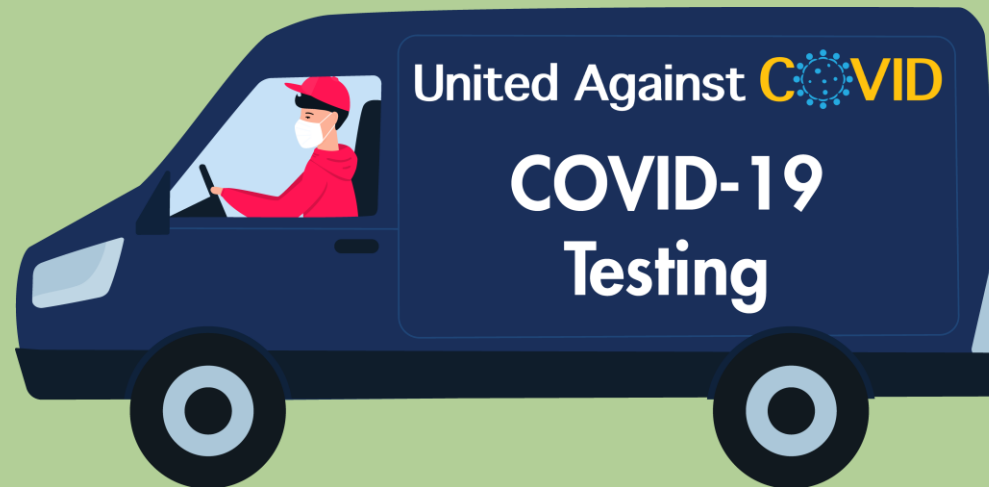
- Upon completion of the Toolkit training, you will be officially certified for helping save lives in your community by really knowing the science and truths around COVID.
- The communications and outreach skills you gain in the training are things you can put on your résumé and be proud about.



# Earn Community Credits After Completing Each Level of the Training

Incentives for taking the training seriously and completing each level include earning “Community Credits.” These credits can be exchanged for free promotional items, giveaways and safety signage.

- We will also and will add your community to a special list for consideration to receive expanded or new County services related to COVID-19.
- You will also be acknowledged and recognized by the County as a community leader who went above and beyond to represent their community.



# Build Capacity for Increasing Access to Address Health Disparities

## LONG-TERM GOAL: A Community Network

- To build a network of community-based organizations and community-identified leaders who can build the necessary bridges that will acknowledge (not discount) the deep-seated barriers of community mistrust while assisting communities with navigating health services.

## Building Capacity to Address Health Disparities

- The MEE Team will provide trainings and technical assistance (TA) to assist the most credible community leaders in being active “message senders” to increase their impact in their communities.
- MEE’s ongoing Community Engagement TA over the next six months will provide a deeper understanding of the importance of community mobilization and how community-engagement strategies lead to stronger, more vibrant and resilient communities.

## Training Topics:

- *Trauma-Informed Health Communications 101: Targeting Low-Income Communities of Color*
- *Community Engagement Concepts That Counter Trauma, Disparities and Lack of Trust*



# YouTube Channel @TruthNotCOVID



United Against COVID

SPREADING

**TRUTH**

NOT COVID

## Created Playlists:

United Against COVID  
Spreading COVID Truths  
(Short Videos)  
SPREADING **TRUTH** NOT COVID

Spreading  
COVID Truths  
(Short Videos)

United Against COVID  
Making Informed Choices  
About Vaccination  
SPREADING **TRUTH** NOT COVID

Making Informed  
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Vaccination

United Against COVID  
Perspectives and Stories  
From African Immigrants  
SPREADING **TRUTH** NOT COVID

Perspectives and  
Stories From  
African Immigrants

United Against COVID  
Difundiendo las Verdades  
de COVID en Español con  
el Dr. Diego Chaves-Gnecco  
SPREADING **TRUTH** NOT COVID

Difundiendo las  
Verdades de COVID en  
Español con el Dr.  
Diego Chaves-Gnecco

United Against COVID  
LGBTQ+  
Community Leaders  
SPREADING **TRUTH** NOT COVID

LGBTQ+  
Community  
Leaders

United Against COVID  
COVID Truths:  
Educational Videos for  
Community Leaders  
SPREADING **TRUTH** NOT COVID

COVID Truths:  
Educational Videos  
for Community  
Leaders

# Campaign Assets – Community Leaders

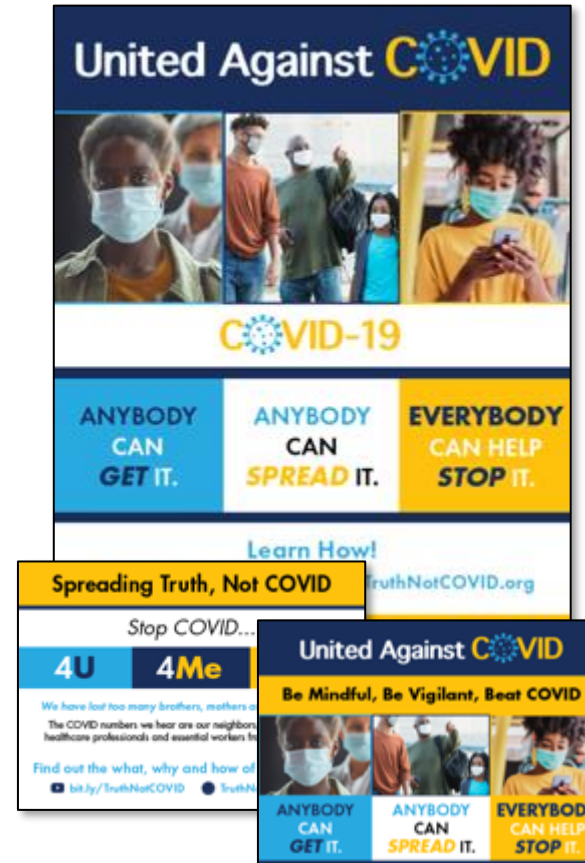
## Training/TA Portal



## Digital Community Engagement Toolkit



## Print Materials (Flyers/Postcards)



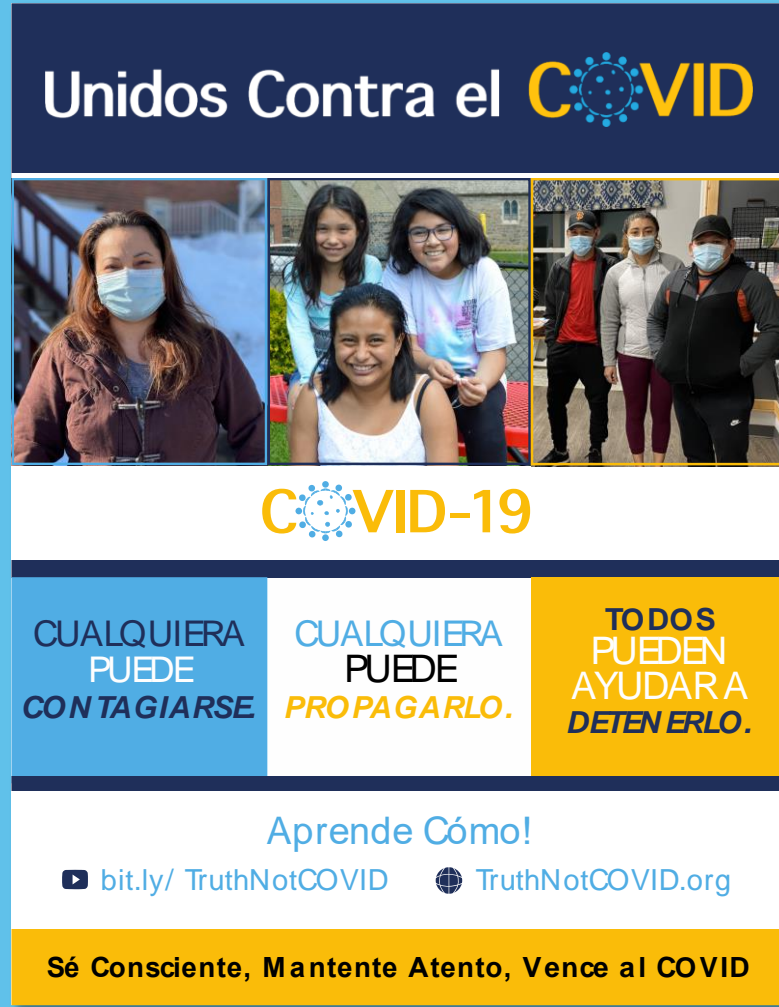
## Promotional Materials






# Campaign Assets – Community Leaders (Spanish- Concept 3)

Concept 3 - 8.5x11 Flyer



**Unidos Contra el COVID**



**COVID-19**

<b>CUALQUIERA PUEDE CONTAGIARSE</b>	<b>CUALQUIERA PUEDE PROPAGARLO.</b>	<b>TODOS PUEDEN AYUDAR A DETENERLO.</b>
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**Aprende Cómo!**

[bit.ly/ TruthNotCOVID](https://bit.ly/TruthNotCOVID) [TruthNotCOVID.org](https://TruthNotCOVID.org)

**Sé Consciente, Mantente Atento, Vence al COVID**

5x7 Postcards



**Unidos Contra el COVID**

**Sé Consciente, Mantente Atento, Vence al COVID**



<b>CUALQUIERA PUEDE CONTAGIARSE.</b>	<b>CUALQUIERA PUEDE PROPAGARLO.</b>	<b>TODOS PUEDEN AYUDAR A DETENERLO.</b>
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**Difundiendo la Verdad, No el COVID**

*Detén el COVID...*

**Por Tí Por Mí Por Nosotros**

*Hemos perdido demasiados hermanos, madres y abuelos.*

Las cifras de COVID que escuchamos son nuestros vecinos, nuestros profesionales de la salud y trabajadores esenciales en todos los ámbitos sociales.

¿Qué, el por qué y el cómo estar seguro del COVID!

[TruthNotCOVID](https://TruthNotCOVID.org) [TruthNotCOVID.org](https://TruthNotCOVID.org)

# THANK YOU!

United Against  COVID

**Campaign Name:**

United Against COVID

**Slogan:**

Spreading Truth, Not COVID

**Call-to-Action:**

Be Mindful, Be Vigilant, Beat COVID

**Campaign URL | Social Media:**

TruthNotCOVID.org | @TruthNotCOVID



# Coming up next

- Our next meeting is on **September 30, 2021**. We will be transitioning to a monthly meeting schedule.
- Future meeting dates: 9/30, 10/28, 11/18, 12/16
- Please complete this form if you would like to begin receiving updates about future provider meetings (if you are already receiving the emails and calendar invitations, no action is needed):  
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/Uvw6IMX/ProviderBriefings>

# Suicide Prevention Resources

## Creating Hope Through Action Resource Guide

The Jana Marie Foundation, Aavidum, Prevent Suicide PA, Pennsylvania Network for Student Assistance Services (PNSAS), and Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Youth Suicide Prevention Grant are pleased to share a resource guide:

<https://janamariefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Suicide-Prevention-Guide-2021-final.pdf>

### Trans Lifeline

A hotline staffed by transgender people for transgender people.

- 1-877-565-8860 (available 24/7)

### The Trevor Project ([thetrevorproject.org](http://thetrevorproject.org))

A non-judgmental hotline with LGBTQ-sensitive trained counselors you can contact during a mental health crisis and/or suicidal thoughts.

- *Trevor Lifeline* 1-866-488-7386 (available 24/7)
- *TrevorText* text “Trevor” to 1-202-304-1200 (Th/Fr 4p-8p ET)
- *TrevorChat* online portal (available 3p-9p ET 7 days/week)

### National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

A hotline for anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.

- 1-800-273-8255 (available 24/7)
- *Veterans Crisis Line* call above number and press 1

### Youth Helpline, Your Life Your Voice

A teen-specific suicide prevention lifeline. You can also send this hotline an email or text through the information listed online.

- 1-800-448-3000 (available 24/7)
- <https://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org>

### COPLINE

National Law Enforcement Officer crisis intervention hotline for LEOs and their families.

- 1-800-267-5463 (available 24/7)

### Resolve Crisis Network

24/7, voluntary crisis intervention and stabilization services offered to Allegheny County residents via telephone, mobile team, and walk-in.

- 1-888-796-8226 (available 24/7)

# Key Contacts

- Provider questions for Allegheny County Health Department
  - [DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us)
    - Use the subject field to indicate if your qq is about CYF, Aging, BH, CYF, ID, Community Services, or DHS operations (e.g., contracting, payment)
  - <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/index.aspx>
- Key DHS staff
  - Payment inquiries: Dan Evancho [Dan.Evancho@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Dan.Evancho@alleghenycounty.us)
  - Contract inquiries: Kathy Heinz [Kathy.Heinz@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Kathy.Heinz@alleghenycounty.us)  
Laura Brigido [Laura.Brigido@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Laura.Brigido@alleghenycounty.us)
- United Way 2-1-1
  - For basic needs assistance or general COVID-19 inquiries call the 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774. Language services available.



# Appendix

# P-EBT Reminder

- **Every eligible child can receive \$375 in benefits.**
- **IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**
  - **For kids ages 0-5:** You can still apply for SNAP benefits to receive summer P-EBT! This includes babies born during the summer.
    - Benefits will be posted to SNAP cards on September 27th or 28th. Those who apply or add a child in August will receive the benefit on October 15th.
  - **For K-12:** You can still apply for free/reduced price meals to receive summer P-EBT for school age kids!
    - The payment will be posting between September 13th and 25th to P-EBT cards. Cards for newly eligible children who apply for free/reduced-price meals in July and August will be mailed out starting October 8th.

# Device Requests

- DHS has Distributed 3,781 laptops to date
- DHS has Distributed 1,592 hotspots to date
- DHS continues to receive requests for devices
  - [Device Request Form](#)

