



Community Health Equity Convening Series: **Trenton**

SUMMARY

APRIL 13, 2022

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY



Children's Health Fund
in collaboration with
Henry J. Austin Health Center

With support from
Sanofi US

Overview

Children’s Health Fund hosted its second Community Health Equity Convening on April 13, 2022, in collaboration with Henry J. Austin Health Center in Trenton, New Jersey. Nearly 30 stakeholders participated in the day of collaboration and problem solving, resulting in a tangible solution to address a local issue impacting the health and well-being of the Trenton community. Through a series of breakout sessions and plenary discussions, participants collaboratively identified the lack of community advocates as a pressing challenge that needs to be addressed. Local youth from Mercer County Technical Schools Health Science Academy attended the convening and contributed significantly to the identification of local challenges and the strategizing of potential solutions.

Participants conceptualized the “Community Cousins” program—a multi-organizational initiative that will serve as a local hub of resources pertaining to nearly every aspect of life in Trenton, as well as a network of advocates who will ensure information is updated and accessible. The convening challenged stakeholders to consider evaluation strategies, long-term sustainability, funding requirements, key stakeholders, and existing resource gaps to inform a well-developed project plan. Following the convening, nearly all participating organizations expressed interest in being a part of the “Community Cousins” implementation process.

CHF met with Henry J. Austin Health Center staff following the convening to determine the most effective method to carry forward the convening's ideas and insights. Henry J. Austin will coordinate efforts with Trenton Health Team, an existing partner and active convening participant.

Summary

Community Cousins Program

The proposed Community Cousins Program seeks to address the gaps in knowledge and communication of existing resources to Trenton residents. During the topic identification process, community members expressed that the general public is often unaware of the available selection of social service organizations, government programs and services, and municipal resources that can support access to healthcare and improve health outcomes.

Participants conceptualized the "Community Cousins Program" to link residents to these vital programs and services. The initiative would be housed at a local public health non-profit organization, or within a city government agency. A permanent team of paid part-time staff would be responsible for the maintenance of an accessible website detailing all of the community's resources, broken down by categories such as transportation, grocery stores, parks, and healthcare centers. Participants also envisioned that the Community Cousins program would offer individualized support by assigning interested residents to a "Community Cousin" who could make direct connections between the individual and a given resource based on their unique needs.



Convening Summary

Participating Organizations

Henry J. Austin Health Center

Trenton Health Team

Montgomery Township Health Department

LifeTies Inc

Central Jersey Family Health Consortium

Catholic Charities Diocese of Trenton

35th Street Consulting, LLC

Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Youth from Mercer County Technical Schools Health Science Academy

Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership

Rutgers University