

Asheville Buncombe Institute of Parity Achievement

Locate • Educate • Navigate • Advocate



MISSION STATEMENT

ABIPA promotes economic, social, and health parity achievement for African Americans and other people of color in Buncombe County through advocacy, education, research, and community partnerships.

equity

Simple Definition of EQUITY

fairness or justice in the way people are treated

finance : the value of a piece of property (such as a house) after any debts that remain to be paid for it (such as the amount of a mortgage) have been subtracted.

a share in a company : a share of a company's stock

Had you ever thought of your investments in the community as both sides of the coin of equity?

ABIPA connects citizens and communities with health and human services and other resources available in Buncombe county , however we go deeper. The time and services that we provide insures that people are justly treated and have equal access however we also are making an investment in the holistic health of individuals which has an invaluable return of a healthier community. The Community Service Navigators trained by ABIPA are unique because we equip them with the extra layer of training and experience in being Community Health Workers. We through this program we are able to address the social determinants of health in addition to the direct health that is impacted by people simply trying to survive. We meet people where they are by going door to door and making ourselves available in other community settings. We don't wait for the clients to come to the ABIPA office we go to them where they are. This is demonstrated in systematic service delivery to Deaverview Apartments, Livingston, Erskine, Walton St Apartments, Hillcrest, the Shiloh Community and area African American Churches.

The investment that the county made in our organization during the current grant period has provided us with the resources to see increased growth in capacity to serve more Buncombe County residents. Because of the prevalent need of our service, we have been able to expanded our services to a new collaboration the Asheville Housing Authority that provides weekly education and one on one services impacting residents that are dealing with Chronic Diseases at the Arthur Edington Education and Career Center and on location at different sights.

Our partnership with the county our Community Service Navigators have helped to facilitate Fresh Produce Pop Ups which has positively impacted food security in the neighborhoods. The need and the impact is staggering just from 2014 to 2015. Household interventions rose from 2014: 349 to 2015: 1,345 ; and individuals impacted grew from 2014: 2,388 to 2015: 3,573. 100% of our clients' food security pathway need were supported by our pop-ups which provided over 59,998 lbs of food valued at \$101,996.60. This is the perfect reflection of a good investment and the collective impact leveraged through invaluable community collaborations.

The extra layer that ABIPA adds to this intervention is providing periodic health assessments and blood pressure screenings. More often than not we encounter people with chronic health conditions and our CSNs are able to refer them to the ABIPA Nurse Case Manager for further assessment and navigation through specific areas that need to be addressed. We have found that we are in need of more "Nurse Navigation" as an extra layer to our interventions. As reflected just in the growth of the Pop Up service offerings we are in need of additional support staff and hours for current contracted staff.

There are two key statements in the November 2014 edition of Health Affairs' article *Opening A Channel: Finding Connection And Healing Beyond The Clinic*

- Community Health Workers have the potential to improve outcomes and reduce cost for psychosocially complex, chronically ill patients. Realizing this potential will require increased investment in training, supervision, small patient panels and longitudinal relationships.
- We were facing the fact that public policy rarely supports community health workers to engage with complex patients. At present, national policies tend to prescribe a narrow scope of practice for community health workers.

The citizens that we encounter have complex life issues that require more attention than handing them a brochure or giving them a phone number to call. The support from the county in our efforts has been invaluable, because we have been able to leverage your investment in us to bolster the vision that our founder the late Dr. Charles Blair had for our organization over 10 years ago.