



THE CENTER FOR
BLACK HEALTH & EQUITY

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

[CENTERFORBLACKHEALTH.ORG](https://centerforblackhealth.org)

MISSION

We are a national nonprofit organization that facilitates public health programs and services that benefit communities and people of African descent.

VISION

The Center for Black Health & Equity envisions a world where all people of African descent are able to obtain their optimal health outcomes.

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Message

FROM THE CENTER'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

It seems appropriate to begin The Center for Black Health & Equity's (The Center) 2024 annual report with a statement on the future. Since its inception, our organization has sought to improve the health outcomes of African American communities by addressing the systemic forces that keep us from optimal health and wellness. As we reflect on 2024 and continue into this new year, we do so with a clear understanding that regardless of the barriers, the work to achieve health equity must continue.

The year 2024 began with messages of hope and strategic efforts that many of us envisioned would result in greater strides in 2025. We now know that 2025 has brought challenges we could not have imagined with detrimental national and global effects on our ability to provide services, conduct outreach, and support the communities we serve. Additionally, access to critical data that informs our strategies has been restricted or removed, weakening our capacity to implement our mission effectively. Despite these current challenges, we still celebrate the success of 2024 with an acknowledgement of The Center's commitment to equip communities to end health disparities through funding, capacity building, community mobilization training, and technical support.



Delmonte Jefferson,
Executive Director



Alex Hurst,
Board Chair

In February 2024, The Center launched its first re-granting program under our new Community Investment division. This inaugural re-granting program allows us to not only provide financial support, but also to provide capacity building and technical support to five community-based organizations to advocate and address tobacco-related health inequities across Tobacco Nation and beyond. For the next two years, this funding portfolio will support these community organizations in developing the effectiveness of their critical advocacy efforts. Later in 2024, we added a second portfolio under our Community Investment division, focused on re-granting to support HIV/AIDS advocacy work. In addition to rolling out our new Community Investment division, we continued our capacity building work in food and nutrition, women's health, oral health, mental health, and cancer prevention through our equity-centered policy lens.

Throughout the year, our staff shined with many receiving local and national recognition for their work. The generosity of our donors and our valued partners added support and meaning to our collective efforts. It is important to be clear and acknowledge that our work in public health over the next few years will be more challenging than perhaps we've ever faced before. It will require that we innovate and are bold with our strategies. We will continue to reinforce our partnerships, build new collaborations and coalitions, and form alliances to fill the crucial gaps left by the dismantling of federal support. Together, we can reclaim the path forward for public health.



By the Numbers

52 Training Sessions

555
No Menthol Sunday Toolkits Downloaded

25 New partnerships formed

79 No Menthol Sunday events held

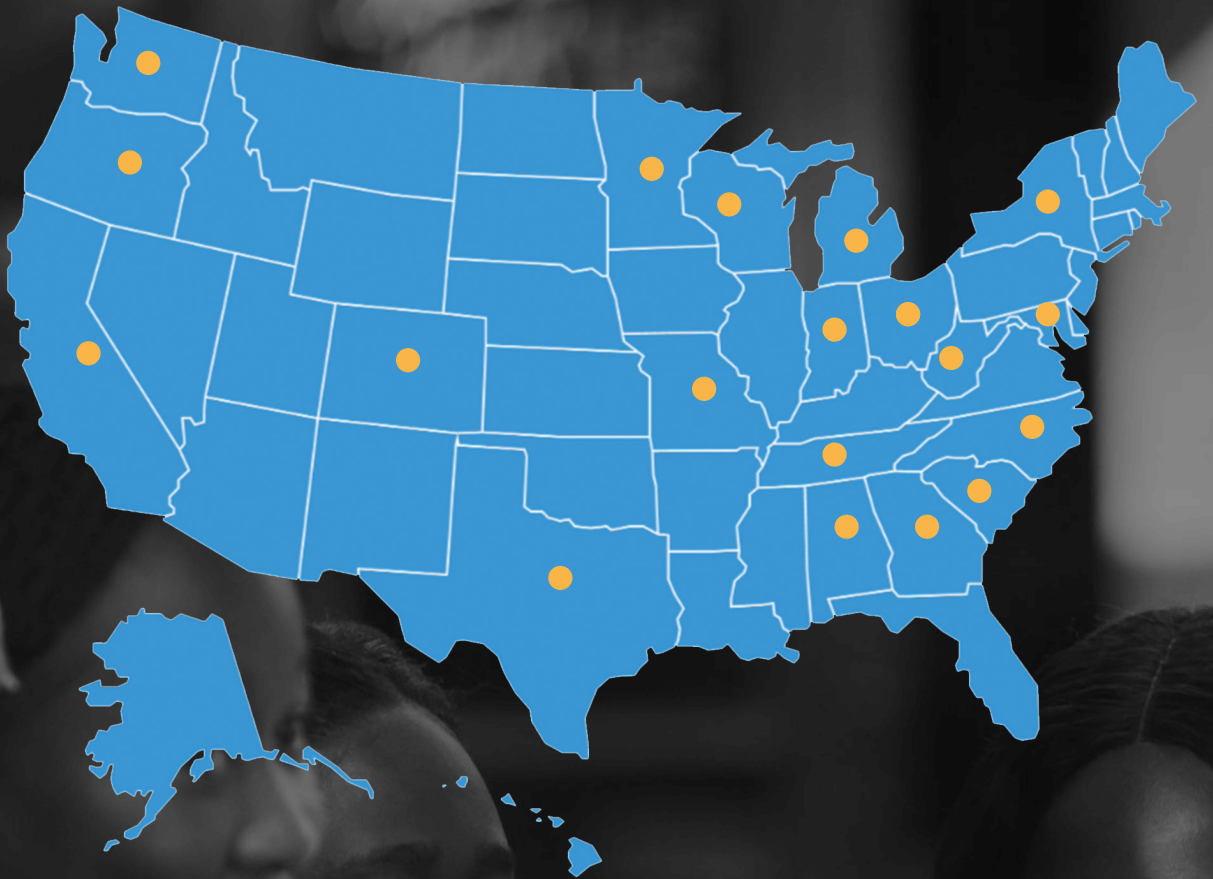
19 Center-led Events

234 Resources Developed

3 Policies and Ordinances Championed

60 Technical Assistance Sessions

Partnership Locations



Virginia · North Carolina · Michigan · Alabama · Ohio
Missouri · Tennessee · South Carolina · Georgia · West
Virginia · Indiana · Colorado · New York · Wisconsin
Washington State · Oregon · California · Texas
Michigan · Minnesota

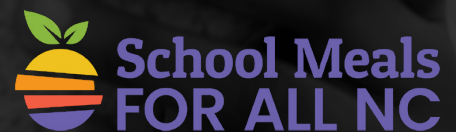
Program Highlight

FOOD AND NUTRITION

The Food and Nutrition program worked on two major initiatives: School Meals for All North Carolina (SMFANC) and Cut the Salt, Keep the Flavor in Cleveland, Ohio .

The Center played a pivotal role in expanding the reach of SMFANC by amplifying the message of the campaign in the media and leveraging the community stories gathered by participants of the SMFANC Champion Program. The champion program included monthly sessions throughout the year along with four hybrid town hall meetings across North Carolina to encourage others to support policy change.

We produced one animated and two traditional public service announcements shared on social media and streaming stations for the Cut the Salt, Keep the Flavor campaign which reached over 300,000 Cleveland residents. This was achieved with the help of a local grassroots organizer and the support of several food establishment owners, medical professionals and legislative figures.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

The Center launched its first re-granting program to support funding community-based organizations to build capacity for advocacy and address health inequities across Tobacco Nation and beyond. After carefully reviewing over 200 applications, the coordinating center team identified eight community-based organizations and granted \$4 million to the cohort to be disbursed over a two-year period. The goal is to help them create sustainable improvements in their communities regarding social, political, and environmental barriers.

Over the next two years, community partners will receive training and technical assistance to lead local policy, systems, and environmental change advocacy efforts to reduce health disparities connected to commercial tobacco control.

The Center's HIV/AIDS team initiated ViiV "Risk to Reason" in October 2024. This grant invests in community development by promoting HIV prevention as a critical component to overall health and support care for Black women of cis and trans experience.



UTERINE FIBROIDS

The Center continued efforts to bring Black women together and elevate conversations about the complexity of living and healing with uterine fibroids through our S.I.P. and Share series. We developed resources to increase the capacity of non-profit partners advocating for equity-centered policies and practices impacting Black women.

The Center for Black Health & Equity has created a culturally appropriate outreach initiative to address knowledge gaps around uterine fibroids, medical mistrust and bias, access to healthcare, and healthy behaviors. Our continued efforts aim to increase opportunities for Black women to connect and elevate conversations that dive deeper into the complexity of living and healing with uterine fibroids as it relates to mental, physical, emotional health, and social connectedness. Partners in this effort include My Brother's Keeper in Jackson, MS; Resilient Sisterhood Project in Boston, MA; The Fibroid Pandemic in Atlanta, GA; and Taller Salud in Puerto Rico.

Our fibroids program caught the attention of legislators in Ohio and Connecticut. Rep. Shontel M. Brown (OH-11) invited The Center to co-sponsor the Uterine Fibroid Intervention and Gynecological Health and Treatment Act (U-FIGHT Act) to improve the livelihoods of women diagnosed with uterine fibroids through detection and treatments. This act spotlighted African American women, who are disproportionately affected by uterine fibroids. Senator Patricia Billie Miller (27 District-CT) inquired about technical assistance to support legislation development and education campaign support in Connecticut to raise uterine fibroid awareness at the state level.

EQUITY-CENTERED POLICIES

The Equity-Centered Policy program developed a framework to address health disparities through collaborative policy efforts to close out year three of a project funded by the Office of Minority Health. This included efforts from our partners Daniel Dawes, JD, Dean, Meharry Global Health, Nelson Dunlap, JD, Vice President, Meharry Global Health, Tonya Curry, J.D. Public Health Law Center, Helen Holton, Ph.D., CEO, Helen Holton Associates, Manire Vaughn, J.D., Founder, M93 Consulting Group, Ms. Princess Wilson, Community Consultant, Atlanta, Georgia.

The group held a virtual discussion about the impacts of inequitable transportation policies on Black communities in the United States called "Roads Built by Injustice: The U.S. Interstate Highway System."

AWARDS

Senior Program Manager, Shayla Compton, was selected as a 2024 Aspen Ideas: Health Fellow. She attended the Aspen Ideas Health Festival in Aspen, Colorado June 20-23, 2024. In addition to the various population health tracks, she was also invited to be part of the Aspen Black Maternal Survival Roundtable and Communicating and Investing in Health Equity in Turbulent Times discussions.

The School Meals for All NC leadership team received the prestigious Eat Smart Move More North Carolina (ESMMNC) Innovator Award. This award recognized trailblazing initiatives that energize communities across the state and celebrates young leaders who embody the mission of creating healthier communities and brighter futures.

No Menthol

SUNDAY

On May 19, 2024, Black communities across the country expressed their support for No Menthol Sunday, The Center for Black Health & Equity's annual observance day dedicated to exposing the harms of menthol and flavored tobacco.

The No Menthol movement has had several triumphs in the past decade. An indefinite postponement of removing menthol from tobacco products was disappointing but underscored the importance of the 2024 No Menthol Sunday theme: Rooted in Power: A Decade of Determination.

The No Menthol Sunday 2024 campaign received over 180 million impressions across 27 publications and social media platforms and had record participation all over the country. In Minnesota, a reverend at New Salem Baptist Church delivered a sermon encouraging congregants to share personal stories about their fight with tobacco. Down in Bryan, Texas, a family held signs in their neighborhood to raise awareness of tobacco's harms. And in Wisconsin, the response to No Menthol Sunday reached the governor's office, prompting this official proclamation for the observance day.

The Center for Black Health & Equity is grateful for this extraordinary national response to No Menthol Sunday. We remain partners in this fight for a tobacco-free future.

Financial Health

TOTAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

\$2,627,809

SUPPORTING SERVICES:

\$3,587,120

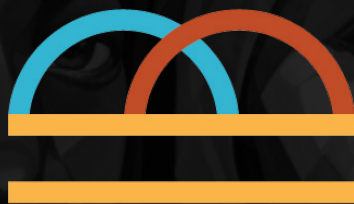
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET:

\$6,214,929

TOTAL GROSS REVENUE:

\$12,733,258





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