



REACHING TOGETHER

RACIAL AND ETHNIC APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY HEALTH
(REACH) GRANT NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the REACH Program Director

Hello and Happy New Year from the REACH team! It is hard to believe that we are now in our fifth and final year of the REACH cooperative agreement. We have successfully completed many of our set goals and objectives, and are excited to continue working to address gaps in social and health care needs in our community this year. We could not accomplish much of our work without

the help of our wonderful community partners and we are eager to continue strengthening our network and furthering our impact.

Currently, we have several active projects for this year, such as the new Doulas' HEAL breastfeeding and maternal health resource website, a walkability map that we are developing in partnership with Sustain Charlotte and the West Blvd. Neighborhood Coalition, and a new Farm to ECE pilot training program with Legacy Learning Center. Additionally, we are proud to announce that our organization was awarded funding from United Way of Central Carolinas' United Neighborhoods initiative to continue working with our partners in the Lakeview neighborhood. We have a busy year ahead of us, and look forward to finish strong!

In Health,

Ashley Carmenia, MPH



Sustaining Mobility in the Land of Change

In the next 20 years, Charlotte is expected to add 385,000 residents and 200,000 jobs. That poses major questions as we work through our REACH grant to support physical activity in daily life: Where will people live, work and play? Will our neighborhoods, workplaces, and recreational spaces be accessible and

designed in a way that allows residents to choose walking and biking as viable transportation options?

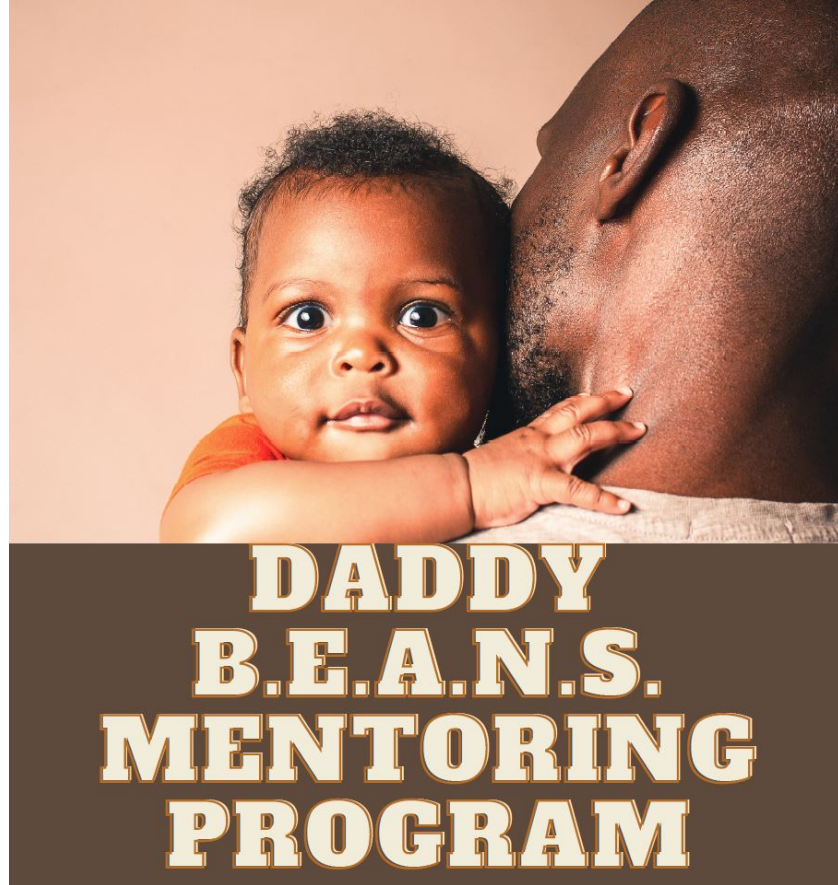
To help residents understand the mobility issues facing our community AND how to get involved, Sustain Charlotte hosted a 3-part educational series during the fall of 2022. More than 100 community members gathered for Sustain Charlotte's Impact 704 Academy sessions to learn about active transportation, land use, and how we can all support the creation of a more walkable city. This series of education and engagement programs focused on sustainable, equitable, and resilient urban development in the Charlotte area. Registration was free and open to the public.

Speakers for the series included experts from local government departments, academia, and community organizations: Kathy Cornett with Charlotte Planning Design & Development, Katie Lloyd – a Senior Planner at Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, and Hannah Bromberger - Strategic Mobility Division manager with the Charlotte Dept of Transportation.

New Year, New Growth!

In partnership with Enlighten Legacy Learning Center, we will be digging deeper with our upcoming SNAP/EBT gardening initiatives. Similar to our previous work with ASPHN CABBAGE, we will continue to build gardens for access to fresh produce and provide nutrition, health, and wellness training to the ECE staff. We are also scheduled to launch the West Boulevard and Lakeview neighborhood walkability map this year. The map will be an excellent tool for community members and advocates, as they push for increased food access.

Although, Year Five signifies the end of this cooperative agreement, it is only the beginning, as we are focused on sustainability and continuing our work beyond REACH.



Calling all Fathers and Fathers-to-be!

Due to the success of the first round of our Daddy BEANs program, we're geared up for a second! Developed in partnership with QC Cocoa Beans, Daddy BEANs is a pilot breastfeeding, parenting peer-to-peer support mentoring program for African American fathers in the greater Charlotte area. We are currently recruiting new and expecting fathers throughout Mecklenburg and Cabarrus County. Interested individuals may register [here](#). For more information, contact [Ashley Carmenia](#) or [Rachel Dean](#).

Please share among your network!

Extending a Hand in 2023

In the new year, we are continuing our work with the Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance via funding from United Way. One of our priority objectives will be to onboard residents onto the statewide coordinated care network, NCCARE360. By using this platform, we will be able to send and receive referrals to internal and external partners for our neighbors in Lakeview, as well as to help strengthen the local CBO network that is utilizing the platform. Additionally, we will also be using the NCCARE360 platform to screen our patients at RAO for social determinants of health and refer to other health and social care entities. Many of our patients are facing barriers to access basic needs, and can greatly benefit from referrals to services such as substance abuse and mental health programs. Connecting our patients with local community partners and services will help us fulfill our mission of ensuring that we provide comprehensive and holistic care.

Check out the C.A.R.E. app!



To learn about the REACH grant, click [here](#).



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