

What is the overall goal of the EPICCC Project? The goal of the Engaging Partners in Caring Communities (EPICCC) Project is to help congregations that serve African American communities expand their ability to provide evidence-based health promotion programs to their congregants. We are developing an online platform with tools that we hope many churches can use in the future to provide effective and free health promotion programs to their communities.

Who is involved? The study was designed by leaders of the Congregational Health and Education Network (CHEN) and faculty from Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College, and Vanderbilt University. They recruited community members and representatives of other organizations to serve with them on the Project Leadership Team. The research team and community members are all part of the Project Leadership Team (PLT) which includes:



MEET OUR EPICCC TEAM



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Who is paying for the work? The EPICCC Project is funded by the Office of the Director of the National Health Institutes, a federal agency that is committed to promoting health equity. CHEN staff, the academic faculty, and NIH recognize that many circumstances contribute to higher rates of health problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer, among African Americans. The Project is designed to work with churches that serve African Americans.



What is the EPICCC 20 phase of the EPICCC Project? The PLT is recruiting 20 Nashville area congregations that serve African American communities to get their feedback about several important steps in the EPICCC Project. EPICCC 20 participants will give their opinions to members of the research team about the materials and processes that have been developed for EPICCC.

How will our church benefit from being part of the EPICCC 20?

The churches in EPICCC 20 congregations will:

- Learn how evidence-based programs to promote health are developed, and what are their advantages over programs that have not been evidence-based.
- Gain knowledge about specific evidence-based programs to promote health, including ones developed for faith-based organizations.
- Obtain health-based program materials for an evidence-based program chosen by church members, and some guidance for setting it up in their church.
- Have access to the web-based EPICCC Survey to be completed by a team in the church to identify the congregation's strengths and resources for offering a health promotion program, as well as some challenges the church team might face for delivering a health-based program to the congregation.

- Receive a written report of the results of the EPICCC Survey and opportunity to meet with members of the research team to discuss its accuracy and usefulness, as well as suggestions for how to use the results in planning.
- Have access to a larger website being developed for churches that serve African American congregations, designed with input from community members to provide information and guidance for selecting and offering evidence-based health promotion programs in faith-based organizations. The website will be in development at the beginning of the EPICCC Project, and once it is up and running EPICCC 20 congregations will have access to it.
- Your church will receive \$400 in appreciation for your time and feedback about your experience. .