

# ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH EQUITY FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS LEAGUE (HEAAL) COLLECTIVE<sup>1</sup>

## HEALTH EQUITY PLAN OVERVIEW

### INTRODUCTION

Health Equity for African American's League ("HEAAL" or "the Collective") seeks to provide education, actively advocate, and influence decision-making in local, state, and federal organizations surrounding the social determinants of health impacting the Black populations in Orange County. The HEAAL Collective has three primary roles in promoting health equity: serving as a trusted advisor to the Black community, facilitating the collection of quantitative and qualitative data on health-related issues affecting black residents of Orange County, identifying and addressing the factors contributing to toxic stressors and traumatic experiences that negatively impact health outcomes, and increase healthcare costs within the Black community.

### COLLECTIVE PARTICIPATION

Our Collective has a total of 24 members from a variety of organizations, as well as community residents. **The members are as follows:**

Second Baptist Church; New Hope Presbyterian Church; Johnson Chapel AME Church; Christ Our Redeemer AME Church; Friendship Baptist Church; National Action Network–Orange County Chapter; HerStory Inc.

**Our community partners are:**

Sonrise Community Christian Church; University of California, Irvine; CalOptima Health; Black Chamber of Commerce, Orange County; and Association of Black Cardiologists.

**We also are proud to include in our communication network the Orange County Chapters of:**

NAACP, 100 Black Men, National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Sororities & Fraternities: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and Black owned businesses.



## STRATEGIC HEALTH EQUITY ACTION AREAS

HEAAL explored the social determinants of health and found **Mental Health, Affordable Housing, Access to Affordable Health Care, and Nutrition** to be key areas of concern. In addition, our survey of 636 African Americans found that hypertension (40%) and obesity (28%) were the most common health issues impacting the respondents. For our full survey findings, visit [heaaloc.org](https://heaaloc.org).

### Strategies to Impact Policy and Systems

- Conduct road shows that share the report findings and recommendations with key elected officials, universities, media, insurance companies, health care organizations, community groups, and partners.
- Advocate for allocation of earmark funding to support culturally sensitive and competent mental health care professionals and community workshops.
- Create structures to foster the sustainability of the Collective.

### Strategies to Build Partnerships and Power

- Increase participation in our groups that is representative of the community.
- Build relationships with key Black leaders in the community and share the report and recommendations.
- Engage with various funders and philanthropists.

### Strategies to Strengthen Infrastructure and Data

- Increase capacity of Collaborative members to be informed advocates.
- Develop tools and resources that Collaborative members can use for information, education, and advocacy.
- Develop resource guides for culturally sensitive mental health care providers so that the community knows how to find appropriate mental health resources.

<sup>1</sup>This is an abbreviated version of the report meant to provide highlights of the work. For the complete report, including data and attachments, please email [equityinoc@unitedwayoc.org](mailto:equityinoc@unitedwayoc.org). For more information on this Collective, contact Kelita Gardner at [k.gardner@sbc.family](mailto:k.gardner@sbc.family).