



## **NC DHHS Partnering with Four Organizations to Address COVID19 Impact in African American Communities**

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities is partnering with four North Carolina community-based organizations to help address the disparate impact COVID-19 is having on the state's African American communities.

COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting historically marginalized populations – particularly African American communities. Many people in African American communities provide essential services and work in industries North Carolina relies upon, such as construction, childcare, and food processing. Often, this work is in environments where social distancing can be challenging, health insurance is not provided, and social isolation could create a significant financial burden. These are all factors that may be contributing to the high rate of COVID-19 among African American communities.

North Carolina is committed to working with people and organizations on the ground who know their communities best, who have been providing services to North Carolina's African American populations. Four Contracts of \$50,000 will be awarded to the following agencies (with one pending agency):

- RAO Community Health
- River City Community Development Corporation
- West Greenville Health Council

The organizations will support the Department's COVID-19 response, including; promoting prevention measures such as wearing face coverings, social distancing and frequent handwashing, creating trust and access to testing, supporting engagement with contact tracers, helping people stay home when ill, and coordinating with NC DHHS on public outreach messages that are culturally and linguistically appropriate for our African American population.

The contracts are funded through the end of 2020 by the NC General Assembly's Department of the Treasury. The organizations were selected based on geographic reach, established relationships within the African American communities, and recognized COVID19 relief work for African American populations. They represent the eastern, central, and major metropolitan areas of North Carolina.