

North Star

Zero racial disparities in infant mortality by 2033.

Zip Codes Served



This project served participants in the following FLOURISH priority zip codes:

62040, 63011, 63017, 63021, 63033, 63104, 63107, 63111, 63113, 63118, 63124, 63125, 63130, 63131, 63133, 63135, 63138, 63143, 63301

How much did we do?



Advocacy efforts included speaking at a senate candidate forum about indoor air quality



13

Community Health Workers completed training on Home Assessments



24

Family received home assessments and remediation supplies



586


Individuals reached through presentations about indoor air quality

Program Description

This FLOURISH grant funded Clean Air at Home for Black Moms and Babies Project at American Lung Association in Missouri. The purpose of this grant was to increase the number of Black moms and families who feel confident to advocate for healthy housing for their families and improve the indoor air quality for Black moms who are pregnant or who have young children. This project took place from March 2021 to December 2022.

Priority Areas

FLOURISH Community Leaders Cabinet identified priority areas they believe will have the most significant impact on improving conditions for Black families. Infant mortality is a complex issue that can't be solved by one organization alone. Below, you will find population level data where FLOURISH is contributing to changes for Black families alongside other organizations. American Lung Association is working to move the needle for the individuals they serve in the areas listed below.

FLOURISH Priority Area	Category of Work	Population Level Data
 Social Determinants of Health	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe Housing Problems Housing Repair & Safety Indoor Air Quality



FLOURISH uses a **results-based accountability** model of evaluation, because it helps show how collaborative efforts can make an impact on reducing disparities in infant mortality. We focus on how well programs address root causes of the issue and whether Black pregnant and parenting families are better off.

How well did we do it?

How were Black pregnant and parenting families impacted by this project?

100%

of families **increased their knowledge** of the importance of clean indoor air

67%

of individuals have knowledge of **how to advocate to landlords** for necessary repairs and smoke-free policies

Is anyone better off?

What change occurred as a result of this project?

100%

of families **made improvements to their indoor air quality**

Project Highlights

We were able to improve the air quality and particulate matter counts for many of our participants. Being able to show someone evidence that their air quality has gone from poor to good was always a huge relief for families. Many of our self-referrals came from parents who were concerned about their home making them and their children sick. They knew something was wrong with their home because they feel sick when they're there and when they leave, they feel better. Our homes are supposed to be places where we feel safe and comfortable, and many of the families we worked with didn't feel that way during our baseline assessments.

We saw particulate matter counts that were off the charts during our baseline assessments. Particulate matter consists of dust, smoke, cooking fumes and other small particles that are so tiny they can be inhaled deep into the lungs (and can even get into the bloodstream) and cause serious health problems. Particulate matter in homes can lead to lung disease, heart disease, heart attacks, decreased lung function, increased respiratory symptoms (irritation of the airways, coughing, difficulty breathing) and can aggravate existing lung diseases, such as asthma and COPD.

We heard many stories about landlords that neglected to do basic maintenance on our participants' homes, such as improper sized filters shoved into furnaces and renters needing to provide their own furnace filters because their maintenance doesn't change them out regularly or uses the cheapest and lowest quality filters possible.

By providing families with high quality, properly sized filters alone we were able to greatly improve the indoor air quality in our participants' homes. Through follow-up air quality measurements, we watched air quality in participants' homes go from poor to good and were able to provide relief to the participants that their homes would now be healthy for their infants, children, and themselves



What we did:

provided remedial supplies to families to improve air quality:

- air purifiers/air cleaners
- furnace filters
- HEPA vacuums
- natural cleaning solutions
- dehumidifiers
- pest control tools
- fire extinguishers and more

We provided education around indoor air quality and what families can do to make sure their home is as healthy and safe as possible, especially when there were children with asthma living in the home.

We connected the families to weatherization programs, provided information about FEMA disaster relief following the flooding, collected baby items from Helping Hand Me Downs, Faith for Justice, and Community of Hope, and we worked with Cardinal Glennon to provide portable cribs directly to our participants.

Partnerships

We formed a partnership with the St. Louis County Library. The libraries were invaluable in promoting this project and most of our participants saw the flyers at their local libraries and that's how they found out about the program.

We provided five live virtual programs with the library focused on different aspects of indoor air quality and reached 149 live viewers with these presentations alone.

Each virtual program was then listed on the St. Louis County Library's YouTube channel for 90 days and we had 323 views total after the live presentations.



St. Louis County **Library**

FLOURISH St. Louis, an infant mortality reduction initiative powered by Generate Health, is bringing together people and organizations across the region to fix the systems that impact the health of Black families. This organization received a FLOURISH grant which was funded by Missouri Foundation for Health.