



# HEALTHLIT4WAKE IMPACT REPORT FY2025



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# Introduction

# A Letter from Our Team



In August 2024, our team began a new grant awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) program. The primary objective of this grant is to strengthen and modernize the public health system so that communities are fully prepared to respond to current and future public health challenges.

Over the past year, we have worked to both build upon our existing efforts and launch new initiatives in response to community needs. Through thoughtful planning and engagement, we have been able to support programming, expand partnerships, and enhance service across Wake County.

Highlights from this year include launching two rounds of mini grant opportunities allowing us to work alongside community partners, transforming our former COVID-19 Mobile Unit into a more comprehensive Public Health Services Mobile Unit (Wake Wheels for Health), and implementing a range of new strategies. These projects have allowed us to address gaps in access and increase our community's capacity to face emerging health issues with knowledge, preparedness, and collaboration.

This report reflects the efforts of our staff, partners, and stakeholders. It is also a testament to the power of collaboration and community-centered planning. We are proud of what has been accomplished in the year so far and are energized for 2026!

Explore the contents of our impact report and learn more about the resources, opportunities, initiatives we have implemented, and the impact we made in our fifth year. Thank you for being an integral part of the work we do, and we look forward to continuing the work together.

# Program Overview

## WHAT IS HEALTHLIT4WAKE?

HealthLit4Wake is a program funded by the Center for Disease and Prevention. The initiative is a way the HealthLit4Wake team works to increase confidence and trust within our communities. Creating a safe space for people to acknowledge and understand their health.

By centering community voices in our planning and aligning our efforts with community driven goals, we strengthen relationships and amplify the community impact. HealthLit4Wake continues to build a strong network to foster trust, shared learning, and coordinated action to improve health outcomes. Working on not only the immediate needs but also laying the foundation for long-term change.

## PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of our work is to support individuals in becoming informed and be confident in the health decisions they make. Our overall goal is to foster a thriving community where everyone has access to the support and resources needed to reach their full health potential.

## THE MISSION

Wake County Health and Human Services joins the community to provide integrated services and connection to resources to improve lives.

## THE VISION

Everyone in Wake County is healthy, valued, respected, and has the opportunity to flourish.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

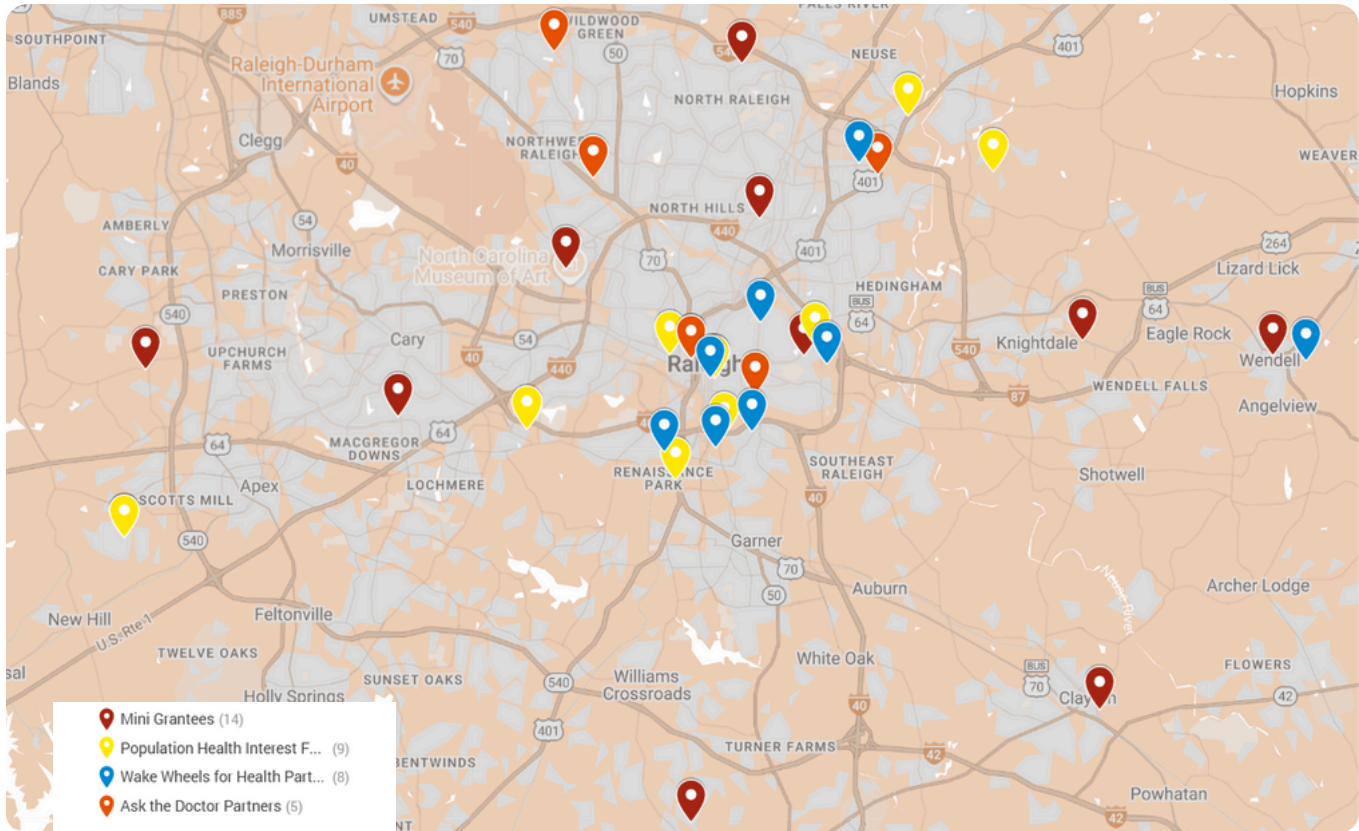
- **Population:** 1.13M
  - 3rd Fastest Growing County in the U.S. with a 9.1% growth over the last four years.
- **The Three Largest Ethnic Groups:**
  - White (Non-Hispanic)
  - Black or African American (Non-Hispanic)
  - Hispanic/Latino

## COMMUNITIES SERVED

- Our program is dedicated to serving communities across 42 census tract areas within Wake County. Through intentional outreach, tailored programs, and community-driven initiatives, we work to address the barriers that impact health and well-being.

**Please note, for this grant the fiscal year (FY) runs from December 1 to November 30. This report will reflect those dates.**

# Partnership Mapping



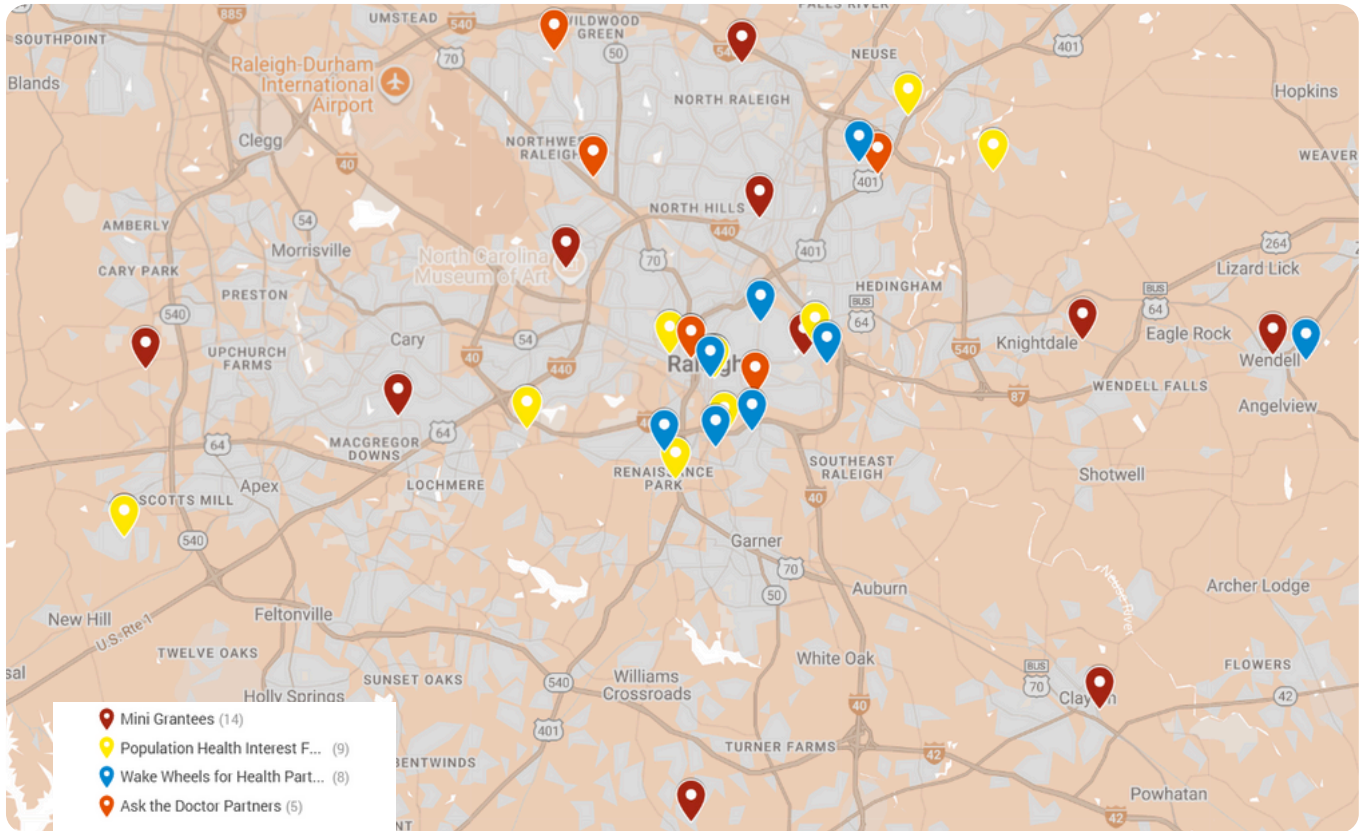
The HealthLit4Wake partnerships demonstrate how community-centered collaboration strengthens local government and the communities we serve. By engaging a broad network of partners, the HL4W team aligns county priorities with community-driven strategies that promote healthier outcomes for all residents. This collaborative approach supports informed decision-making, encourages shared accountability, and fosters innovation by bringing multiple perspectives to the table.

Over the years, we have built strong partnerships through our workgroups, mini-grant program, Ask the Doc events, and Community Health Worker initiatives. In 2025 alone, HL4W supported:

- 14 mini-grantees through our Mini-Grant Program, funding community-led health initiatives.
- 9 organizations completing Population Health Interest Forms to engage in collaborative projects.
- 6 partners participating in Ask the Doc events, connecting residents with trusted health information.
- 8 Wake Wheels for Health events, promoting wellness and resource access across the county.

These efforts not only connect organizations to county resources but also create opportunities for partners to collaborate with each other—expanding impact and strengthening the local health arena.

# Partnership Mapping



## Mini Grantees:

Alliance Medical Ministry INC., Breaking Barriers Catching Hope, Capital Area Section of NC of National Council of Negro Women, Cultivating Resources and Opportunities Community Foundation, Duckie Enterprise, East Wake Education Foundation, House of Friendship Learning Together, NeighborHealth Center, Oasis Health and Wellness Centers International, Raleigh Wake County Dental Society Community Dental Health Program (Wake Smiles), Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, The Balm in Gilead, INC, Triangle Area Parenting Support, UCA Waves.

## Population Health Interest Form Partners:

Southlight Healthcare, Connecting Community, Dillard Drive Magnet Elementary School PTA, Knotti by Nature, RightCare- Project Access of Wake County, El Centro Hispano, Raleigh Promise Walk for Preeclampsia, Wake County Community Health Worker, OHWCI Village of C.A.R.E.

## Ask the Doctor Partners:

Mexican Consulate, WellCare, Advance Healthcare, Muslim Youth and Community Center (aka North Raleigh Masjid), Saint Paul AME, Tarboro Road Community Center.

## Wake Wheels for Health Partners:

Body of Christ Church, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, CASA - Kings Ridge, Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Tupper Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh Millbank Apartments, Mexican Consulate, First Cosmopolital Baptist Church



# Program Impact

# HealthLit4Wake Projects

**(Nov '24 - Dec' 25)**

In HealthLit4Wake's fifth year our efforts have focused on expanding access to resources, strengthening community partnerships, and supporting youth leadership through a variety of projects and initiatives. Highlights include Breaking Barriers Projects, which featured the efforts of Community Health Workers, the distribution of Mini Grants, and the development of tools that were community informed. We also supported mobility and outreach through the Wake Wheels for Health Mobile Unit. Our workgroups continued to build connections and drive local collaboration. Educational opportunities such as COVID-19 Bootcamps, Ask the Doc Townhalls, and Breaking Barriers Training helped increase awareness and understanding. Youth involvement remained a core focus through the Youth Health Council, along with dedicated Mental and Physical Health Teams. These efforts were recognized through multiple honors from the National Association of County and City Health Officials and the MaryAnn Black Symposium Impact Award.

## **Breaking Barriers Projects**

- Community Health Workers
- Mini Grants
- Maternal and Child Health Best Practices Toolkit
- Wake for Wheels Mini Bus

## **Workgroups**

- Community Outreach & Engagement
- Policy, Analysis, Capacity Building, and Training (P.A.C.T)
- Youth Engagement
- HealthLit4Wake Coalition

## **Educational Opportunities**

- COVID-19 Bootcamps
- Ask the Doc Townhalls
- Understanding the Interconnectedness of Health, Wellness, and Systems Training (Public Health Orientation)

## **Youth Involvement**

- Youth Health Council (YHC)
  - Mental Health Team
  - Physical Health Team

## **Awards**

- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- MaryAnn Black Symposium Impact Award

# Year Highlights

## NACCHO Sessions and Awards

### **“Sustaining Health Equity: From Training to Transformative Change in Wake County, North Carolina”**

We developed an Health Equity Training for all Public Health Staff. Creating a space for them to provide feedback and led to the creation of new policies and strategies for the Public Health Division. Alongside we worked with Saint Augustine’s University to launch our Advancing Health Equity & Best Practices Toolkit. Our toolkit centers around five community identified emerging public health topics.



### **“Ask the Doc Townhalls: Increasing Access to Health Information through Community Partnerships in Wake County, North Carolina”**

A hallmark initiative of HealthLit4Wake has been implementing a health education event series called Ask the Doc Townhalls. These quarterly, free community forums bring together a panel of local medical experts for a moderated discussion of pertinent health topics.



### **“Developing an Equitable Grantmaking Process to Advance Health Equity through Grassroots Engagement”**

HealthLit4Wake’s mini grant model supports grassroots organizations to lead Public Health work happening within their own communities in Wake County. By removing barriers and centering equity, Wake County has invested more than \$740,000 in local, community-led initiatives that build trust, strengthen capacity, and expand health literacy among historically underserved populations.



### **“Supporting Community Health Workers Through the Formation of a Community Health Worker Consortium”**

Wake County has many organizations that employ community health workers. These community health workers are front line workers who have consistent contact with the community, helping them navigate challenges, and even acting as a listening ear to their troubles. This exposure can result in burnout and secondary trauma. A community health worker consortium was established to offer support, continuing education and opportunities to connect with more resources.

# Year Highlights

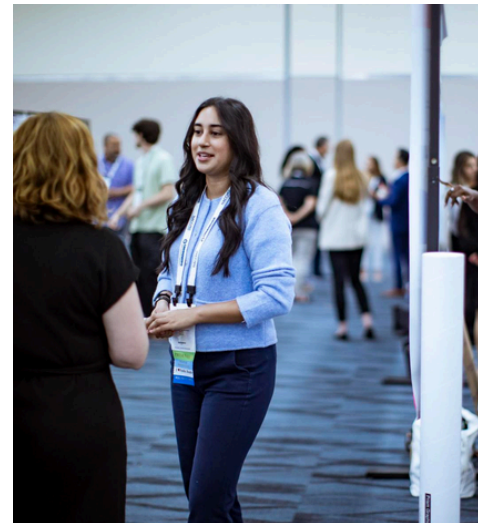
## NACCHO Sessions and Awards

- **Promising Practice Award:**

- Developing an Equitable Grantmaking Process to Advance Health Equity through Grassroots Engagement
- Wake County's Ask the Doc Townhalls - Expanding Health Literacy through Trusted Messengers

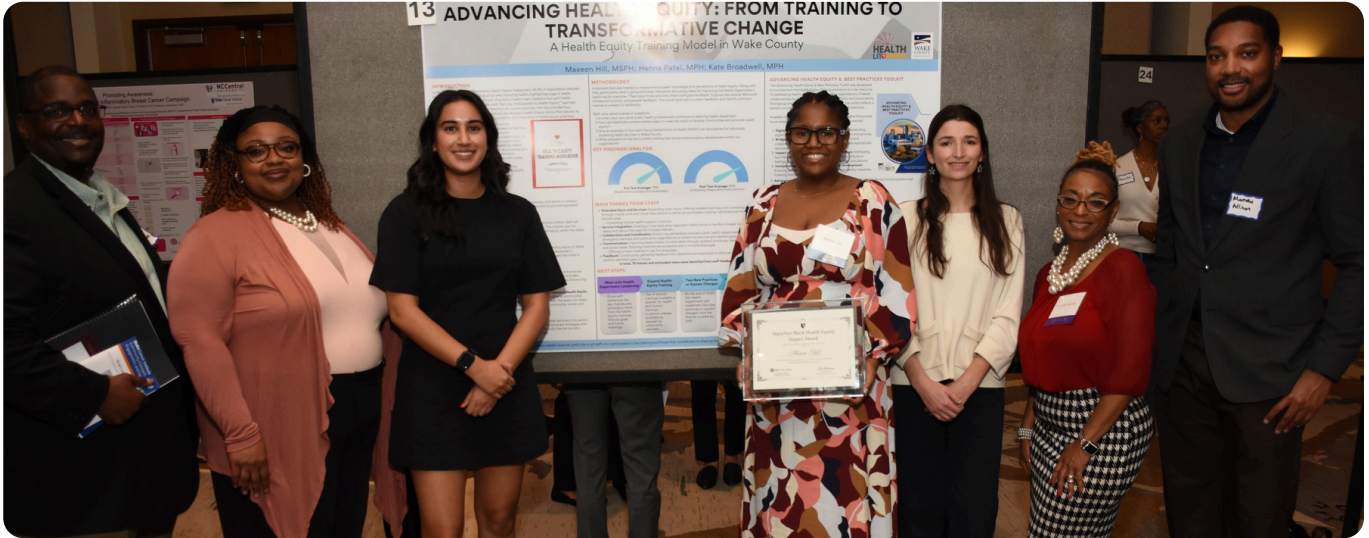
- **Model Practice Award:**

- Sustaining Health Equity: From Training to Transformative Change in Wake County, North Carolina



# Year Highlights

## MaryAnn Black Distinguished Health Equity Symposium



The MaryAnn Black Distinguished Health Equity Symposium is an annual event named after Dr. Mary Ann Black, a trailblazer in public health and community service. In February 2025, Duke hosted its third annual symposium to bring together professionals, researchers, and advocates to discuss issues surrounding public health, disparities, access to care, and strategies for improving health outcomes.

The Health Equity Training and Advancing Health Equity and Best Practices Toolkit won the Health Equity Impact Award. This award is given out to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to reducing disparities in Wake County and promoting healthy outcomes. This award recognizes impactful work in areas such as youth, community health, policy advocacy, and other programs that improve the quality of care in the community.

The poster presented at the symposium, titled “Advancing Health Equity: From Training to Transformative Change”, outlined the strategy the HealthLit4Wake Team took for advancing health equity within the Wake County Public Health Division. The focus of the training was to facilitate reflection within our department and provide practical steps to improving the outcomes of Wake County. Alongside the training we had the Toolkit that offered guidance in five community identified areas on how individuals and organizations can assess their impact and identify opportunities for improvement.





# HealthLit4Wake Mini Grants

# Spring/Summer 2025 (Cycle 3) Mini Grant Recipients

The selection process for the HealthLit4Wake mini-grants commenced with the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) on September 3, 2024. The RFP was disseminated widely through organizational and partner networks and remained open for one month, closing on October 4, 2024. A total of 45 applications were submitted, of which 36 advanced to the review phase.

The review panel was composed of 10 individuals, including Wake County staff, community members, and community partners. To ensure impartiality, all applications were redacted prior to distribution. Panelists evaluated each application using the following criteria: alignment with grant goals (40%), application of serving marginalized populations (20%), involvement of community members in the decision-making process (20%), budget proposals for activities (10%) and the impact of how work is tracked (10%).

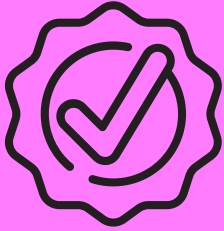
The completed scores were compiled and returned to the HealthLit4Wake team for further analysis and organization into funding tiers. Final award determinations were made within the parameters of the grant cycle budget of \$150,000. In some cases, organizations received reduced funding in order to equitably allocate resources. All selected organizations were formally notified of their award status on November 15, 2024.

## **Awarded Organizations:**

- Alliance Medical Ministry INC
- Breaking Barriers Catching Hope
- Capital Area Section of NC, National Council of Negro Women
- Cultivating Resources and Opportunities Community Foundation
- Duckie Enterprise
- East Wake Education Foundation
- House of Friendship
- Learning Together
- NeighborHealth Center
- Oasis Health and Wellness Centers International
- Raleigh Wake County Dental Society Community Dental Health Program (Wake Smiles)
- Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church
- The Balm in Gilead, INC
- Triangle Area Parenting Support
- UCA Waves

Contracts with grantees were established for the January-June 2025 grant period, during which partners submitted monthly progress reports via the APRICOT360 portal, detailing accomplishments, challenges, and technical assistance needs. This consistent reporting allowed HealthLit4Wake to monitor progress, offer timely support, and celebrate successes. Optional monthly check-ins and site visits further strengthened relationships and provided insight into each organization's impact.

# Cycle 3 Mini Grant Recap



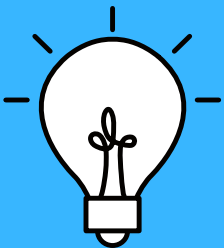
## APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The HealthLit4Wake mini-grant program received 45 applications for the 2025 cycle. Over recent years, we have seen a steady increase in submissions, reflecting growing engagement from community organizations and their commitment to advancing health literacy in Wake County.



## FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

Out of the 45 applications received, 15 organizations were awarded funding, with each receiving up to \$10,000 to support their projects.



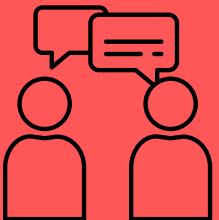
## PROJECTS

Activities included educational workshops, wellness programs, outreach to marginalized populations, preventive health services, parenting and family support initiatives, and community resource navigation.



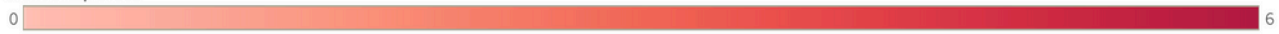
## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Through the mini-grant program, funded organizations carried out 1,169 activities, directly engaging 23,501 individuals across Wake County.

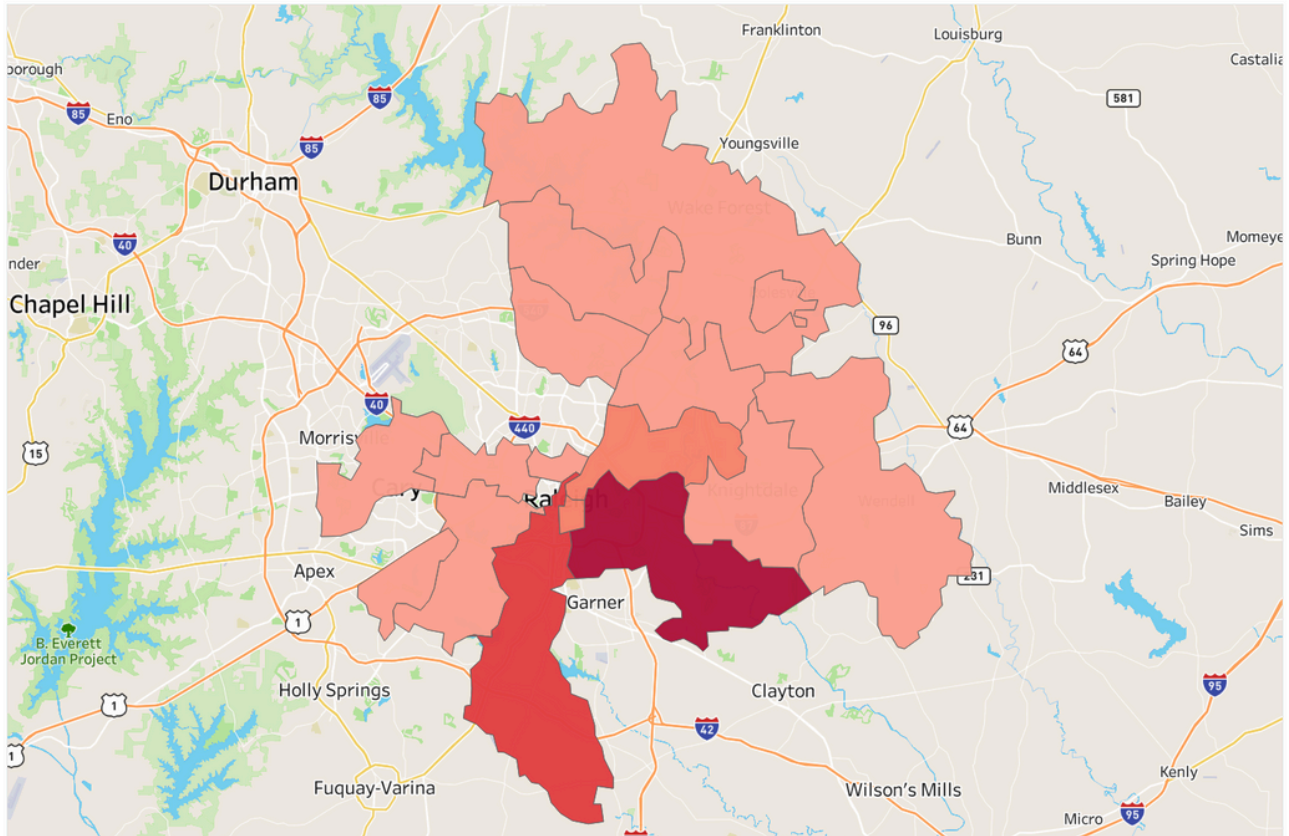


## SITE VISITS

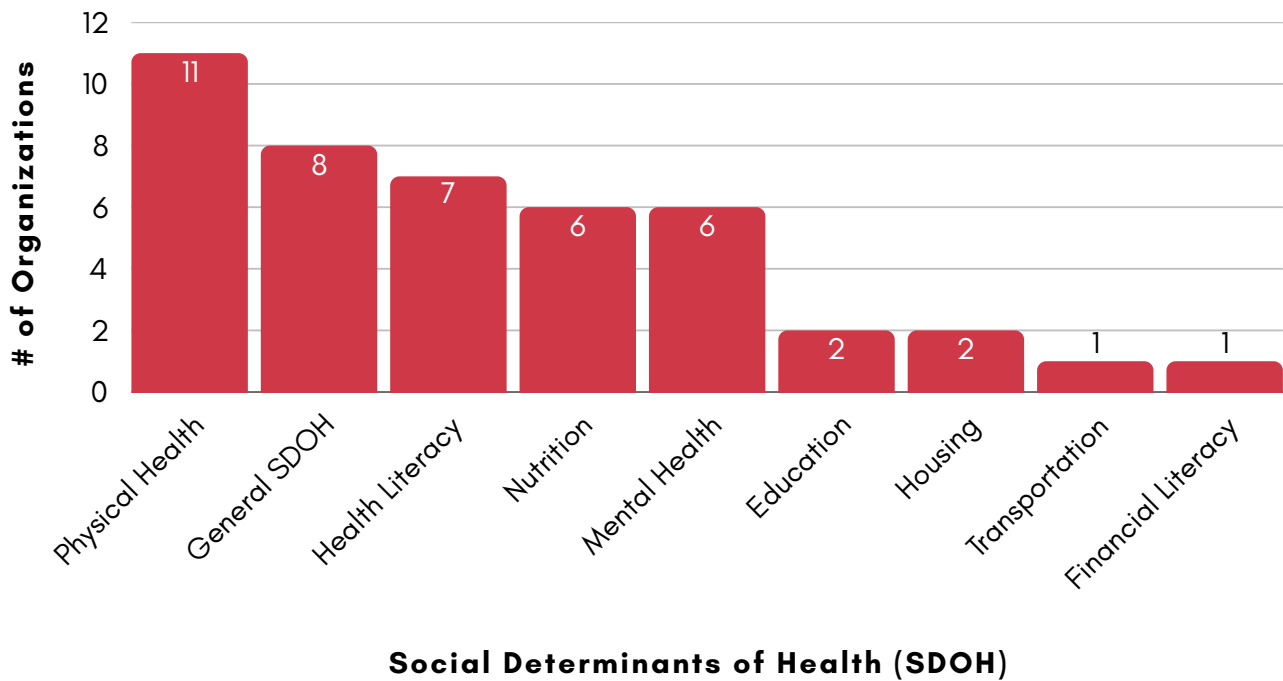
This was the first year we implemented site visits in the program as an opportunity to learn more about the organizations programming, observe activities in action, and gain a deeper understanding of the impact of their work. Site visits also allowed us to offer tailored support and strengthen partnerships with grantees.



Event Locations



**Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Addressed by Organizations**



# Cycle 3 Mini Grantee Highlights



Pictured: St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church hosted a weekend CPR training to equip community members with life-saving skills. The session certified 29 participants strengthening emergency preparedness.



Pictured: Travis Battle with The Balm in Gilead, leads a Saturday cooking demonstration at the Foundation of Raleigh Fellowship Church.

To request information about the Mini-Grant Program, please visit [wake.gov/PopulationHealth](http://wake.gov/PopulationHealth) and complete the interest form.

"Being a (HL4W) mini-grant recipient over the last two years has allowed Triangle Area Parenting Support to learn more about the needs of new parents in the community and then create and implement programs that meet those needs. The mini-grant allowed us to pilot the county's only Spanish speaking Breastfeeding Support Group... and to create plans for partnerships that will sustain the program long-term. The mini grant has also allowed TAPS to continue hosting a beloved community health event which annually meets the tangible needs of over 120 new and expecting families."

— **Monica Richardson,**  
**Executive Director, Triangle Area Parenting Support**

"The (HL4W) mini grant empowered our volunteers, made the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community more visible, and recognized the health needs of our population. At one event alone, 153 people attended, and 40 out of 44 reported increased awareness of the topic discussed."

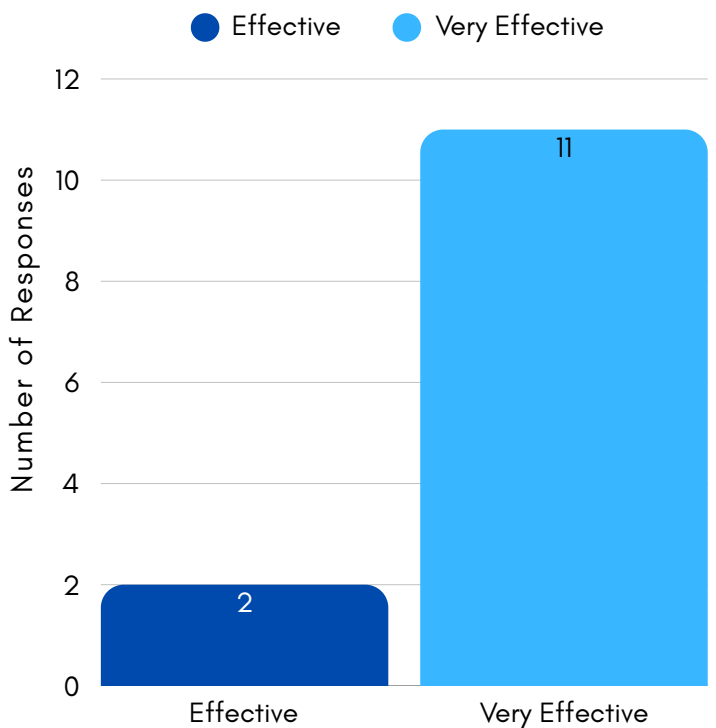
— **Lily Chen, Executive Director,**  
**UCA Waves**

# HealthLit4Wake Cycle 3 Mini Grant Final Report Evaluations

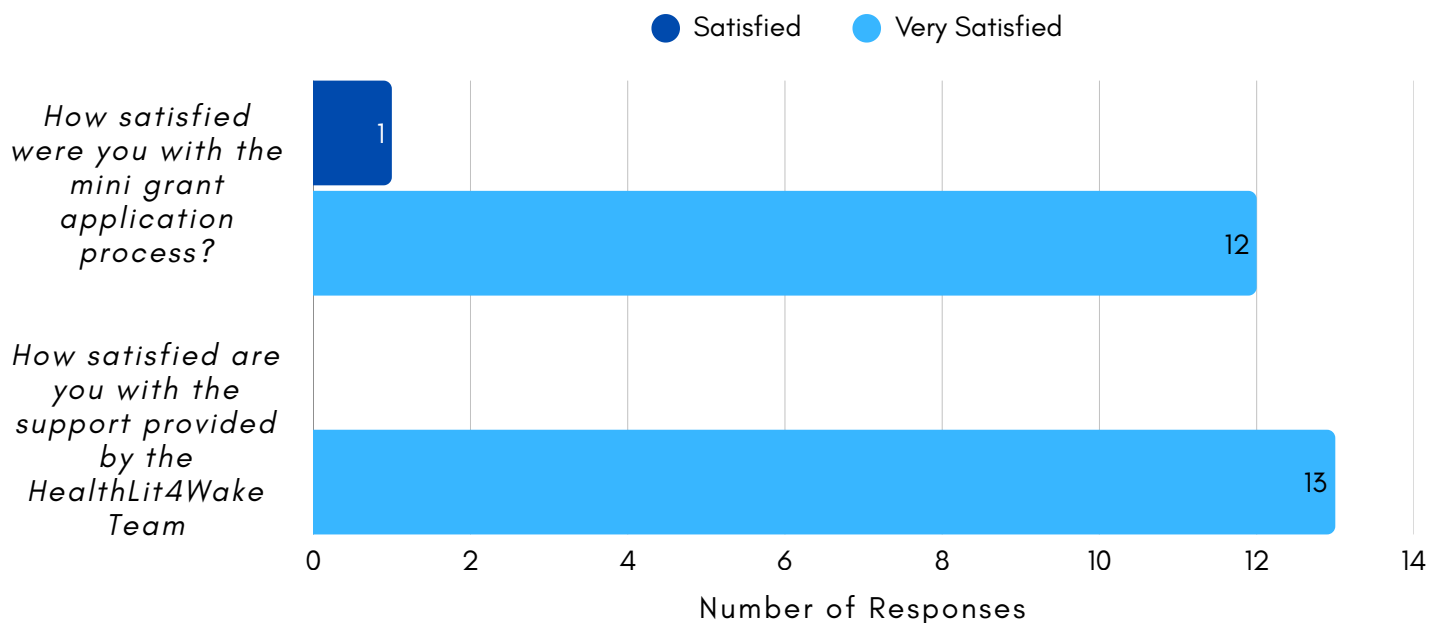
## SATISFACTION

In their final reports, organizations reported on their satisfaction and perception of efficacy with the HealthLit4Wake program. 100% of organizations were very satisfied with the support provided by the HealthLit4Wake team and 92.3% of respondents were very satisfied with the mini-grant application process and 7.7% were satisfied with the mini-grant application process. 84.6% of respondents felt their program was very effective in meeting the needs of their target population while 15.4% felt their program was effective in meeting the needs of their target population. Respondents felt their program could become more effective through ongoing effort and improving marketing efforts.

## Effectiveness of Program in Meeting Target Population Needs



## Satisfaction Levels with Mini Grant Application Process and Support

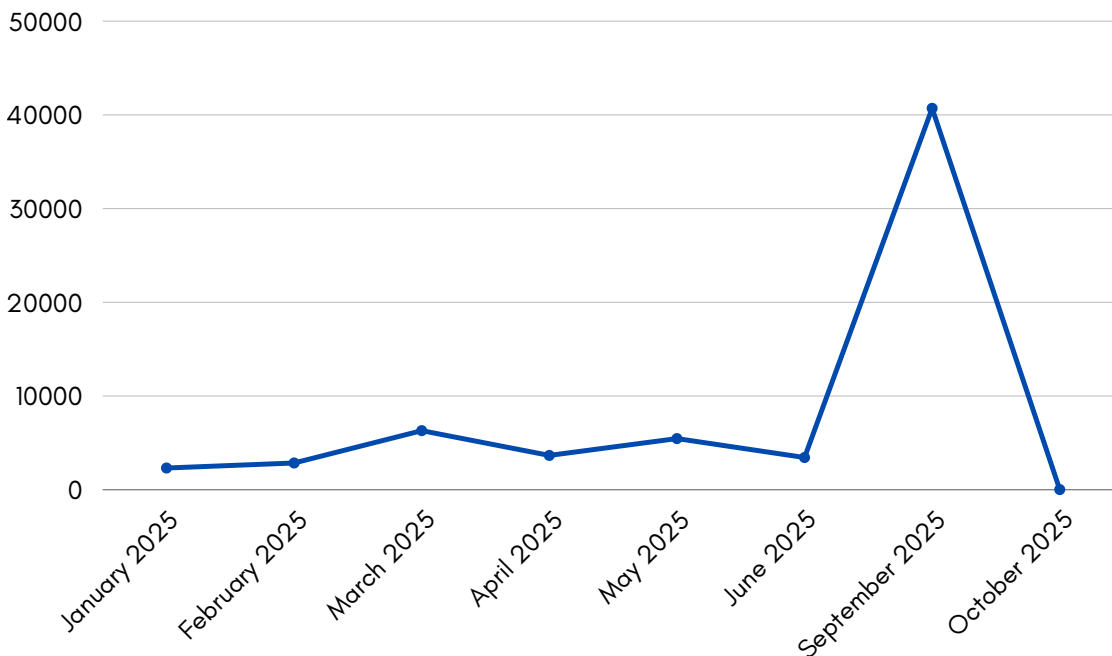


# Continued...

## DEMOGRAPHICS

In their final reports, 13 organizations reported demographics reached. Ethnicities reached included Hispanic/Latino and non-Hispanic/Latino with five reporting serving Hispanic/Latino participants. Four organizations reported reaching Hispanic/Latino participants. Learning Together and the Balm in Gilead that reported the percentage of gender reached, reported 38% and 71% of their participants were female, respectively. Six organizations reported reaching Black/African American participants, five reported reaching White/Caucasian participants, and three reported reaching Asian participants. One organization did not collect demographic data for their community outreach, but reported patients were Hispanic/Latino, Non-Hispanic/Latino, of unknown ethnicity, Female, Male, Transgender Female, Black/African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, White/Caucasian, or "Other" and Unknown races. Ages reported included children (18-months to 5 years, and 3+), adults (19-65), and older adults (85+). One organization reported monthly in September 2025 but has not shared a final report due to an extended project period. They reported that 85% of their participants were African American, 87% were female, and ages covered included those 18-64 suggesting consistently reached demographics from organizations despite time reported.

## NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED



Across 2025, the highest spike in number of individuals reached was September of 2025. Cultivating Resource and Opportunities Community Foundation reported reaching 40,700 unique social media profiles in a Suicide Prevention Month awareness messaging campaign.

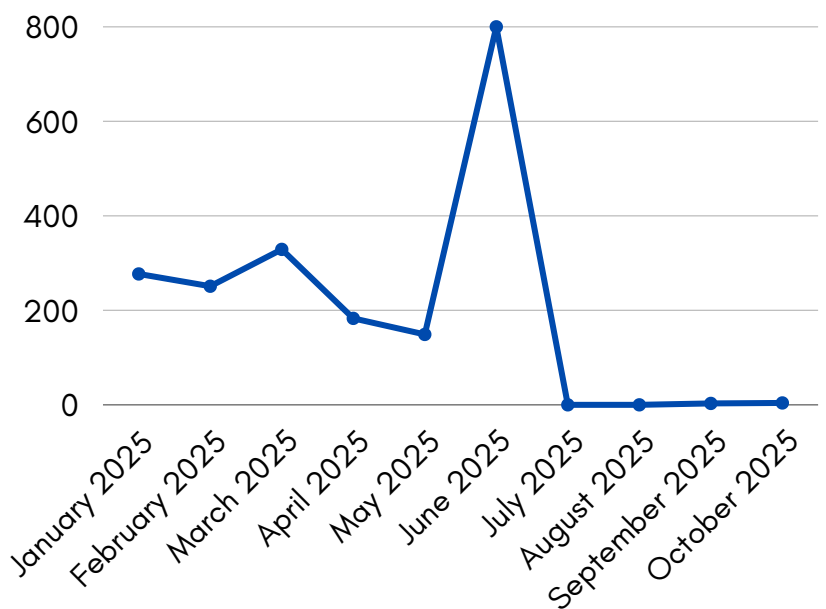
# Continued...

## PARTNERSHIPS, PRACTICES AND POLICIES

A total of 71 previously reported partners and 15 new partners were identified in final reports. One partner, Wake Smiles, was listed as both new and existing by different organizations. Several partners, including WakeMed Community Health, Wake County Public Schools, and Project Enlightenment, were reported by multiple grantees, suggesting overlap. Five partners were affiliated with Wake County government, two with UNC, and two with WakeMed. Cross-awardee collaboration was evident with partners like Alliance Medical Inc., Learning Together, and Wake Smiles. One organization, with an extended project period, reported 2 existing and 14 new partnerships but has not submitted a final report. Practices shared in final surveys included launching membership programs, expanding services for immigrant communities, increasing access to health literacy and healthy foods, offering trainings, and peer support. Only one policy change was reported: allowing outside food to be brought to events.

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Organizations reported hosting seminars, community expositions, information sessions, and events to build awareness in their final surveys. They also reported offering resources such as hygiene kits and dental and eye care for children. Topics these activities focused on included financial literacy, stress reduction, Sickle Cell Disease, child safety, and nutrition. Activities were often interactive and hands-on such as The Balm in Gilead, INC. leading Grocery Tours to share nutrition education to show participants ways they can make healthy nutrition choices and Oasis Health and Wellness Centers



International and Oasis Training and Consulting hosting 10 meal sampling events. One organization reported monthly in September 2025 but has not shared a final report due to an extended project period. Activities included engaging in a 115-day fundraising campaign, hosting a walk, and offering programming surrounding outreach and organization.

June 2025 showed a spike in events conducted per month (800 events).

# Continued...

## **SUCCESSSES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

Common successes across final surveys included increased knowledge, internal capacity, hiring, successful community programs, patient trust, collaboration with partners, and event participation. Knowledge gained covered spiritual and mental health, self-esteem, specific health conditions, social-emotional health, and CPR/AED training. Programs included culturally sensitive health education, a health fair, and a digital tool. Learning Together expanded collaborations with local health-focused organizations like Wake County Public Health, Prevent Blindness NC, and Delta Dental to offer screenings, share health information, and increase referrals. UCA Waves successfully recruited mental health and medical experts to deliver health education in Chinese. Organizations also noted lessons learned, such as the importance of child well-being, trusted spaces, collaboration, preparation, and staff wellness.

## **UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Among those who reported unexpected outcomes, the majority (7 of 11) noted reaching racial, social, or socioeconomic groups they had not initially targeted. For example, House of Friendship shared that their programs attracted not only Farsi-speaking immigrants but also participants from other immigrant communities, as well as white and Black Americans. This diversity enriched the program experience, supported by the use of translators to ensure full engagement. Learning Together observed increased participation from fathers and male caregivers—an unexpected shift from their typical audience of mothers and female guardians—attributed to targeted outreach and inclusive messaging. Additional unexpected outcomes included participant interest in health policy, preferences for how services are delivered, and the types of services desired.

## **MONTHLY CHALLENGES**

The most reported challenges in monthly surveys were lacking funding, staffing positions, garnering community buy-in, and technological barriers. The Balm of Gilead reported challenges with securing “affordable food options to support healthy recipes and cooking at home.” Neighbor Health Center mentioned internal staffing changes leading to “less capacity for outreach events like this than we planned for when we submitted our HealthLit4Wake application.” Challenges that organizations felt could be assisted by HealthLit4Wake included addressing delays in receiving funding, evaluating their processes, and marketing their activities. The Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church said they needed “support setting up an evaluation process.” The Capital Area Section of NC National Council of Negro Women reported needing “technical assistance with creating accessible and eye-catching digital flyers, leveraging social media, and building stronger communication networks within the community.” One organization, the Cultivating Resources and Opportunities Community Foundation reported “some uncertainty surrounding the reporting schedule for June through August 2025”.

# Cycle 4 Mini Grantees



Building on the success of the Spring/Summer 2025 cycle, the HealthLit4Wake team launched another Request for Proposals in the Summer of 2025 to continue supporting community-driven health literacy initiatives across Wake County. The RFP received a strong response from 50 local organizations committed to advancing access to health information and resources for residents.

Following a comprehensive review process, 10 organizations were selected to receive funding for their proposed projects. These new grantees will implement initiatives during the upcoming 2025-2026 cycle to strengthen community health literacy, address barriers to care, and engage residents through culturally responsive outreach.

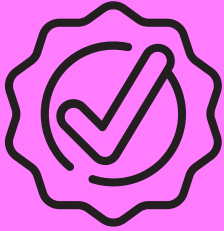
Contracts were finalized in Fall 2025, with projects beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. As with previous cohorts, partners will submit regular progress updates through the APRICOT360 portal to document outcomes and lessons learned.

Additionally, an Application Experience Survey was released from October 13-27, 2025, to gather feedback from all 50 applicants on their experience with the RFP process. Results from this survey will be included in the Evaluation section of this report.

## **Awarded Organizations:**

- Alliance Medical Ministry Inc.
- Connecting Community
- Darkness Rising Project
- Empowered Citizens
- House of Friendship
- Learning Together
- NAMI Wake County
- R E M E-D
- SouthLight Healthcare
- Urban Ministries of Wake County, Inc.

# Cycle 4 Mini Grant Recap



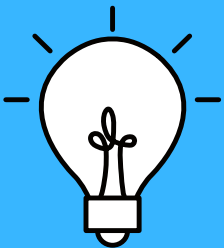
## APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The HealthLit4Wake mini-grant program received 49 applications for the 2025-2026 cycle, marking the highest number submitted to date.



## FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

Of the 49 applications received, 10 organizations were awarded funding, with each receiving up to \$50,000 to support their projects.



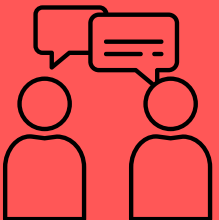
## PROJECTS

Projects this cycle focus on expanding mental health support, strengthening health literacy, increasing outreach in Wake County communities, and providing necessary education, resources, and community events across the County.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach activities will be tracked through monthly reports and evaluated using the same approach applied to Cycle 3. In addition, a one-page impact report will be developed for each funded organization to highlight key accomplishments and outcomes.



## SITE VISITS

To date, staff have conducted three site visits with House of Friendship, SouthLight Healthcare, and Urban Ministries of Wake County, Inc.

7 additional site visits are scheduled for 2026.

# Cycle 4 Mini Grant Application Experience Survey Results

## OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

This survey gathers feedback from applicants on their experience with the HealthLit4Wake Mini-Grant application process. Insights will help improve future funding opportunities by identifying strengths and challenges, enhancing outreach, simplifying materials, and ensuring the process supports organizations of all sizes in Wake County.

## WHAT IS COLLECTED ON THE FORM?

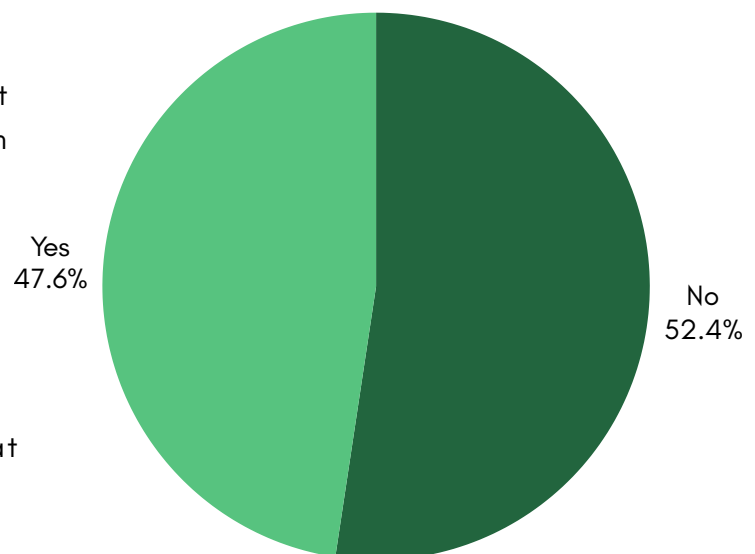
- Clarity of Application Instructions
- Ease of Access and Submission
- Time and Effort Required
- Suggestions for Improvement

## GENERAL INFORMATION

49 organizations applied for the HealthLit4Wake Mini Grant Awards from June 9, 2025, to July 7, 2025. From October 14, 2025–November 4, 2025, 21 individuals from 20 organizations, 9 grant recipients and 11 grant non-recipients, who had applied for the –grant completed a survey to assess their satisfaction with the application process leading to a response rate of 40.8%. A total of 10 organizations were funded and 90% of these organizations filled out the survey. The response rate of non-recipients was 28.2%. One organization, Alliance Medical Ministry, completed the survey twice with responses that indicated that two individuals from the organization filled out the survey, but had different experiences with the process.

40% of recipients had received the mini-grant in previous cycles. 81.0% of respondents (17/21) learned about the Request for Proposals for the mini grant through the HealthLit4Wake Listerv. 4.8% (1/21) respondents learned of the grant through a forwarded email, 4.8% (1/21) through being a previous awardee, 4.8% (1/21) through the wake.gov/PopulationHealth webpage, and 4.8% (1/21) through Wake County colleagues.

**Were you awarded a HealthLit4Wake Mini Grant?**



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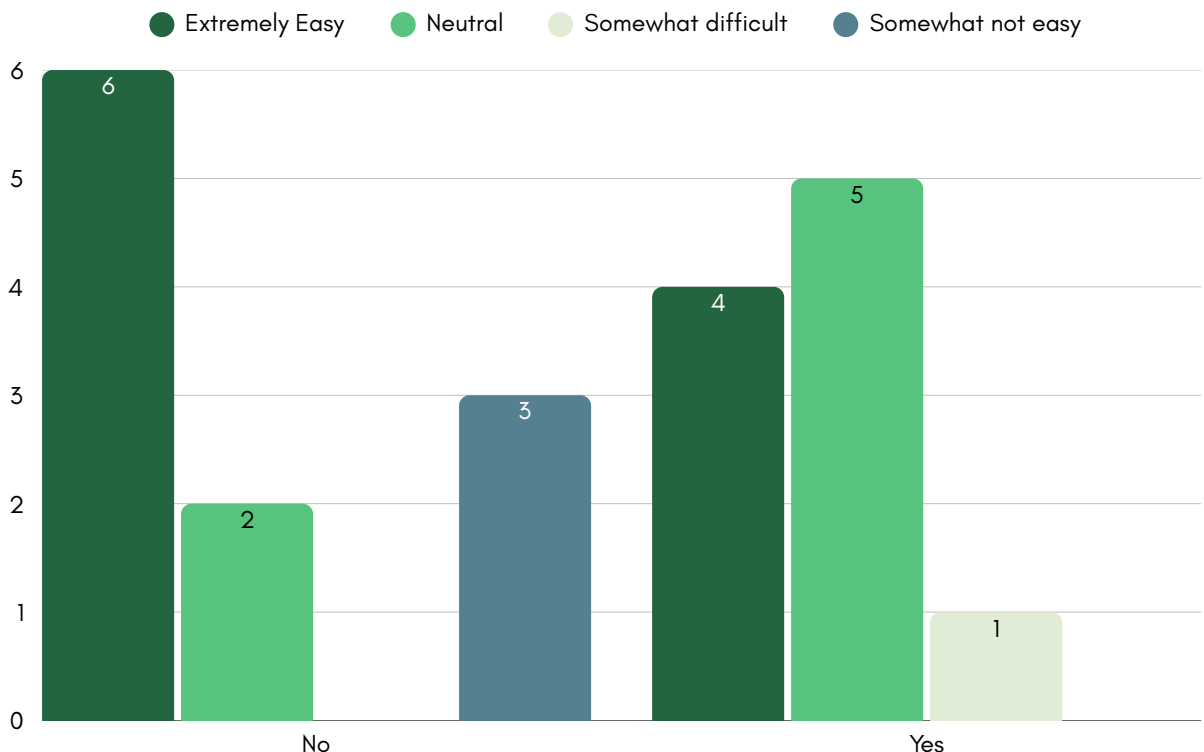
## HEALTHLIT4WAKE INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

On June 11 and July 2, 2025, the HealthLit4Wake team held Mini Grant Information webinars. During these webinars, individuals from interested organizations could ask questions which were then compiled into a frequently asked questions document consisting of 49 questions. These questions were rapidly analyzed using Taguette, an open-source qualitative analysis software (Rampin, 2021). Questions most often were related to procedures surrounding the mini-grant including questions about funding and insurance. Attendees also asked about the type of organizations they could partner with and which populations they could serve.

## APPLICATION SPECIFIC ITEMS

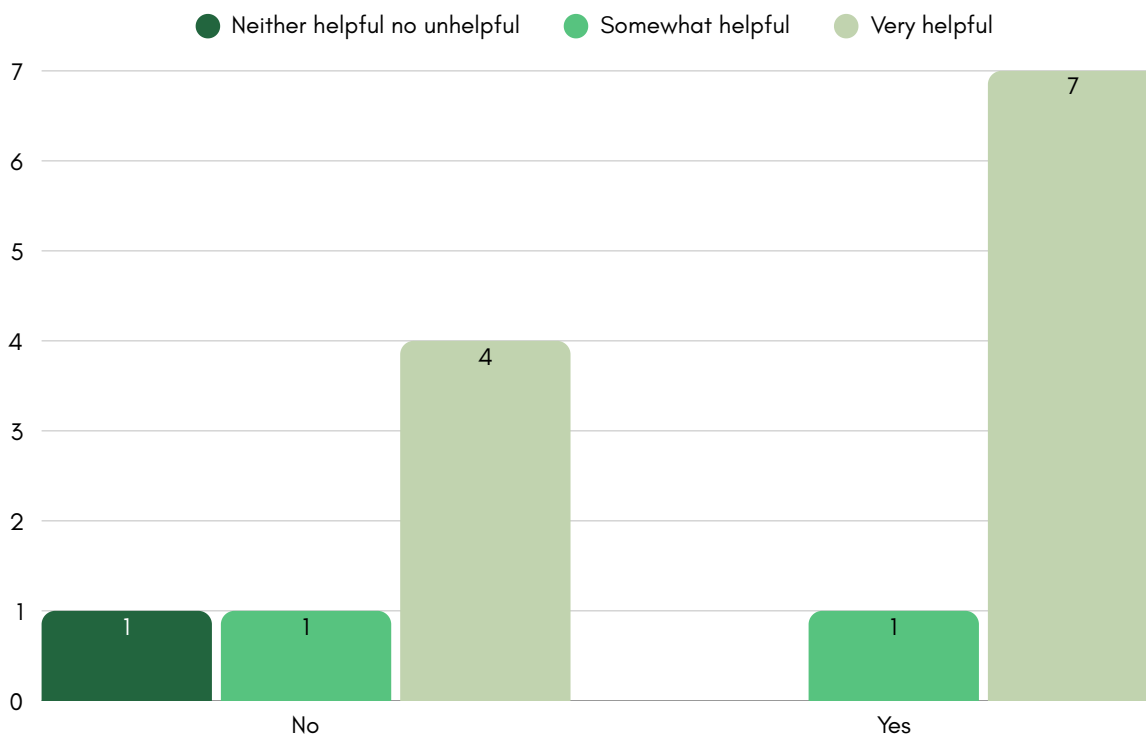
Applicants completed their applications on a platform called the Bonfire portal. When asked about the portal, 47.6% of respondents found it extremely easy to use, 33.3% felt neutral about how easy it was to use, 4.8% found it somewhat difficult, and 14.3% found it somewhat not easy. 38.1% of participants said the application took them 1-10 hours, 38.1% said it took 11-20 hours, 14.3% said it took 21-30 hours, 4.8% said it took 41-50 hours, and 4.8% said it took 50+ hours.

**How Easy Recipients and Non-Recipients Found the Bonfire Portal to Navigate**



# Continued...

## How Helpful Recipients and Non-Recipients Found the HealthLit4Wake Mini Grant Informational Session(s)



## HEALTHLIT4WAKE INFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

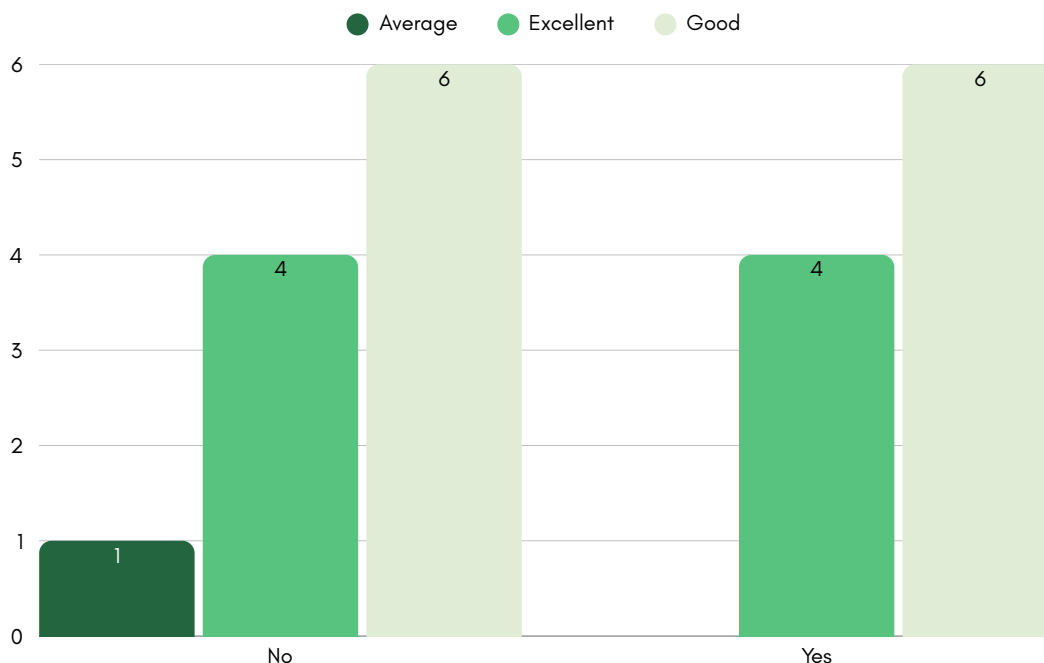
Of organizations who received the mini-grant, 100% attended a HealthLit4Wake Informational session while 81.8% of respondents who did not receive the mini-grant, attended an informational session. Barriers to attendance included one respondent lacking knowledge of the session and one respondent lacking time to complete the session. 50% of recipients and 72.7% of non-recipients listened to a HealthLit4Wake Mini-Grant Information session recording. Of the 8 respondents who did not listen to the session recording, four said they did not listen to the recording since they attended the grant informational session, two said they lacked the time to listen to the session recording, one said they did not know about the session, and one said there were no barriers to them listening to the recording. Of the 14 total individuals who listened to the recording and/or attended an informational session, 78.6% (11/14) found the session(s) very helpful, 14.2% (2/14) found the sessions(s) somewhat helpful, and 7.1% (1/14) of respondents indicated that they found the informational session neither helpful or unhelpful. 80% of recipients attended a HealthLit4Wake Office Hours session and 54.5% of non-recipients attended a session. Reasons for not attending Office Hours were a lack of time (2 responses), a lack of knowledge of the session (1 response), not having questions (1 response) and confidence that the proposal funding matched the organization's goals (1 response).

# Continued...

## OVERALL FEEDBACK

Of recipients, 60% (6/10) rated it as “good” while 40% (4/10) rated the experience as “excellent”. Of non-recipients, 54.5% rated it as “good”, 36.4% rated it as “excellent”, and 9.1% (1/11) rated the overall experience as “average”. Additional suggestion for the portal included wishing “there was a feature to select the page I wanted to jump to. For example when I was on page 20 I would have to press the back button 20 times to get back to the first page of the grant submission”. Other feedback was largely positive with one respondent saying “the portal works well and functions without any flaws”. When asked if they would consider applying for the grant again, 72.7% (8/11) said “yes” and 27.3% (3/11) of non-recipients said “maybe”. 100% of recipients said yes. Barriers respondents indicated may lead to them not applying again included worthwhileness, focusing on other priorities, and lack of time to participate in grant requirements. When asked for additional feedback, some respondents found the process “simple”, and appreciated the team “providing office hours, and additional resources”. Feedback included requests for information on why their organization did not receive the grant, reducing the number of reporting periods in the grant, streamlining the Bonfire platform, making the grant multiyear to increase stability, and sharing the total amount of money and grants available each cycle.

**How Recipients and Non-Recipients Rate Their Overall Experience with the Mini Grant Process**



### References:

Rampin et al., (2021). Taguette: open-source qualitative data analysis. *Journal of Open Source Software*, 6(68), 3522, <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.03522>



# Community Health Workers

# Partnership with Community Health Workers

HealthLit4Wake has been collaborating with Southeastern Healthcare of North Carolina to hire a team of community health workers since December 2021. Currently there are 8 community health workers who are engaged with assisting Wake County residents to get access to health and social service resources. They do this through attending community health events, partnering with community organizations and institutions to table at their location and connect with clients and assist individuals referred to them through NCCARE 360, an online platform that lists available resources in North Carolina.

In the 2025 Fiscal Year, the community health workers have attended 178 events, engaged with 10,072 people providing them health information and received 77 referrals from community partners for support helping residents access resources through the an online referral platform. The team was also deployed to assist with the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment. They were asked by the steering committee to assist with completions of the Community Health Opinion Survey (CHOS). Their work resulted in the doubling of the completions of the CHOS from Latino and African American Wake County residents compared to the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment.

The community health workers also participated in Wake County's newly established Community Health Workers Consortium. During these sessions they received information on resources available in areas such as housing, mental health, youth services, and veteran services. Their participation also contributed to developing stronger ties with other community health workers and provided them with information on how to take care of themselves while doing this work. The team also attended several lunch and learns where they learned more about how to respond to the measles outbreak, how to promote cardiovascular health and about additional healthcare resources available for uninsured Wake County residents.

The community health workers focused on practical, high-touch support: connecting residents to healthcare access points, stabilizing food and housing insecurity, improving health literacy, and guiding families through complex systems like Medicaid, SNAP, and local clinical services. Whether in clinics, churches, encampments, or pop-up outreach events, they prioritized building relationships that make care usable.

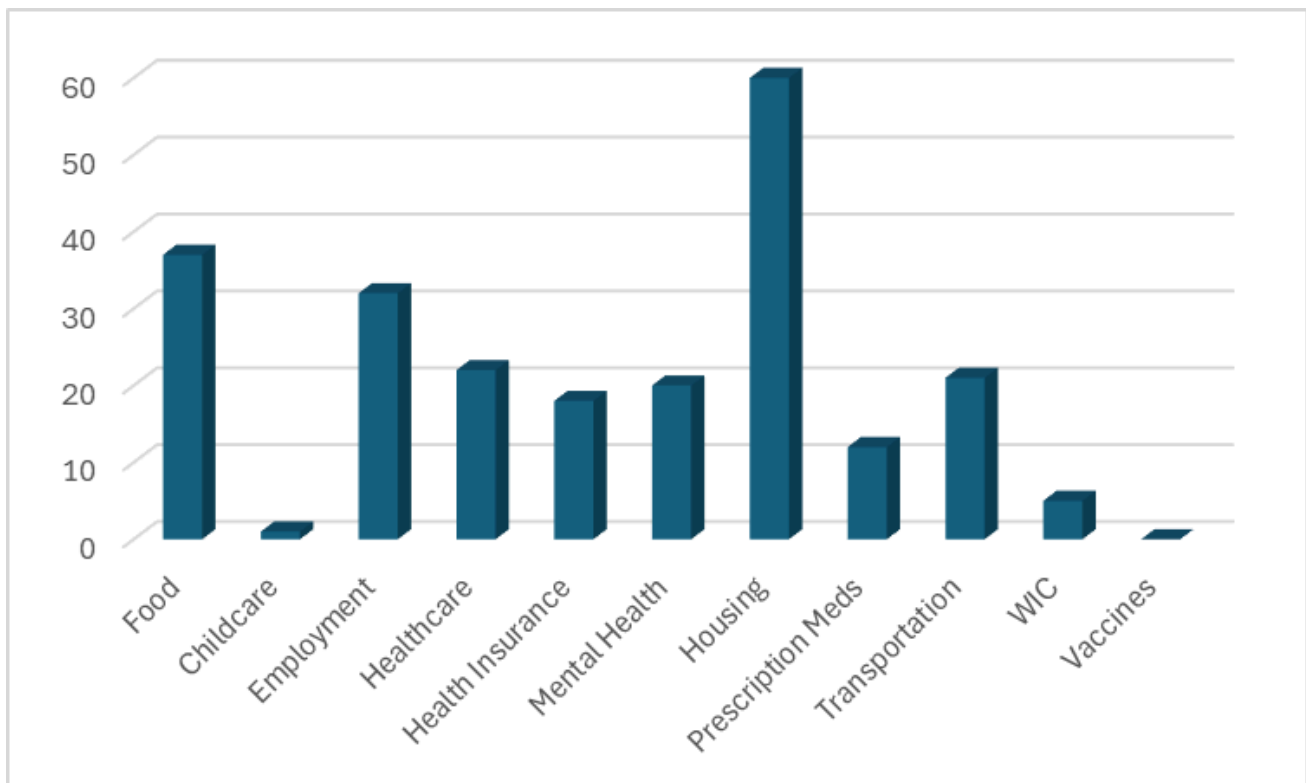
The community health workers have been concentrated in forty-two census tracts that have the highest concentration of underserved communities. They have been crucial in ensuring that African American and Latino residents are able to access and navigate the resources available in Wake County.

# NCCARE360 Data

In order to connect residents to community health workers a referral form was created where organizations could submit a form for their clients.

The form asks for name, date of birth, zip code and provides a list of needs the community health workers can provide including food access, transportation, healthcare access, health insurance, mental health services, employment services, WIC, housing assistance, delivery of prescription services, covid testing or vaccine.

Of the 77 referrals we received from community partners for residents who needed additional support, the type of resources they needed assistance with were as follows:



# In The Words of Community Health Workers



Health literacy remained a critical barrier. Many residents were unaware of the breadth of services offered by the Health Department and partner agencies. When CHWs bridged that gap—through simple explanations, warm handoffs, and follow-ups—people used services they didn't even know were available.

A defining theme this year was recognition and trust. Clients at times ask for us by name. That encapsulates the power of consistent, compassionate engagement—the kind that turns a resource table into a lifeline.



"We frequently navigated the intersection of health and basic needs—medical care, yes, but also the staples of stability: food, shelter materials, transportation, pet needs, and safe storage. For many residents, especially those unhoused, meeting these needs opened the door to healthcare follow-up and better outcomes."



# Success Stories

"During a community event, a former client recognized our booth and asked for me by name. When they saw me, they immediately asked for a hug. That simple moment reminded me how much impact genuine care and connection can have. It made me feel proud and fulfilled knowing that the support I provided left a lasting impression."

We supported Randell, his wife, and their pets with SNAP enrollment, Medicaid, access to food and clothing, toiletries, and a tarp to weatherproof their tent. In his words: "Me and my wife are so thankful for you guys... now we have hope!" That hope translated into consistent follow-ups and a plan for ongoing care.

A community member told us, "I had no idea that the Health Department did so much stuff!" While it made us smile, it also underscored how many services go unnoticed without active outreach. We connected her to the Health Department for a diabetes assessment and helped her schedule a dental checkup for her son—turning a moment of discovery into concrete care.

A mother juggling two jobs and an uninsured adult family member came to our table overwhelmed. We walked her through Medicaid eligibility, helped her complete the application on the spot, and scheduled a primary care appointment at a partner clinic. We then checked in the following week to ensure she had transportation and her documents. She attended the visit—and later told us she wouldn't have gone without that step-by-step support.

# Community Health Worker Consortium

**MISSION: TO CONVENE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS ACROSS ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN WAKE COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN A SUPPORTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE FORUM TO BRIDGE ACCESS TO RESOURCES, EDUCATION, AND HEALTH.**



Co-led by El Centro Hispano and RightCare, and supported by Live Well Wake, the Community Health Worker Consortium meets quarterly to bring together community health workers (CHWs) and their partners from across Wake County. The consortium provides a space for collaboration, learning, and connection among those who serve on the front lines of community health.


The goals of the consortium include building stronger relationships between CHWs and their employers, offering continuing education and training opportunities, and promoting mental health and well-being among community health workers. Another key focus is helping Wake County residents better understand the important role CHWs play in linking individuals and families to care, resources, and services within the healthcare system.

Over the past year, the consortium has hosted a variety of panels and discussion groups on topics such as housing, mental health, veteran services, and youth programs. It has also organized wellness trainings and a community resource fair to help CHWs connect with local organizations and one another. Through these efforts, the consortium continues to support the professional growth of community health workers throughout Wake County.





# Breaking Barriers Projects



# Drivers of Health Training: Understanding the Interconnectedness of Health, Wellness and Systems

The Understanding the Interconnectedness of Health, Wellness, and Systems is a mandatory training for all public health staff. We have added this training into our Public Health Onboarding Criteria. We are able to discuss with new employees how to promote health outcomes and internal changes, improving access to healthcare, fostering community partnerships, and advocating for important changes. This is an in person training for two hours, it creates a space where staff comes together to learn and make suggestions on how Wake County can improve. The remaining modules were online with activities that included making a commitment pledge and an action plan.

A few updates that have been made with staff feedback:

- No longer five modules. Staff comes to one two hour training.
- Training is still mandatory however, it has been added to new staff onboarding. To make sure the groundwork is there for new staff.

## MAJOR THEMES FROM THE TRAINING:

- **Specialized Services:** Expanding services like mental health support in schools, adding primary care units in clinics, and enhancing dental and nutritional services.
- **Collaboration and Coordination:** Enhancing partnerships between public health departments, emergency services, and community organizations to streamline services and address gaps.
- **Inter-staff Communication:** Ensuring staff are well-informed and aligned with the latest updates and resources available within the county.
- **Extended Hours and Services:** Expanding clinic hours, offering weekend services, and increasing access through mobile units and virtual care options to better accommodate working individuals and those in remote areas.

**To participate or request a Training, please contact HealthLit4Wake's Project Coordinator, Maxeen, at [maxeen.hill@wake.gov](mailto:maxeen.hill@wake.gov)**

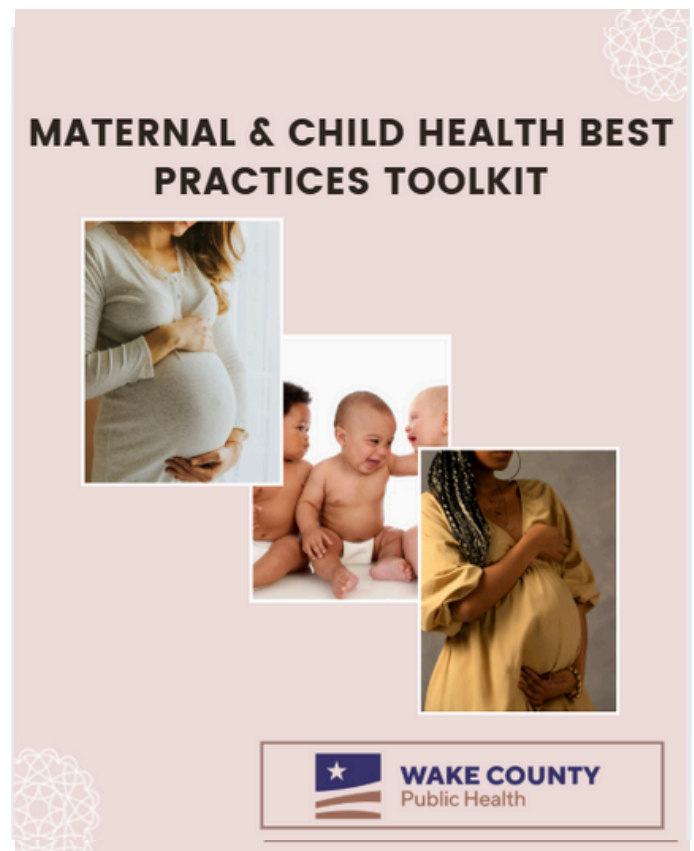
# Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Best Practices Toolkit

In 2025, the HealthLit4Wake Team aimed to collaborate more closely with teams across the Public Health Division. The Maternal and Child Health Best Practices Toolkit was developed through a partnership between a Maternal and Child health Intern and HealthLit4Wake team member. This toolkit provides healthcare providers, policymakers, and community members with the knowledge and tools for healthier mothers and babies.

Building on key findings from the 2024 Maternal and Child Health Report, the toolkit addresses barriers to prenatal and postnatal care and highlights broader systemic challenges that impact maternal and infant well-being. It offers actionable strategies to guide improvements in services, encourage cross-sector collaboration, and support families through every stage of care.

## TOOLKIT OBJECTIVES

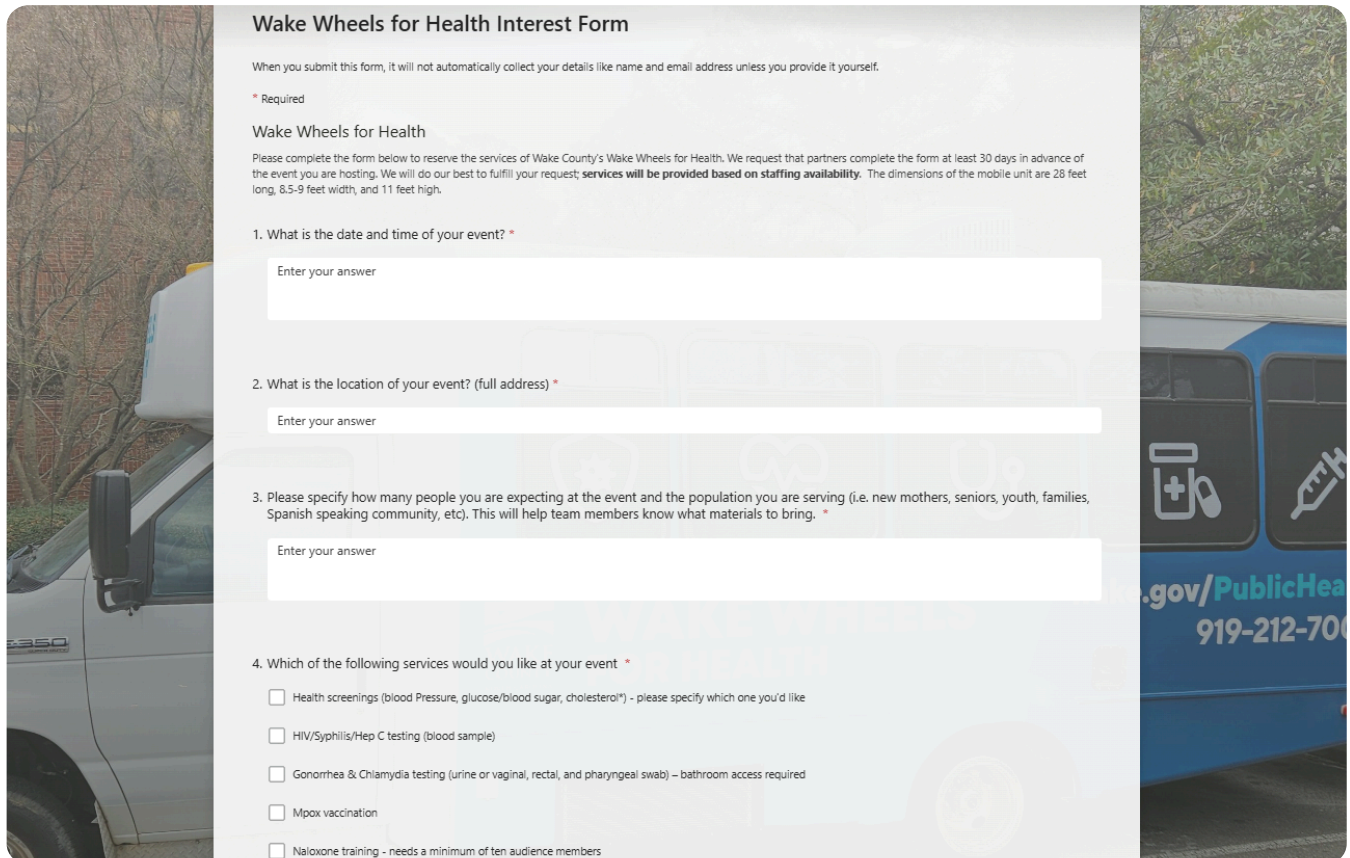
- **Equip:** Provide comprehensive information on the importance of maternal and child health equity and the impact of social determinants of health.
- **Educate:** Foster collaboration among stakeholders to address systemic racism and discrimination in healthcare.
- **Engage:** Offer practical tools and resources to implement best practices in prenatal and postnatal care.
- **Importance:** Briefly outline why maternal and child health equity is crucial for community health outcomes.
- **Inspire:** Highlight successful initiatives and personal stories to motivate action and advocacy for equitable health policies.



# Wake Wheels For Health

Wake Wheels for Health (WW4H) is a staff-coordinated resource delivering essential Public Health resources and programs to communities across the county. Health literacy education is offered by our many community health workers, nurses, and program staff. Wake Wheels for Health also encourages public participation and strengthens collaboration between individuals, organizations, and the community at large. WW4H creates opportunities for communities to connect with resources, services, community partners and stakeholders, promoting fair access to health resources for all.

Wake Wheels for Health mobile unit serves as an achieved strategy in attaining the goals and initiatives set forth in our recent Wake County Health and Human Services Strategic Plan 2025-2027. This strategy enhances Wake County Public Health to bring resources and services directly to the community. Moreover, it fosters coordinated efforts to conduct outreach and engage the community and partners in promoting Public Health services



**Wake Wheels for Health Interest Form**

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

\* Required

**Wake Wheels for Health**

Please complete the form below to reserve the services of Wake County's Wake Wheels for Health. We request that partners complete the form at least 30 days in advance of the event you are hosting. We will do our best to fulfill your request; **services will be provided based on staffing availability.** The dimensions of the mobile unit are 28 feet long, 8.5-9 feet wide, and 11 feet high.

1. What is the date and time of your event? \*

Enter your answer

2. What is the location of your event? (full address) \*

Enter your answer

3. Please specify how many people you are expecting at the event and the population you are serving (i.e. new mothers, seniors, youth, families, Spanish speaking community, etc). This will help team members know what materials to bring. \*

Enter your answer

4. Which of the following services would you like at your event \*

- Health screenings (blood Pressure, glucose/blood sugar, cholesterol\*) - please specify which one you'd like
- HIV/Syphilis/Hep C testing (blood sample)
- Gonorrhea & Chlamydia testing (urine or vaginal, rectal, and pharyngeal swab) – bathroom access required
- Mpox vaccination
- Naloxone training - needs a minimum of ten audience members

**Book the Bus at <https://forms.office.com/g/D6TwWFXuYj>**

# Wake Wheels for Health

## Events Attended:

- 3rd Annual Wendell Community Health Fair - \*Ribbon cutting ceremony for Wake Wheels for Health
- Southeast Raleigh Food Lion Community Health Fair
- Pride Month Kick-Off Event
- City of Raleigh Mobile Rodeo
- Teen Summer Kickback
- Multiple Back To School Vaccination Events
- 7th Annual Crosby Community Day
- Wake County Ask the Doc Townhall Series

## Services Provided:

- Health screenings (Blood Pressure, Glucose/blood sugar, Cholesterol)
- HIV/Syphilis/Hep C testing (blood sample)
- Bike Safety and Education
- Educational "Spin the Wheel"- can be tailored specifically to Nutrition, Tobacco Prevention, Physical Activity, or General Wellness.
- Car Seat Checks
- General Nutrition or Wellness Presentation
- Community Health Workers (assist community members to connect resources and navigate health and social services)
- Maternal and child health education





# Youth Health Council (YHC)



# Youth Health Council

The Wake County Youth Health Council (YHC) is a group of youth leaders in grades 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> committed to advancing public health in their communities. Made up of dedicated students from diverse schools and organizations, the Council leads a variety of initiatives with support from adult facilitators. In the 2024-2025 year, students took part in creating and hosting mental health workshops, developing a healthy and budget-friendly meal plan, designing informative zines, and launching public health campaigns. The YHC serves as a platform for young people to share their ideas, collaborate with the HealthLit4Wake team, and build meaningful skills.

- **Affiliated Partner Organizations**

- Wake County 4-H
- El Centro Hispano



- **Youth Health Council Officers 2024-2025 Roles:**

- President: Promise H.
- Vice President: Tejasvi S.
- Secretary: Anandhi S.
- Social Media Lead: Soundous M.

- **Key Highlights:**

- Community Events
  - The Mental Health committee led a workshop for peers on burnout at the Poe Center on August 28th.
  - The Physical Health Group participated in the Wake County Teen Summer Kickback and Firebirds Back-to-School Drive. Sharing their Meal Plan and engaging other students in a First Aid Spin the Wheel.
- Social Media Committee
  - The Social Media Lead and other council members collaborated with students on the 4-H Youth Council to develop a comprehensive proposal advocating for the use of social media. This is still an ongoing project!

- **Moving Forward:**

- In the upcoming year we will be introducing four new officer positions: treasurer, reporter, member engagement, and parliamentarian.
  - Additionally, students will have the option to take on leadership positions within each of the two sub-committees: Physical Health and Mental Health.

# Physical Health Sub-Committee

- **Background on Projects:**

- **Meal Plan:** The Physical Health Team designed a meal plan that focuses on easy-to make, budget-friendly options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We also incorporated meals from different regions around the world! in addition to the main meals, the plan includes a section that encourages youth to create their own meal plans, fostering creativity and independence in t kitchen.

- **Life Skills Workshop:** We are currently developing a life skills workshop that will launch in the upcoming year, focused on equipping youth with essential emergency response training. These sessions will be co-led by our trained team members alongside EMS professionals.

- **Team Goal:** Our goal is to help youth learn real-life skills like cooking and saving lives so we can take care of ourselves and each other. We want to make it fun, engaging, and something everyone can be part of.

- **People Reached:** In August of 2025 we were able to launch our Fuel Up: Tasty Meals Budget Smart Meal Plan. We have been able to distribute 200 meal plans so far.

- **Link to Possible Projects:**

- [Fuel Up: Tasty Meals Budget Smart](#)

- **Next Steps:**

- In the upcoming year we will continue to distribute at Food Banks, Alliance Medical Ministries, and grocery stores. The team is creating a Life Skills Workshop, we hope to have three workshops during the 2025-2026 school year. The teens are also refocusing what their second project of the year will be.



**Fuel Up:**  
TASTY MEALS  
BUDGET SMART

Created by: Wake County Youth Health Council



# Mental Health Sub-committee

## Completed Projects

- **Mental Health Workshop**
  - The Mental Health Team has been developing workshops intended to engage peers on various mental health topics. The first workshop held focused on defining burnout, identifying symptoms of burnout, and how to alleviate burnout. YHC members had attendees build “Burnout Toolkits” which included self-care items like squishies, stickers, and a journal.. The group plans to cover future topics of LGBTQ+ stress.
- **Mental Health Zine**
  - The Committee’s second project was completion of the third edition of a zine covering topics of mental health. The zine includes original artwork, essays, and poems from YHC members.



## Next Steps:

- Youth will continue expanding on mental health workshops to share tips and tools for tackling additional mental health issues. The Committee also plans to create a complimentary handbook for the workshops, and will work on the fourth edition of a mental health zine.

## Team Goal:

- In the next YHC year, Council members are excited to explore new partnerships to better reach and connect with their peers.

## People Reached:

- 20 people attended the mental health workshop on 08/28/24.
- 250 copies of the zine were distributed across Wake County public libraries.



 [Click here to view the zine!](#)



# Improving Health Literacy

# Ask the Doc Townhalls

Ask the Doc Townhalls are free, community forums that include community members to engage with medical professionals in a community setting. Townhalls feature a panel of experts for each topic, and include opportunities for attendees to ask questions directly to local providers.

- Townhalls rely on community partnerships to drive topics and host events.
- **Recent Partners:** The Mexican Consulate of Raleigh, Advance Community Health, WellCare of North Carolina, St. Paul AME Church, the Muslim Youth Community Center of Raleigh, and Tarboro Rd. Community Center.
- **Languages:** English, Spanish and Arabic.
- **Topics covered:** Dental health, chronic disease prevention, healthy eating, stress, and accessing healthcare for the uninsured.
- **Additional resources offered:** Community Health Workers offering resource referrals, dental care materials (toothbrushes, tooth paste, etc.), educational handouts, blood pressure screenings, and food for attendees.



- A highlight from this past year was the first ever dental health Ask the Doc. This Townhall brought together several dentists from Wake County to speak during Advance Community Health's Power Hour series.
- The providers who have participated in Ask the Doc span many areas of expertise depending on the topic of focus. Experts have included family physicians, nurses, pediatricians, therapists, social workers, psychiatrists, and tobacco cessation experts.

# Educational Trainings

The HealthLit4Wake team offers several ongoing educational opportunities intended for smaller audiences, which can also be tailored to address group questions and/or concerns.

- **Respiratory Illness Bootcamp:** This training provides updated guidance on protecting oneself from cold, flu, and COVID-19, and other respiratory illnesses, including vaccine updates and communication tactics for speaking with community members about vaccine hesitancy.
- **Misinformation Training:** This training is currently being developed to provide clarity on health misinformation. The training will distinguish the differences between misinformation, disinformation, and misinformation, and provide attendees with tools for determining what is credible information.

Trainings are available to external partners or other small groups upon request, and can be conducted virtually. They typically last 45 minutes - 1 hour. Please contact our team using the Population Health Interest Form to indicate interest in future trainings and a team member will reach out.





# HealthLit4Wake Coalition

# HealthLit4Wake Coalition



- **Overview:**

The HealthLit4Wake Coalition is a collaborative initiative focused on reducing vaccine hesitancy with a particular focus on increasing health knowledge. While increasing vaccination rates was a key priority in previous years, the 2025 focus shifted toward deepening the Coalition’s longstanding commitment to health education and ensuring that accurate, accessible information is available to communities within Wake County that are most impacted. By prioritizing accessibility, education, and relationship-building, the Coalition helps bridge communication gaps between public health agencies and local communities. It also supports the workgroups by identifying community needs through shared data, community feedback, and collaborative planning.

- **Accomplishments:**

- Hosted 6 guest speakers featuring presentations including substance use prevention and recovery, food insecurity (Place at the Table), diabetes education and intervention, county health department and clinic resources and more.
- Facilitated information sharing that has led to new community referrals, partnerships, and outreach opportunities among member organizations.

- **Workgroup Meetings:** The Health Equity Coalition meets virtually on the fourth Thursday of each month from 12-1:30PM.

- **Meeting Facilitators:**

- HealthLit4Wake Team

# Community Outreach & Engagement Workgroup



- **Overview of the Workgroup:**
  - In 2025, we combined the Communication & Messaging Workgroup and The Community Outreach & Engagement Workgroup to streamline efforts. This allows for more cohesive planning, ensuring that communication efforts are directly informed by community needs and outreach experiences in the 42 census tract areas we serve. Members of the workgroup share upcoming events within their networks, explore opportunities for collaboration, and invite both internal and external guest speakers to present. Our Epidemiology team routinely provide updates on data and trends, as these insights help inform the group's strategies and ensure outreach efforts are responsive to the evolving needs of the community.
- **Accomplishments:**
  - Collaboratively discussed areas of focus for future educational events such as smaller group trainings and Ask the Doc Townhalls.
  - Shared critical resources like COVID-19 test kits, vaccine locator tools, and hosted guest speakers to share outreach tools.
  - Workgroup members amplified other partners' work like health fairs, food drives, and funding resources.
- **Workgroup Meetings:** This workgroup meets monthly the first Friday virtually.
- **Current Co-Leads:**
  - May Lample (May.Lample@wake.gov)

# Policy, Analytics, Capacity Building and Training Workgroup

- **Overview of the Workgroup:**

- The P.A.C.T. workgroup meets to drive progress across four key areas:
  - i. Policy and Data Integration - Aligning policy development with data-driven analytics to ensure informed decision-making and sustainable outcomes.
  - ii. Enhance Analytical Capacity - Strengthen the ability to collect, analyze, and apply data effectively to support evidence-based policies and initiatives.
  - iii. Build Organizational Capacity - Provide comprehensive resources and strategic support to enhance the operational capabilities of stakeholders and partners.
  - iv. Offer Specialized Training - Deliver targeted training programs designed to enhance expertise in policy, data analysis, sustainable practices, and capacity building.



- **Accomplishments:**

- Our workgroup members were able to attend a Storytelling with Data by the Chief Data Officer.
- 2025-2026 Research Leadership Academy (RLA) Opportunity for members.
- Workgroup Meetings: The workgroup meets quarterly (virtually) on the third Wednesday of the month.
- Current Co-Leads:
  - Maxeen Hill: (Maxeen.hill@wake.gov)

# Youth Engagement Workgroup



- **Brief Overview of the Workgroup:** HealthLit4Wake's Youth Engagement Workgroup focuses on involving young people in public health initiatives. In this workgroup, we explore strategies to effectively engage youth in public health efforts and receive updates from leaders of the Wake County Youth Health Council. Throughout the year, we also seek feedback on improvements to the Youth Health Council's structure, goals, and initiatives. Their projects range from creating public service announcements and developing zones to launching health messaging campaigns. Through these efforts, the workgroup empowers youth to take an active role in promoting health and wellness within their communities.
- **Accomplishments:**
  - Reorganized the Youth Health Council for year 4. Added more leadership position and a YHC handbook.
  - Increased youth participation and engagement in Public Health efforts in collaboration with local organizations.
- **Workgroup Meetings:** The workgroup meets monthly (virtually) on the third Friday of each month, to discuss progress, share updates, and plan future activities.
- **Current (2025) Co-Lead:**
  - Carlos Moses (Carlos.Moses@wake.gov)



# Reporting & Evaluation

# Tracking Measures & Surveys

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES (PM)

- PM #1: Identify and document evidence-based strategies implemented to improve individuals' ability to understand and act on health information.
- PM #2: Measure the total number of people who engaged with or benefited from these health-focused interventions.
- PM #3: Summarize characteristics of the overall population reached through the interventions and assess how this aligns with the intended project goals.
- PM #4: Report current data, broken down by relevant characteristics, on improvements in access, utilization, and outcomes for preventive health services (including vaccinations, screenings, and health education).
- PM #5: Track progress toward Healthy People 2030 goals, such as:
  - Increasing the proportion of adults whose health care provider confirms their understanding of health information.
  - Reducing the proportion of adults reporting poor communication with health care providers.
  - Increasing the proportion of adults actively involved in health care decisions.

## TRACKING ON APRICOT360

- Apricot360 is a platform adopted by HealthLit4Wake to track partner progress and enhance collaboration across departments. During the grant period, Mini Grantees use Apricot360 to document activities. As part of reporting, grantees submitted monthly updates that captured key Metrics and milestones achieved with grant funding.
- **Key Metrics Tracked:**
  - Activities conducted,
  - Data and metrics,
  - Successes and lesson learned,
  - Challenges and major changes in strategy
  - Technical assistance.

## HEALTHLIT4WAKE SURVEY

- The purpose of the HealthLit4Wake Survey was to gather insights on community members' relationships with their healthcare providers, as well as demographic information such as gender, age, and race, and their level of trust in medical professionals. In 2025, we expanded the survey to include questions related to changing health behaviors, Drivers of Health, and feedback on additional health topics community members would like to learn more about.
- **Moving Forward:** We plan to continue using this survey as an evaluation tool to inform our initiatives. At this time, there are no plans to revise the survey, as the current version has provided valuable insights and responses from participants.

# Population Health Interest Form

## OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

The Population Health Interest Form was created to be another way to engage with community organizations, stakeholders, and individuals that are interested in improving the health and well being of the county. The form invited individuals to express interest in one or more of the following:

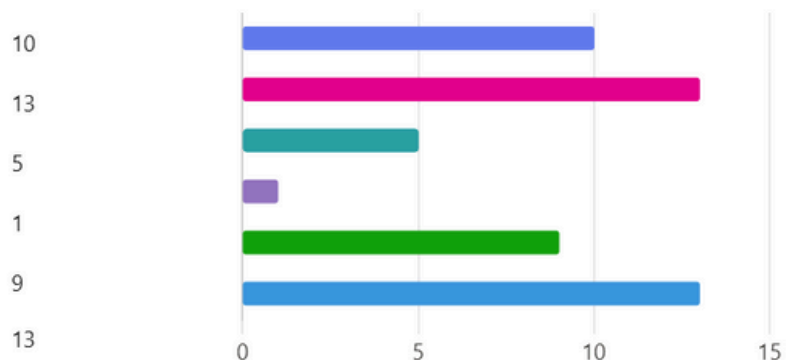
- **Hosting:** For our AsktheDoc series we are looking for community members or organizations to offer their physical space for events and help with promotion. The population Health Team takes care of all event planning and logistics.
- **Collaborating:** Anyone who is looking to work more closely with the team whether that's the breaking barriers training, requesting the Community Health Workers, or becoming a mini grantee. It provides an opportunity to build partnerships and support existing efforts in the community.
- **Inviting the Team to Your Event:** Bring the Population Health Team to your community event. We can share health education, bring resources, and support outreach efforts.
- **Join a Workgroup:** Become part of one of our ongoing workgroups to address and shape new strategies, share feedback, and meet others in the community. Supporting the health and wellness of Wake County.

In addition to these options, the form gives individuals a chance to voice specific needs, ideas, or concerns they have for the community. After someone submits the form, a member of the Population Health Team follows up to schedule a meeting. These meetings allow us to better understand how we can support the individual or organizations.

Since launching the form in November 2024, we have conducted 23 meetings with community members and organizations that have filled out the form.

## DATA FROM WHAT THE COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION IS MOST INTERESTED IN

- **Host an Ask the Doc Townhall:** These free, community forums feature a panel of local...
- **Community Health Workers:** Looking for Community Advocates? CHWs are trusted...
- **Covid-19, Flu, and Cold**
- **Bootcamp:** Bootcamps are in-person or...
- **Breaking Barriers Training:** Learn how to collaborate with diverse communities and...
- **Funding Opportunities:** If you are interested in more information on how to...
- Other



# Future Outlook

HealthLit4Wake entered an exciting new chapter this year under the CDC Workforce and Development Grant, which has allowed us to build on the momentum of the past three years. Our work continues with expanded reach and renewed focus. In 2025, we successfully implemented two rounds of our Mini-Grant Program and will continue to support the local organizations making a difference in their communities. Our Community Health Worker (CHW) Consortium continues to grow as a hub for collaboration, training, and shared learning. We're also expanding our presence through mobile units that bring services and information directly to neighborhoods across Wake County. In Spring of 2026 the release of a second mobile unit is anticipated.

A second edition of our Best Practices Toolkit is currently in development, with a focus on maternal and child health, offering refreshed strategies and tools for community engagement. Next year's edition will shift to a new focus area identified through the Wake County Community Health Needs Assessment. Our Ask the Doc Townhall series remains a trusted platform for sharing information, and we're excited to expand our language offerings—this year, we proudly brought back our Arabic-speaking sessions.

In addition, we're preparing to launch Wake County Non Profit Institute-PECOS, a new initiative tailored specifically for small nonprofit and grassroots organizations in Wake County. As we move forward, HealthLit4Wake remains committed to supporting residents across Wake County and looks forward to deepening community connections and expanding our impact.

Thank you,

HL4W Team (Maxeen Hill, May Lample, Henna Patel, Les W. Thompson, Lois Thompson, Lechelle Wardell)

# Thank You to Our Partners

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