



DUVAL COUNTY PPI Program

Promote, Protect & Improve

2024

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PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded funding to the Florida Department of Health in Duval County (DOH-Duval) (Federal Award # 1 NH75OT000062-01-00).

With this funding, a local initiative, known as the **Promote, Protect, and Improve (PPI) Project**, was designed to directly support communities in Jacksonville, Florida, by engaging and educating high-risk populations, particularly racial and ethnic minority groups with limited healthcare access. These populations traditionally experience systemic barriers and have low trust in health systems. To promote, protect, and improve health in this population of focus, DOH-Duval partnered with the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida, Inc. (HPCNEF). As the coordinating entity, we leveraged our expertise to mobilize a network of community partners skilled in outreach, education, and equitable health information distribution.

The PPI Project's goal was to reduce health disparities and improve and increase trustworthy, equity-enhancing health information messaging related to health and health conditions to disproportionately affected populations.

Program Overview

Project Amount: \$995,500

Term: July 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024

Total Number of Subcontractors: 11

Together, DOH-Duval, HPCNEF, and their partners strive to create a healthier, more resilient future for Jacksonville's communities, meeting unique local needs with tailored services and educational resources that support lasting health improvements.



THE POWER OF LOCAL

EPILEPSY ALLIANCE FLORIDA

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Epilepsy Alliance Florida (EAFLA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Floridians

affected by epilepsy through advocacy, education, and comprehensive services. Founded in 1971, EAFLA has become the leading provider of state-sponsored epilepsy support. They have served over half a million residents and promoted a vision where every

individual impacted by epilepsy can live a productive, fulfilling life. Originally the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida, the organization rebranded in 2018 to expand its impact nationwide through Epilepsy Alliance America. EAFLA offers diverse resources, including medical and psychological services, information centers, and prevention programs across the state. As a central hub for epilepsy-related support, EAFLA advocates for public policies that improve the quality of life for individuals with epilepsy, providing accessible services to all regardless of financial means.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 9 months:

- Created a **public awareness and informational campaign** with regular posts on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram
- Developed a **patient survey** to capture feedback
- Delivered **immunization-specific outreach and education** at community locations like health fairs, food pantries, and
 - LSF Head Start
 - Episcopal Children's Services
 - Healthy Start Coalition
 - MASS Clinic

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

On March 28, 2024, EAFLA participated in and sponsored their 4th Annual Get R.A.W. Health Fair, an event for teens by teens, at Jean Ribault High School. They said, "engaging with students and teachers allowed us to further our attempt to dispel myths and stigma associated with vaccinations and hear directly from the youth why they do or do not believe in vaccination as a form of preventive care, etc."

See examples of their public awareness and informational campaign materials on the next page.



GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Gateway Community Services is a nonprofit organization in Northeast Florida dedicated to treating and supporting individuals affected by addiction, alcoholism, and related mental health issues. Founded in 1978 by a group of recovering alcoholics passionate about sharing their success in 12-Step recovery with the Jacksonville community, Gateway has since helped



Public awareness and informational campaign materials in English and Spanish
Courtesy of Epilepsy Alliance Florida

over 300,000 people. The organization offers a range of services, including 24-hour medical detox, addiction treatment for adults, adolescents, and veterans, and a five-star early learning program. With a skilled team of 200 professionals and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), Gateway operates as a recognized center for addiction treatment, prevention, and research, with notable partnerships and best practices in supporting recovery.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 9 months:

- Trained **20 paraprofessionals** to develop and enhance the Hospital Bridge Program and Project Save Lives
- Developed **informational materials** for community education
- Provided paraprofessional peer services at a **total of 9 hospitals**
- Hosted **monthly community meetings** and engagement sessions where they distributed materials to partners

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

Reflecting on the impact of their activities, Gateway Community Services noted: "These initiatives contribute to a well-informed, engaged, and supported community. By offering paraprofessional training, ongoing education through meetings, and accessible printed resources, the program strengthens the entire recovery and health ecosystems, leading to better health outcomes, reduced substance use, substance-exposed newborns, and

more sustainable long-term recovery for individuals. The collaborative approach also fostered a stronger, more unified community response to the challenges of substance use, and increased linkage to care for moms to reduce substance-exposed newborns."

As a result, Gateway Community Services saw a **215% increase in patients** entering treatment during the month of December 2023.



Informational materials created for community education
Courtesy of Gateway Community Services



Photos courtesy of Inspire to Rise



INSPIRE TO RISE

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Inspire to Rise is a charitable organization founded in 2018 with a mission to holistically support children, families, and individuals by addressing mental health, trauma, and personal growth needs through

evidence-based services. Focused on building stronger families to create a resilient community, Inspire to Rise provides comprehensive support in behavioral health, community education, resource connection, arts, and mentorship. Their initiatives include a variety of services, from psychiatric care and substance abuse treatment to parenting education, youth respite, and skill-building classes. The team envisions a full-service community center where individuals can access resources that nurture their best selves. Guided by values of respect, empowerment, and collaboration, Inspire to Rise partners with other community agencies to amplify its impact, working to help families overcome obstacles and inspire positive growth.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In over 9 months:

- Assisted a total of **14,355 individuals** in need of services
- Contacted **100% of referred consumers** within 3 business days to schedule intake appointments
- Assisted new consumers to complete **246 intake packets, 255 HIV Risk Assessment Screening forms, and 253 Patient Health Questionnaires**

- Provided concrete support services to individuals, children, and families in need by distributing
 - 314 Narcan doses
 - 148 Fentanyl test strips
 - 92 Deterra pouches
 - 2,234 food bags
 - 3,400+ condoms
 - 1,306 packages of diapers
 - 228 bus passes
 - 78 baby bags
 - 145 intake bags
- Participated in **249 outreach events** that impacted **5,742 participants**

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

The following three success stories from Inspire to Rise staff demonstrate their dedication to the community they serve.

"A participant called [Inspire to Rise] in the middle of a mental health breakdown making suicide threats, and our intake team was able to redirect the conversation and guided [them] to come into our office immediately. The Community Behavioral Health Team... tag-teamed to be able to see [them] immediately. The participant received the care and treatment [they] needed to feel hopeful again. We are so proud of the team for their diligence and collaboration."

"The child is 16 years old and nonverbal. I am helping [them] understand and name emotions through pictures and signs... In the last session, [they were] able to respond to the therapist's question about how [they were] feeling that day. [They] even pointed to an image and said 'happy.'"

"At initial contact, the participant had very frequent and severe Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms, intrusive memories, and thoughts. [They were] on the verge of relapse, not feeling safe in

[their] own mind and body. Due to this, the participant was seen twice a week. As of recent sessions, the participant is functioning better; [they feel] safe enough to focus on the future now. [They have] also gained confidence in [themselves] feeling [they] will make the right decisions."



**Jacksonville
Urban League**

JACKSONVILLE URBAN LEAGUE

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

An affiliate of the National Urban League, the Jacksonville Urban League is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering underserved communities, particularly African Americans, to achieve economic independence, civil rights, and equality. Jacksonville Urban League advocates for quality education, economic opportunity, civic engagement, and health and wellness in Northeast Florida. Committed to fostering self-reliance and community engagement, Jacksonville Urban League offers programs that focus on job readiness, career advancement, and employment connections. Supported by a wide range of community partners, including foundations, corporations, and government agencies, Jacksonville Urban League serves Duval and surrounding counties with nonpartisan, inclusive advocacy and services aimed at improving the lives of a diverse population.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In over 4 months:

- Enrolled community members in the following classes, workshops, and services:
 - **117 enrolled** in financial literacy
 - **6 enrolled** in foreclosure programs education
 - **64 enrolled** in pre-purchase home buyer education programs
 - **62 enrolled** in emergency wrap-around services
 - **96 enrolled** in mental health & well-being services
 - **204 enrolled** in victim services programs to include families
 - **120 enrolled** in unemployment and career development services
 - **28 enrolled** in entrepreneurial services
 - **3 enrolled** in maternal and child health care
- Participated in **11 community events** to promote and improve Jacksonville Urban League services



MISSION HOUSE

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Mission House is a Jacksonville Beach nonprofit founded by local faith communities to support individuals experiencing homelessness through compassionate, individualized assistance. Established in 1997 by four churches and numerous donors, Mission House is the area's only day facility for the homeless, providing meals, showers, clothing, case management, and access to medical care. Focused on helping clients regain independence, the organization offers a Crisis Care Program and collaborates with community partners to support family homelessness. With a dedicated clinic staffed by volunteer medical professionals, Mission House ensures access to healthcare for uninsured and low-income individuals. Sustained by community generosity, Mission House remains committed to transforming lives through compassion and practical support.



Photo courtesy of Mission House

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 9 months:

- Served **563 unduplicated patients** in **688 visits** over **69 days**
- Maintained **1,866 active enrolled patients** in clinic program
- Educated **534 patients** on health/immunization education
- Distributed **141 rides/bus passes**

- Provided transportation assistance to **176 unduplicated patients**
- Made **9 homeless community patient visits**
- Distributed **2,084 prescriptions to 448 unduplicated patients**
- Of the 149 patients with high cholesterol, **94 maintained healthy levels**
- Of the 117 patients with diabetes, **76 successfully continued maintenance**
- Of the 215 patients that had high blood pressure, **76 maintained healthy readings**

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

The Mission House Patient Demographics chart below highlights the organization's efforts to serve disproportionately impacted populations.

Mission House Patient Demographics

	Under Age 65			Over Age 65		
	Male	Female	Hispanic	Male	Female	Hispanic
Black	21	9	6	2	6	0
White	197	296	249	59	54	58
Asian	7	17	0	0	5	0



MUSLIM AMERICAN SOCIAL SERVICES (MASS CLINIC)

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Muslim American Social Services (MASS Clinic) is a non-profit organization committed to creating health equity by providing free healthcare ser-

vices to uninsured individuals in Duval County and surrounding areas. Through volunteer-driven care management, the clinic supports underserved populations, working in partnership with local healthcare institutions and faith-based organizations. MASS Clinic aims to improve public health, lower healthcare costs, and reduce non-emergency visits to hospital emergency rooms by offering ongoing care for acute and chronic conditions. Clinic initia-



Photos courtesy of Muslim American Social Services

tives include the Food is Medicine program (with a food pantry), a Prescription Assistance Program, and a Chronic Care Management Program to help patients manage conditions like diabetes and hypertension. Eligibility requires patients to be uninsured, live at or below 200% of the federal poverty line, and reside in Duval County. The clinic provides free healthcare to anyone in need regardless of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, or background.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 14 months:

- Screened **2,011 unduplicated patients** using the Hunger Vital Signs questionnaire
- Screened **1,167 patients** to identify diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease risk or diagnosis
- **524 patients (73.01%)** had at least one follow-up visit

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

The real impact of the PPI Project is best understood through the voices of those it serves. Here is one patient testimonial that illustrates how MASS Clinic's efforts have touched lives in profound ways:

"From January sixth through the ninth, I was in the hospital. Did not know I had diabetes, and they checked my a1c, it was 13 plus. My understanding is that that's kind of high. Came out of the hospital on the ninth.

In April, I finally got around to being able to come here and get some help. Since then, the doctor has been coaching me and helping me with my insulin. Ultimately, my a1c has been kind of on the mark, you know, to bring that down. Last time my a1c was checked by blood test, it was 5.7. So, getting the prognosis of diabetes is not... a death sentence. You can overcome it. It can be reversed. I was hopeful when I got the prognosis to begin

Tina Johnson and Aaron Bean
Aide at Journey Hispanic Church
Photo courtesy of Partnership
for Child Health



MASS CLINIC: BY THE NUMBERS

IN 14 MONTHS...



2,011

unduplicated patients
screened with Hunger
Vital Signs questionnaire



1,167

patients screened for
risk or diagnosis of diabetes
and/or cardiovascular disease



524

patients had at least
one follow-up visit

with, that, you know, okay, other people will suffer for a long time with this, and I'm not going to. If you get someone that can help you, like the clinic here has helped me, keep me guided, and get me access to the things that I can do on my own... but then as long as I'm able to discipline myself to do what the Doctor says, and I have. So I'm very happy."



**PARTNERSHIP
FOR CHILD HEALTH**

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Partnership for Child Health is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in Jacksonville through an integrated system of care. By forming collaborative partnerships, the Partnership connects families to essential medical, mental, behavioral, and developmental health resources that help them thrive. Over the past 30 years, it has become a Center of Excellence, creating and implementing impactful services, training programs, and systems that have significantly improved child health outcomes in the community. Leveraging regional and national expertise, government collaboration, and philanthropic support, the Partnership is a recognized leader in advancing child health priorities in the region.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In over 9 months:

- Completed over **125 referrals** for community individuals
- Trained **5 faith-based organizations** in Health Zone 4 to increase access to behavioral health resources

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

Maria Williams, PPI Program Manager, described the partner's activities, "Partnership for Child Health (PCH) offered Trauma-Informed Congregations Training to many faith-based institutions and its leaders as well as the ministerial staff on how to recognize trauma in others."

The below letter was received by PCH.

LETTER TO PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILD HEALTH

"Dear Ms. Tina,

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for allowing me to shadow the trauma-informed training you led at the Latino church this past Saturday. I was deeply impressed by the way you introduced the information and allowed the Lord to guide you in passing on this invaluable knowledge to the community.

Your compassionate and Spirit-led approach created a safe and welcoming environment for the participants. The way you seamlessly wove biblical principles into the training resonated profoundly with the attendees, empowering them to approach the sensitive topic of trauma from a place of faith and hope.

I was truly inspired by your ability to strike the perfect balance between clinical expertise and pastoral care. Your commitment to equipping the Latino community with the tools and resources they need to heal and find restoration is admirable.

Thank you for your willingness to share your time and talents with me. The insights I gained from observing your training will undoubtedly inform my own work in supporting vulnerable populations. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from your example.

May the Lord continue to bless your ministry and the important work you do at the church."

*Partnership for Child Health booth at Woodlawn
Presbyterian Church*

Photo courtesy of Partnership for Child Health



SULZBACHER

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Sulzbacher is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the Jacksonville community with affordable access to housing, healthcare, and pathways to economic growth. Established in 1995 as the I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, it was founded by the City of Jacksonville, local businesses, and the United Way of Northeast Florida to address the city's homelessness crisis. Unlike traditional shelters, Sulzbacher operates on a continuum of care model that supports not only housing but also income assistance, health services, job placement, and early learning. Named in honor of civic leader I.M. Sulzbacher, whose advocacy and compassion for the homeless inspired the center's creation, Sulzbacher now offers comprehensive services, including street outreach and healthcare for all ages, with a mission to build a community where everyone has access to housing, healthcare, and hope.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Over 14 months:

- Provided comprehensive eye exams to a total of **829 homeless or uninsured/low-income individuals**
 - 632 adults
 - 197 children
- Provided **583 free prescription eyeglasses**
- Saw **591 homeless or uninsured/low-cost diabetic patients**

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

Sulzbacher noted, "This grant has been a blessing to our patients. It allowed our optometrist, Dr. Annemarie Sullivan, to provide quality eye exams and prescription glasses to underinsured adults and children in the Jacksonville area."

According to Maria Williams, PPI Program Manager, "Sulzbacher clinics and their medical providers continued to educate not only the homeless population, but also the uninsured by providing education and the importance of eye exams, especially those who have diabetes. Sulzbacher worked toward removing barriers to all their patients by providing no or low-cost exams and other medical referrals when needed: medical, dental, or pediatric care."

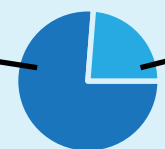
Activity statistics are provided in the infographic to the right.

SULZBACHER: BY THE NUMBERS

OVER 14 MONTHS...

829 

total homeless or uninsured/low-income individuals provided with comprehensive eye exams

632 adults  **197** children

591 

homeless or uninsured/low-income patients with diabetes seen

583 

free prescription eyeglasses provided



*Dr. Annemarie Sullivan,
Optometrist at Sulzbacher*

Photo courtesy of Sulzbacher



TAMIKA'S SCHOOL OF EPICURE

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Tamika's School of Epicure is a Jacksonville-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to teaching youth the basics of cooking, healthy food choices, and kitchen safety in a fun, supportive environment. Founded by Tamika Wolfe-McKenzie in 2020, the organization aims to empower children to enjoy cooking and develop life skills that promote healthier lifestyles. Through hands-on classes, junior chefs learn to prepare nutritious meals and explore diverse food cultures, building a creative and positive relationship with the kitchen. Tamika's School of Epicure envisions a generation of youth who approach cooking with joy, confidence, and an understanding of healthy eating.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 10 months:

- Taught **30 culinary classes** with **885 students**
- Provided fresh produce, protein, and toiletries to a **total of 6,784 individuals**, including:
 - 3,091 households
 - 596 seniors
 - 1,963 children
 - 501 individuals with disabilities
 - 227 veterans
- At the Halloween Extravaganza in October 2024, junior chefs set up food stations and served **over 325 families** and gave away **96 costumes**
- Surveyed students aged 15 and older to measure class outcomes

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

See what students of Tamika's School of Epicure and their parents had to say about the program on the following page.



Community Breakfast event on September 28, 2024

Photos courtesy of Tamika's School of Epicure



STUDENT & PARENT FEEDBACK FROM TAMIKA'S SCHOOL OF EPICURE

Students said...

"I like that we get to eat what we cook. It tastes better when I make it!"

"I had the best time at camp. I want to be a chef when I grow up now!"

"Cooking with my friends was so cool. I want to show my mom what I learned!"

"The teachers make it fun and show us how to cook healthy stuff, too."

"I made pesto chicken for the first time! I'm proud of what I can do."

Parents said...

"My child has become so much more confident in the kitchen and loves sharing what they've learned."

"I'm amazed at the new skills my son has picked up in such a short time."

"The classes have helped us bond more as a family. Now we cook together on weekends."

"It's wonderful to see my daughter excited about cooking healthy meals."

"Thank you for teaching our kids skills they can use for life. We see a real change in how they eat."

Vision Is Priceless **VISION IS PRICELESS ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION**

Vision Is Priceless (VIP) is a nonprofit organization committed to improving visual health for children and adults in Northeast Florida by providing education, screenings, treatment, and referrals for underserved and uninsured populations. Founded in 1996, the organization serves Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties. Through thousands of annual screenings, Vision Is Priceless identifies potential vision issues and connects individuals with comprehensive eye exams, prescription glasses, and specialty care through its network of optometrists and ophthalmologists. The organization also promotes vision health awareness, emphasizing prevention, early detection, and the importance of regular eye care.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 10 months:

- Held **91 "Sight in Schools" mobile vision clinics** at K-12 Duval County schools
- Completed **1,343 comprehensive eye exams** on students

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

At the heart of the PPI Program is the goal of reducing health disparities. Duval County school staff expressed these thoughts about the Vision Is Priceless (VIP) "Sight in Schools" mobile vision clinics:

"I have a student whose family is from another country. Neither the student nor his parents speak any English. They have had a hard time navigating opportunities for him. He was seen by VIP and got new glasses. He wears them every day now and I notice such a difference in him."

—Survey feedback from local elementary school

"One student squinted so badly that it looked as if his eyes were closed. He also experienced regular headaches. Since receiving his glasses, he smiles more, does not complain of headaches and participates more in class."

—Survey feedback provided by school counselor at local elementary school

"We have a family at our school whose students we were trying to help get glasses, because both children could not see well (they would always squint). The day the vision van came, those siblings were the first to be seen. When their glasses finally came in, the kids couldn't hold back the excitement to put on their new glasses. They looked at each other smiling and one sibling said, 'Everything is so clear!' From the day they got their glasses up to now, they have worn them every single day and have displayed newfound confidence."

—Survey feedback provided by school health aide at local elementary school



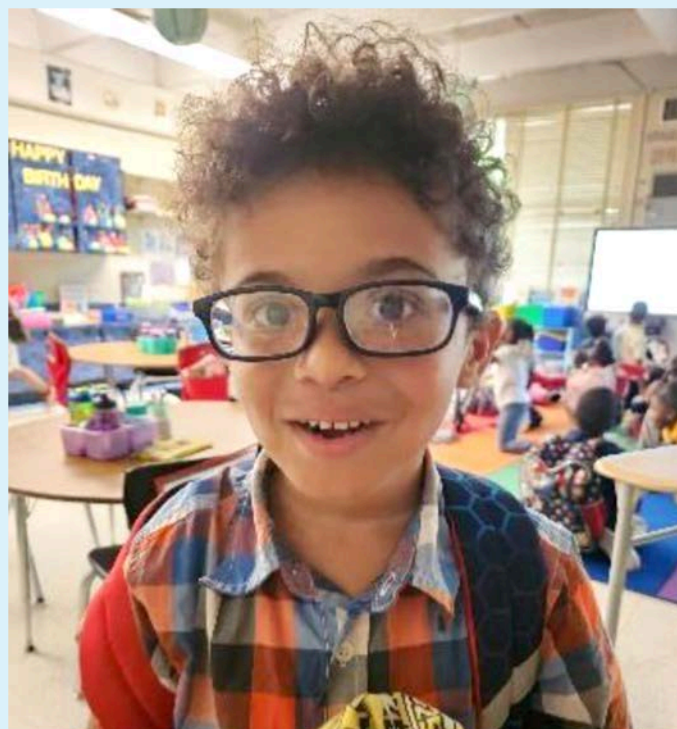
*Local school staff with Vision Is Priceless staff
Photo courtesy of Vision Is Priceless*

"[This student] has been telling me since he got here that he cannot see when I am at carpet time with everyone. I have him sit in the front so he can see the monitor and the books I read.

Yesterday, I wanted him to see his new glasses. I wish I had videoed the encounter! He put them on and turned around with big eyes, saying, 'I can see that, and that, and there are posters up there!' My eyes welled up! He turned back and I got this photo.

His smile says it all. He said he could see everything. He didn't know there were things in the room that he could now see."

—Client Story



*Student in his new glasses
Photo courtesy of Vision Is Priceless*



YOGA 4 CHANGE

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Yoga 4 Change is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting holistic well-being and resilience among underserved communities through trauma-informed yoga. By leveraging evidence-based curricula,

this organization brings tailored yoga practices and mindfulness directly to those affected by trauma, fostering transformation and connection. Yoga 4 Change's professionally trained instructors provide support to diverse groups by adapting lessons to meet physical and emotional needs, empowering participants to regain control over their health and well-being. With a presence in over 120 facilities across Florida, Yoga 4 Change equips individuals with effective coping skills, stress reduction techniques, and opportunities for self-expression—all aimed at building healthier, more joyful lives.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 11 months:

- Hosted **94 classes** with **856 participants**
- Program participants reported statistically significant changes after classes, including:
 - a **19–20% increase in mood**
 - a **24–28% decrease in stress**
 - a **16–29% decrease in pain**
- Served a total of **1,243 individuals**

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS AND OUTCOMES

These are just a few of the thoughts from Yoga 4 Change students about their class experience:

"I believe that I've tapped into a new positive coping mechanism."

"Every pose serves a purpose. Breathing through sometimes uncomfortable poses, but easing into them slowly teaches me to be present in the moment. Very refreshing thank you!"

"Helped me calm down during withdrawal."

"It allowed me to take a break from my stress and anxiety."

In response to a question to the class:

What could some extra courage do for you?

- "Courage helps me to keep taking the steps to be a better me even though its hard."
- "To help me push through tough times."
- "Courage will make me continue, Thank you for class, I feel renewed."

PROGRAM TIMELINE

The PPI Program was designed with a clear, strategic timeline to ensure efficient implementation and measurable impact across its 17-month duration, from July 1, 2023, to November 30, 2024. The Gantt chart below provides a detailed overview of the key phases and the contractual times, highlighting each partner's collaborative efforts.

Program Timeline	2023						2024										
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Planning																	
Epilepsy Alliance Florida																	
Gateway Community Services																	
Inspire to Rise																	
Jacksonville Urban League																	
Mission House																	
MASS Clinic																	
Partnership for Child Health																	
Sulzbacher																	
Tamika's School of Epicure																	
Vision is Priceless																	
Yoga 4 Change																	
Close out																	

COLLABORATING WITH HPCNEF

HPCNEF worked hand-in-hand with a diverse network of community partners, fostering a shared commitment to reducing health disparities and improving access to care. In this section, our partners reflect on their experiences working with HPCNEF, highlighting the collaborative spirit, support, and guidance that helped make this initiative impactful.

"We thoroughly enjoyed working with HPCNEF. You all provided thorough directives for our projects and were always accessible and flexible if we were experiencing a barrier. We made great connections with other grantee partners and were able to be a part of a project that focused on the health and priority of an underserved target population."

—*Epilepsy Alliance Florida*

"HPCNEF was a pleasure to work with throughout the length of the PPI Project. From building work plans to the audit process, Maria and her team were great and easy to work with."

—*Inspire to Rise*

"Thanks to our partnership and strategic use of coordinated funds from [HPCNEF], Mission House has grown to serve more patients than ever before. As a beacon of hope and a refuge for the uninsured of Duval County and more particularly the Beaches area, Mission House clinic has expanded to have over 300 enrolled primary care patients, thanks in large part to the coordinated funds from [HPCNEF]. We look forward to working together even closer in the future as we strive to provide a place of healing for our most vulnerable neighbors."

—*Mission House*

"We would like to express our deepest gratitude for HPCNEF's generous support in funding our project focused on building resilience in families. HPCNEF's commitment to fostering stronger, more resilient communities is truly inspiring, and your contribution will have a lasting impact on the lives of those we served."

"With HPCNEF's help, we were able to provide essential information and resources to families, empowering them to overcome challenges and thrive. We are incredibly thankful for your partnership in this important work."

—*Partnership for Child Health*

"It has been a pleasure working with [HPCNEF] on this grant (and others). They are responsive, supportive, and transparent in all communications... It has also been a wonderful experience working with the [Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida] during this grant term. Maria and her team were always available to answer any questions we had and to keep us on track when items were due. Sulzbacher is truly thankful!"

—*Sulzbacher*

"We are honored to partner with the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida on the PPI project, tackling the barriers that prevent K-12 students in Duval County from accessing essential vision healthcare. Maria's exceptional support has made the entire grant process and partnership smooth and effortless, allowing us to focus on making a meaningful impact!"

—*Vision Is Priceless*

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The RHihub Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) Tool, which measures the economic benefits of health project spending on staff, supplies, equipment, and other expenses, scored HPCNEF's Promote, Protect, Improve (PPI) Project at **2.16**. This means that **for every dollar the grant contributed to the community, it generated an additional \$2.16 in economic activity**. This multiplier effect functions much like ripples from a pebble in water, as initial spending circulates, driving further spending and community-wide benefits.

SPECIAL THANKS

The success of the Promote, Protect, and Improve (PPI) Project would not have been possible without funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the leadership of the Florida Department of Health in Duval County.

To our program partners and stakeholders: your dedication to outreach, education, and advocacy has been vital in promoting health equity and improving lives in Jacksonville. Together, we've taken a meaningful step toward a healthier, more resilient future.

COVER PHOTO CREDIT

Row 1: *Inspire to Rise*

Row 2: *Mission House*

Row 3: *Vision Is Priceless*


Row 4: *Mission House, Vision Is Priceless*


CONTRACT WITH US

By joining forces, organizations and businesses can work together to implement sustainable solutions that meet the community's needs. With the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida's expertise in data-driven insights and strategic planning, potential partners have a unique opportunity to contribute to initiatives that will have a lasting, measurable impact on the well-being of Duval County and beyond.

WHO WE ARE

The Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida, Inc. (HPCNEF) is the local health council that represents Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns, and Volusia counties. Established in 1982, HPCNEF is one of eleven local health councils mandated by Florida State Statute 408.033. Our purpose is to dedicate resources and expertise to regional health utilization data management, health planning and research, community organizing, health promotion, and awareness programs in a seven-county region of Northeast Florida. HPCNEF is guided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP)'s Healthy People Initiative, and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

 hpcnef.org

 info@hpcnef.org

