

National Faith-Based Mobilization Network

www.faithFaith MoNet.org

info@faithFaith MoNet.org

The **National Faith-Based Mobilization Network (Faith MoNet)**, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, is a coalition of clergy, lay leaders, congregation members, health and wellness partners, and concerned citizens committed to creating health equity through promoting wholeness (mind, body, and spirit), advocating for sustainable change, and remedying the effects of concentrated poverty.

With affiliates across the nation, Faith MoNet is committed to creating health equity - achieving the highest level of health for all people. Health equity entails focused societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities by equalizing the conditions for health for all groups, especially for those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage or historical injustices ([Healthy People 2020](#)).

To achieve health equity, we must overcome health disparities. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' [Office of Minority Health](#), "(d)ifferent public and private agencies may have different definitions of a 'health disparity' for their own program-related purposes, but these definitions tend to have several things in common. In general, health disparities are defined as significant differences between one population and another." The Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000, which authorizes several HHS programs, describes these disparities as differences in "the overall rate of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality or survival rates." There are several

factors that contribute to health disparities. Many different populations are affected by disparities including racial and ethnic minorities, residents of rural areas, women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Faith MoNet's efforts center on training, outreach, resource procurement, and research. All these efforts seek to answer the following questions:

1. What is the extent of health disparities in America (poverty, social injustice, culture)?
2. Why are houses of worship central to reversing these disparities?
3. How do we mobilize the faith community?

These questions prove even more striking when we consider the African American community. We assert that, within this community, are both the problems and the solutions. We see the pressing need to mobilize houses of worship to help achieve this goal. While models focusing on the root causes of health disparities bring voice to issues of adequate access to resources and fair treatment over time, we see houses of worship leading the charge in helping change the behavior and lifestyle of their congregations and communities they serve.

Training. Faith MoNet offers "train the trainer" health ambassador curriculum for faith and community organizations through three eight hour modules. The health ambassador model has been embraced by First Lady Michelle Obama in her Let's Move! Initiative. The initiative, designed to engage parents, families, teenagers, children, schools, and communities in an effort to

promote healthy living and ensure access to affordable and healthy food has been embraced by houses of worship across the country.

Outreach. Faith MoNet has been networking houses of worship, faith groups, and grassroots organizations across the country around the theme of eliminating health disparities and promoting health equity. All Faith MoNet affiliates follow a calendar of suggested health and wellness observances including blood pressure reduction, smoking cessation, reducing the prevalence of diabetes in the congregation, and HIV/AIDS awareness. Other activities that help to increase health equity in member churches, other houses of worship and their surrounding communities include healthy food offerings at fellowship lunches/dinners, healthy cooking classes, and collaboration with community based health and wellness partners.

Resource Procurement. Faith MoNet has been securing both financial and non-financial resources to support its nationwide efforts. Since 2013, Faith MoNet and its affiliates have secured nearly \$3 million in financial and non-financial resources from both public and private sources.

Research. Faith MoNet has a national team of researchers in the fields of public health, adult learners, mental health, and economic development. Research team members routinely participate in peer reviewed conferences and their work is included in peer reviewed journals in their respective fields.

For more information or to join, e-mail info@faithfaithmonet.org.

"Committed to Creating Health Equity"