

100 Black Men
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Clinical Trials

[We seek to reduce barriers to enrollment in cancer clinical trials.]

Clinical trials are organized studies on people that seek to answer specific scientific questions on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and quality of life of cancer. It is only through clinical trials that we can advance science and improve outcomes for patients. However, a number of barriers exist that prevent or hinder participation in clinical trials, especially among ethnic minorities, the medically under-served, and the elderly. The four main problems that exist are reaching the targeted population, distrust of medical providers, access to affordable healthcare, and access to transportation to attend clinical trial sessions.

This proposal will seek to reduce the barriers to enrollment in cancer clinical trials by addressing myths and building trust within communities. We will work with community leaders, research institutions, voluntary health care organizations and faith based groups to develop and implement a major outreach and educational initiative that will increase the amount of eligible patients to be enrolled in clinical trials.

The program will consist of the following steps over a 24 month period:

- 1) Organize a statewide advisory board that will work together to develop strategies to improve enrollment of ethnic minorities, medically under-served, and elderly populations. This will include leading community-based and religious organizations, health agencies, and research institutions from across the state.
- 2) Recruit a national group of experts who will assist statewide planning and program implementation.
- 3) Organize and train community leaders to provide education and outreach on clinical trials to their citizens.
- 4) Improve the cultural competency of researchers and scientists throughout New Jersey.
- 5) Provide opportunities for dialogue and inclusion among scientists and community advocates to improve the clinical research process.