



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
CLINICAL SCHOLARS

Emergency Preparedness for African Immigrants in West Philadelphia

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About the Authors

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars program is a post-residency health policy research fellowship designed to integrate Scholars' clinical expertise with training in program development and research methods to help them find solutions for the challenges facing the U.S. healthcare system. The program includes training in leadership and community-based participatory research, with the goal of developing future leaders to conduct innovative research and work with communities, private and public organizations, practitioners and policy makers to improve health and healthcare in community settings. After their training Scholars will be able to effectively translate and implement research into policy and practice that meets the needs of the community.

The University of Pennsylvania is one of four participating universities. Each site selects seven scholars from a competitive pool of applicants drawn from all medical and surgical specialties. The 2009-2011 cohort of University of Pennsylvania Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars conducted this project and authored this report through a partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. The Clinical Scholars are listed below:

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Executive Summary

In 2006, Hurricane Katrina directed the nation's attention toward the disproportionate degree of suffering, injury, destruction and death faced by the poor and by racial and ethnic minorities in the wake of a natural disaster.¹ This storm and more recent natural disasters have heightened our awareness of the unique vulnerabilities of immigrants in community emergencies. The novel H1N1 influenza virus now poses a global threat and government agencies are preparing for the possibility of widespread H1N1 influenza infection in their communities. Efforts to prepare for H1N1 prevention and vaccination in Philadelphia offer a critical opportunity to ensure an equitable response to this and other public health emergencies in our city.

With this goal in mind, the Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Program of the Philadelphia Department of Health Division of Infectious Disease partnered with the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program to develop an outreach strategy for emergency preparedness in the growing population of African immigrants in West Philadelphia. To that end, we set out to: (1) identify key stakeholders in the African immigrant community; (2) develop relationships with community groups and community leaders; (3) identify effective means of information dissemination; and (4) assess the community's attitudes towards H1N1 influenza and potential barriers to vaccination. We conducted semi-structured interviews with a network of community stakeholders comprised of opinion leaders, service organizations, faith-based organizations, health care providers and ethnic media.

Community Perspectives

We identified the following recurring themes from our interviews with community stakeholders:

The African immigrant population is extremely diverse.

African immigrants identify most strongly along national or ethnic lines, and are often affiliated with a national or ethnic organization.

Religious communities often bridge ethnic differences.

While many organizations are organized around a particular ethnicity, religious organizations often serve as a bridge between ethnic groups. Consequently, religion plays a powerful unifying role which may be important for community organizing and outreach.

Avoid targeting.

Healthcare initiatives should avoid singling out the African immigrant population to the exclusion of other population subgroups, as this can engender suspicion of being associated with a particular problem.

Diverse opinions exist about H1N1 vaccination.

Vaccination is widely accepted and considered an important aspect of health maintenance for many African immigrants, while others have religious objections or fatalistic views that serve as obstacles to vaccination efforts.

Basic health and economic needs are most pressing.

The vast majority of community leaders noted that many African immigrants are preoccupied with fulfilling basic needs, and the potential threat of the influenza is not a priority in comparison to immediate, more urgent economic concerns.

Information travels best by word of mouth.

In the African immigrant community oral communication continues to be the primary manner in which information travels.

Rich networks of community organizations and leaders already exist.

Within each community, distinct networks propagate information. Community leaders command immense trust and respect and often serve as the starting point from which information flows.

Core Recommendations

Based on the findings from community interviews as well as a literature review of best practices, we arrived at the following five core recommendations:

1. Craft culturally competent messages with attention to linguistic diversity, sensitivity to religious traditions, and appreciation for government distrust.
2. Disseminate information through existing networks and community leaders, focusing on word-of-mouth messaging and radio broadcasts to supplement television, flyer and web-based education campaigns.
3. Consider non-traditional outreach and vaccine distribution strategies that include French interpreter services, education at hairbraiding shops, taxi stands, churches and mosques, and unique identifier systems for tracking vaccine administration.
4. Create a community advisory group charged with developing a shared understanding of immigrant needs and resources, assisting in outreach and communication strategy development, and providing on-the-ground support in an emergency.
5. Invest in community relationships and capacity building efforts to foster reciprocity and trust.

Introduction and Objectives

The media coverage of Hurricane Katrina left images of devastation and desolation imprinted into the collective conscience of Americans. Dennis Andrulis and colleagues describe the tragedy as “a graphic portrait of what happens when communities’ unique needs are not part of preparedness planning and execution.”² The event directed the nation’s attention toward the disproportionate degree of suffering, injury, and death faced by the poor and by racial and ethnic minorities during emergencies. Since Hurricane Katrina, a large body of research and community-based efforts have focused on effectively identifying vulnerable populations, understanding their unique barriers to adherence to emergency plans and directives, and crafting innovative policies to move toward more culturally competent and responsive program planning.

Immigrant communities have been identified as a population that is especially vulnerable in disasters due to cultural isolation, limited English proficiency, and failure to seek assistance from relief agencies because of fears of deportation. In Hurricane Katrina, for example, thousands of Vietnamese American families were stranded mainly because of communication barriers.¹ During the Southern California wildfires, hundreds of migrant farm workers were left behind because of communication barriers. Many with limited English proficiency were unable to find information in Spanish and were afraid to contact government officials because they feared deportation.¹ Most recently, during Hurricane Gustav, many Latino workers felt that the threat posed by the storm paled in comparison to the fear of being identified and deported if they evacuated. This resulted in hundreds, if not thousands, of undocumented immigrants either remaining behind or piling into trucks and cars full of evacuees.

Currently, the novel H1N1 influenza virus poses the threat of widespread outbreaks, and some communities have already seen racial and ethnic disparities in illness severity. In Boston, for example, black and Hispanic patients have been disproportionately affected by H1N1 influenza. Blacks account for only 24 percent of Boston’s population, but 37 percent of novel H1N1 cases; Latinos account for 14 percent of the population, but 34 percent of new H1N1 cases.³ Here in Philadelphia, with the images of Katrina, Southern California, and Gustav still fresh in the nation’s consciousness, government officials and community agencies now have a critical opportunity to work together to ensure an equitable response in our city.

As just one of many efforts underway to accomplish this goal, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health’s (PDPH) Emergency Preparedness Program partnered with the University of Pennsylvania’s Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program (RWJCSP) to develop a community outreach strategy for emergency preparedness in the growing population of African immigrants in West Philadelphia. While the Emergency Preparedness Program has made significant strides in recent years in developing relationships with local Latino and Asian immigrant communities, they recognize an opportunity to develop similar close relationships with African immigrant communities. To that end, the goals of this project were to:

- Identify key stakeholders who can serve as representatives for immigrant populations
- Develop relationships with and learn about the perspectives of community groups that serve immigrant populations

- Understand and address individual and systems-level barriers to health care access in immigrant populations with a particular emphasis on public health services during emergencies
- Assist PDPH in developing an approach for planning and outreach that could successfully engage African immigrant populations
- Develop a systematic approach to emergency preparedness in African immigrant communities in West Philadelphia, using the H1N1 influenza epidemic as a primary example

Methods

Qualitative methods were primarily utilized for data collection. The PDPH provided the RWJCSP with an initial list of community agencies that might serve as potential stakeholders and informants. These agencies were initially contacted and the leadership was recruited to participate in semi-structured interviews. Recruitment then continued using a snowball technique, whereby additional informants were obtained through referrals during each interview. In this manner, we were able to expand and map the social network of the community. This network was felt to be exhausted or saturated when referrals began to overlap. Groups that remained underrepresented in the initial sample, such as Muslim religious leaders, were then approached through a second wave of recruitment. A total of 54 community leaders and stakeholders were interviewed.

Interview Questions

Who are the key people to contact within your organization, and what is their accurate contact information?

Can you provide some general information about the population you or your organization serves or represents?

How do you contact community members to disseminate information (i.e., what kind of media do you utilize)?

Have you ever worked with the PDPH or sponsored a health-related event? If so, who organized it and how was it done?

Has there even been a disaster or emergency that threatened your community? If so, what happened?

What would happen if a disaster, like an epidemic or a flood, occurred (e.g., who would you contact, what organizations would community members look to for assistance)?

What events does your community sponsor or attend?

What recommendations do you have for H1N1 influenza planning for African immigrants in West Philadelphia?

Where do your community members receive their health care?

Do you have recommendations about other key contacts in the African population in West Philadelphia?

The 10-item interview script was developed collaboratively among the members of the RWJCSP based upon the goals and objectives outlined by the PDPH. A standard interview template, secure online interview log, contact directory and calendar of events were developed in Google™ Docs. The interview

template and log served to standardize documentation across group members and aid in collaboration. A calendar of events and contact list (see Appendices 2, 3) were developed to provide the PDPH with tools to maintain lasting relationships with community leaders and organizations after the project's completion. To establish trust and rapport with community members, Scholars also participated in community meetings, outreach events and an annual health fair. In response to specific needs voiced by community members and leaders, three additional directories were compiled: (1) a directory of businesses and organizations to assist in networking and fundraising (which will also be provided to the PDPH for outreach efforts); (2) a directory of free health clinics and affordable dental services; and (3) a directory of funding opportunities for community organizations seeking to expand their capacity to provide services (see Appendices 1, 4, 5).

A literature review was performed in concert with the above efforts. This included researching demographic and cultural information about West Philadelphia's African immigrant populations, as well as reviewing the emergency preparedness literature for best practices in planning for immigrant and vulnerable populations.

African Immigrants in Metropolitan Philadelphia

African immigrants represent one of the fastest growing groups of immigrants to the United States; between 1990 and 2000 their total number more than doubled.⁴ For this population, metropolitan Philadelphia has become an important destination. By some estimates, there are now at least 50,000 African immigrants living in the region, constituting 8 percent of the total immigrant population.^{5,6} Thirty-seven percent of African immigrants in the area arrived between 1990 and 1999, and 45 percent have arrived only after the year 2000.⁶ The recent arrival of many in this population can have important implications for individuals' ability to access health, social, and legal services. Consequently, the social and health needs of African immigrants in Philadelphia are becoming an increasingly important consideration for public health agencies and health care providers.

Population size and density

Africans in Philadelphia hail from almost every African country. In the 1980's, most immigrants came from Ethiopia and Eritrea, in the Northeast "Horn" of Africa. More recently they are arriving from Somalia and Sudan, as well as West Africa – a large region of the continent that includes Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, and at least a dozen other countries. The largest communities in the metropolitan region are from Nigeria, Liberia, Ethiopia and Ghana.⁷ Some African communities do cluster geographically within Philadelphia, as individuals settle in the same neighborhoods as friends and family members who came before them. As an example, many Sierra Leoneans, Liberians and Ethiopians live in Southwest Philadelphia, whereas Sudanese immigrants tend to settle in West and Northeast Philadelphia; meanwhile, there are a number of Kenyans living in Norristown and Eritreans living in Lansdale. West Philadelphia in particular has become an important African commercial district, specifically the area around Baltimore Avenue in University City.⁵ In West and Southwest Philadelphia, many Africans have settled in predominantly African American neighborhoods.⁸ While pockets of African immigrants sharing a common nationality exist in Philadelphia, there is no quintessential neighborhood where Africans are identified as the primary community. Moreover, many groups such as Nigerians, Ghanaians, and Somali are dispersed throughout not only the city but also the suburbs.⁵

Overall, the true numbers and concentrations of Africans living in Philadelphia are elusive. This lack of valid and reliable data carries weighty implications for public health agencies and health care providers. Estimates of African-born populations do not account for the true number of undocumented immigrants, and they systematically undercount legal immigrants because of fears of the legal system and distrust of government institutions. African immigrants are also underrepresented in population surveys because often they are counted as African Americans. In 2001, The Balch Institute gathered information from community leaders to estimate a total population between 40,000 and 55,000; this report estimates 10,000 to 15,000 Liberians, 20,000 Nigerians, 5,000 Ethiopians, and 5,000 Ghanaians.⁵ In 2007, the American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau yielded a total estimate of 41,391 African immigrants in metropolitan Philadelphia, including approximately 22,000 West Africans.⁶ Word-of-mouth and organization website estimates are often tens of thousands higher. Because population size is an important determinant of health policy and resource distribution, including public emergency planning, both public health agencies and African immigrant communities would benefit from more accurate and reliable population estimates.

Population diversity

The African immigrant population is increasingly diverse with respect to nationality, ethnicity and language. It is important for public health agencies and health care workers to recognize the African

immigrant population as a heterogeneous entity. The identity of any one African immigrant may be complex and variable, and should not be subject to assumption. Although African immigrants may face similar challenges and obstacles as they navigate various social and civic infrastructures, health and other public policies directed towards this population must be sensitive to the many layers of diversity. Such sensitivity may significantly impact the cultural competence and ultimate effectiveness of those policies.

Linguistic, Ethnic, Religious Diversity

Linguistic diversity within this immigrant population is striking: Malians, for example, may speak French and Bambara, Senegalese immigrants may speak French, Wolof, and Toucouleur, Sudanese may speak Arabic and Dinka, and Sierra Leoneans may speak Krio, Mandingo, Mende, Temne, or one of many other languages. In total, several dozen African languages are widely spoken throughout Philadelphia.⁵ African immigrants are also religiously diverse as reflected in the wide array of African-attended churches and mosques in the Philadelphia area. In addition to Christianity and Islam, some African immigrants may practice traditional religious beliefs. In some cases, conflicts between ethnic or religious groups from home countries may carry over to division within immigrant communities. For example, longstanding warfare in Sudan has historically divided Northern and Southern Sudanese along ethnic, religious, and regional lines. To offset these types of division, immigrant community organizations in Philadelphia have made many efforts to extend communication and interaction across national, ethnic, and religious lines.

Educational, Occupational, and Economic Diversity

Diversity within this population also applies to the spectrum of education level, occupation, and household income. Compared to the general population in the region, a much higher proportion of African immigrants (42 percent vs. 31 percent) have obtained a bachelor's or graduate degree, and a much high proportion (42 percent vs. 24 percent) is employed in either the health, education, or social service sector.⁶ Because professional credentials from home countries are often not transferrable, many Africans experience a decline in job status and earnings when they arrive in the United States.⁸ As a consequence, compared to the general population African immigrants have a significantly lower median household income (\$45,000 vs. \$57,000) and a higher family poverty rate (14 percent vs. 8 percent).⁶ But they are also an economically diverse group: almost 12 percent of households have an income of less than \$10,000 and nearly 10 percent have an income between \$75,000 and \$100,000.⁹

Diversity of Immigration Status

Additionally, African immigrants represent a diversity of migration experiences and status, ranging from naturalized citizens, to legal permanent and short term residents, to those without legal authorization. In metropolitan Philadelphia, 70 percent of Africans who have been in the U.S. for at least 10 years are naturalized citizens.⁸ However, as almost half of all African immigrants have only entered the U.S. since 2000, two-thirds of this population is non-citizens.⁶

Barriers to Healthcare

Barriers to health care for African immigrants are compounded by the fact that such a large proportion of them are relatively new to the United States. Many lack access to regular medical, dental, and mental health care. The vast majority of ambulatory care for this population is provided by City Health Centers #3 and #4. At these specific clinics, it is estimated that roughly two-thirds of the patients served are African immigrants. Other important usual sources of care include the CHOP Primary Care Centers on 35th Street and 63rd Street, the Health Annex on 61st and Woodland Avenue, Jefferson Health Systems, and other clinics scattered throughout West Philadelphia. The Emergency Department at Mercy

Fitzgerald Hospital has also been identified as an over-utilized source of primary care for this population. Specific barriers to health care for this population include language barriers, structural barriers, barriers specific to refugee or asylee status, and cultural barriers.

Language Barriers

Recent immigrants may have more difficulty with English proficiency compared to longer-term immigrants.⁸ Of African immigrants in metropolitan Philadelphia who speak another language, at least 20 percent speak English less than “very well”.⁶ While Spanish translation and interpretive services are often widely available, access to information in other languages, like French, is often limited.

Structural Barriers

The U.S. health insurance system is daunting for new immigrants, particularly those who are undocumented. Immigrants are more likely to be confused about eligibility rules, and have concerns about potential legal consequences of using public benefits. Additionally, newer immigrants are faced with more financial and employment hardship than those who have been in the U.S. for decades.¹⁰ For them, short-term survival may mean working multiple jobs, with health and wellness taking lower priority.¹⁰ Worker protections such as paid sick leave or family leave rarely exist. For immigrants already constrained by finances and time, factors like waiting room times, traditional weekday clinic hours, and inconvenient provider locations become significant barriers to seeking health care.

The importance of immigration status as a structural barrier cannot be overstated. For many, immigration status may be the most powerful deterrent to seeking health services. Fear and mistrust of government agencies due to fears of deportation loom large. Even in times of emergencies, there are currently no federal legal protections to provide amnesty for undocumented immigrants. Those who seek government assistance are often concerned that by interfacing with any governmental agency they risk having their immigration status discovered and reported. Recent legislative decisions that connect local law enforcement officers to I.C.E. (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement) have only heightened these fears and suspicion. Additionally non-citizens often will avoid using medical assistance out of fear of possibly becoming a “public charge,” leading to either deportation or ineligibility for legal permanent resident status.

Refugees and Asylees

Refugees and asylum seekers are an increasingly significant proportion of this population, as they have settled in large numbers in Philadelphia. Since 2000, Liberian refugees have become the largest refugee population to enter the metropolitan region. Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, and Sudan are also major source countries of refugees in Philadelphia.⁸ Refugees, forced to leave their home countries due to racial, religious, political, or social persecution, may have traumatic experiences that are often unimaginable to the average American. Asylum seekers also may have deeply traumatic experiences, but unlike refugees they are often unable to access the same resources provided by refugee resettlement agencies. Their application for asylum status may have been rejected, and they may fear deportation. Asylum seekers in particular have been shown to have high rates of depression, anxiety, and PTSD -- symptoms that may be attributed to both prior traumatization and ongoing detention.⁴ Both refugees and asylees often have complex medical and psychosocial needs; they may also have difficulty with trust and accessing appropriate services.¹⁰

Cultural Barriers

Cultural factors may significantly influence African immigrants' utilization of health services. These factors may include gender relations in general and dynamics of marriage and partnership in

particular.¹⁰ In some African cultures, pregnancy, birth, and childcare may be predominately female domains, with minimal involvement of men. African immigrants may have varying comfort levels with health care providers of the opposite sex, or with talking about personal health issues. Cultural factors may also involve familiarity with Western biomedicine, as many African immigrants continue to utilize traditional medicine and healing practices.^{4,11} There may be varying understanding of preventive care and ongoing follow-up for chronic conditions, particularly because attention to this population from the medical community has focused historically on HIV/AIDS. As a consequence of the latter, there are residual concerns among African immigrants about being "targeted" by public health campaigns. Moreover, some may experience stigma associated with being African in the United States, as they may perceive an undertone of animosity or disinterest from medical personnel when seeking care. They may feel misunderstood, or disrespected, and therefore may not feel comfortable seeking medical care.¹¹

The African Immigrant Social Network: Community Organizations

For many African immigrants, organizing and socializing with members of the same ethnic or national community helps to fill in the roles of absent extended family.

Community members are a vital social support system for each other; they may counsel young people, mediate during domestic conflict, provide moral and financial support at times of crisis or death, and help celebrate joyous events such as weddings, births, and graduations.⁵ There are many non-profit secular organizations centered around nationality or ethnicity that offer cultural resources as well as financial and social services to their specific community. Examples of these types of organizations are the Eritrean Community of Philadelphia Inc., the Sudanese Society of Greater Philadelphia, the Nigerians People's Forum, and the Cote D'Ivoire Association of Delaware Valley. Additionally, some organizations and community leaders extend interaction across national and ethnic lines, recognizing the power of a united African voice. Many of these pan-African organizations provide an array of important services to all African immigrants in the region. Below are some of the organizations we learned from:

Community Organizations : Responding to Emergencies

On December 26, 2008, catastrophe hit the Liberian community when a fire erupted in Southwest Philadelphia at a Liberian family's home, killing five Liberians and two of their Ivorian family members. In the midst of this tragedy, one member contacted a pastor who then set off a phone chain of key Liberian community leaders who were on the scene within the hour. They then mobilized the Liberian community in West Philadelphia to provide resources and fundraising efforts for victims of the fire and grieving family members.

The Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs was conceived in 2005 to bring together various African, American and Caribbean community organizations and individuals, and to address the needs and issues of Philadelphia's growing African immigrant population. The Commission's main functions are to encourage the development and implementation of policies and practices that will improve the cultural, social, economic, political, educational, health and general well-being of African and Caribbean immigrants, refugees, and asylees.

AFRICOM, The Coalition of African Communities was founded in 2001 by the concerted effort of fifteen different associations. AFRICOM is an umbrella organization that brings together various African, American and Caribbean community organizations and individuals. Its core missions are to facilitate access to health and social services, especially focusing on women, children and youth, to promote economic development, to facilitate resolution of inter- and intra-group conflicts, to advocate on issues of concern, and to educate the media and broader public on African cultures and experiences.

The African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA) was founded in 1999 as a response to the overwhelming requests for help by African refugees, asylees, and immigrant community members who were dealing with the stress of adjustment to their new lives. Specific services available through this organization include job counseling, food assistance, government benefits counseling, adult classes and computer training, and assistance with immigration documents. Additionally, ACANA holds periodic seminars, workshops and conferences that bring community members together with immigration attorneys, social service agencies, and public officials on issues relevant to the needs of refugees and immigrants. It is also a major priority of ACANA to preserve the cultural heritage of African immigrants,

in part by creating awareness and appreciation of African art and music. An example of a cultural preservation event is the African Festival in Philadelphia on Penn's Landing held in August 2009.

Multicultural Community Family Services (MCFS) is another non-profit, community-based social service organization, founded in May 2003 in response to the social and emotional needs of African families who were resettling in the Philadelphia region. MCFS provides counseling, mentoring, recreational, prevention and empowerment support services to African immigrant children and families, particularly those who were victims of ongoing civil wars in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Ivory Coast and other countries.

Special Role of Religious Organizations

Faith based organizations play a central role in the African immigrant community. Religious figures are opinion-leaders within their communities and are held in high esteem. The major religions practiced within this population are Christianity (particularly Catholicism and Protestantism), Islam, and tribal religions. Religious affiliations often transcend national or ethnic divisions within the community. For many African immigrants, religious organizations also serve as a bridge between their home countries and their new lives in the United States. In churches and mosques throughout Philadelphia, immigrants build networks of support and reproduce familiar cultural norms of dress, music and language. Religious sermons often address issues specific to immigrants and refugees, such as advice on coping with traumatic experiences.

The Archdiocese from the Office of Outreach to Immigrants & Refugees provided the Scholars with contact information for several parishes that serve African immigrants. In particular, St. Cyprian's Parish (525 Cobbs Creek Parkway) and St. Francis de Sales Parish and School (4625 Springfield Ave) have long relationships with these communities and continue to be actively engaged. In addition to having a large Nigerian contingent which holds its own separate mass on Sundays, St. Cyprian's holds regular health fairs and provides social services. Naomi Brown, a nurse and member of St. Cyprian's, also serves as the Parish Nurse Facilitator based out of the Divine Mercy Parish. She is one of five nurses designated to serve the health needs of parishes in Philadelphia. She organizes the health fair and provides mobile influenza clinics along with a food pantry. St. Francis de Sales School also has a long history of working with immigrant children and an established reputation within the community. Every spring a Migration Mass, held at St. Peter's Basilica, is organized by the Archdiocese to bring together all Catholic immigrants in Philadelphia. Notably, the Nigerians have such a strong presence in the Catholic community that a Nigerian bishop, Father Kyrian Udeze (based out of St. Peter's), was relocated here to specifically serve their needs.

Distinct Ethnic Communities

The congregation of St. Cyprian's includes a large group of Nigerian Ibo, an ethnic subgroup of Nigerians. Within this parish, the Nigerian Ibo share strong spiritual and social ties, even celebrating their own weekly mass. One Ibo leader explained that if he or any other Ibo were to suddenly pass away, all other members of their group would ensure the body was sent back to Nigeria for a proper burial.

Many Islamic organizations are also leaders in the African immigrant community, holding regular religious services on Fridays as well as education and daily prayer services throughout the week. At the African Islamic Community Center, Liberians, Guineans, Sierra Leoneans, and Ivorians are all

represented. The congregation at Masjid al Jamia, the largest mosque in West Philadelphia (42nd and Walnut), has a significant proportion of West African immigrants. The Sudanese School, an African Islamic School, with 2 sites in Southwest and Northeast Philadelphia, provides instruction to African children on Arabic, Islam, and Muslim culture. The director of the school in Northeast Philadelphia also maintains a website for the Sudanese community.

There are also several religious umbrella organizations that serve African immigrants, including the Archdiocese Office, the Mayor's Office of Faith Based Initiatives, and the Conglomeration of Philadelphia Mosques. Religious organizations offer a magnitude of social and health resources to the community, and their regular gatherings and established networks of communication are an important venue for information dissemination.

Community Perspectives on Emergency Preparedness and H1N1 Influenza

In our conversations with community leaders and members, who hailed from a variety of ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds, several recurrent themes emerged. These themes center on the importance of community, as well as on cultural attitudes about health care and health outreach efforts:

African immigrants are truly diverse. Too often, “African” is conceived of as a monolithic term and place of origin, ignoring the rich diversity of national and distinct ethnic identities that make up the continent. While identifying as “African” in the broader context, most African immigrants identify most strongly along national or ethnic lines. This population encompasses many distinct and separate communities, often organized around nationality or ethnicity. Many of these organizations have regular, mandatory meetings, dues and responsibilities. While national and ethnic identities lead to celebration of distinct cultures, they can also revive old existing tensions from home countries.

Religious communities often bridge ethnic differences. While many organizations are either explicitly centered on a particular nationality or ethnicity, religious organizations often bring disparate groups together. Religious leaders are opinion-makers within their communities and are held in high esteem. They can, therefore, play a powerful unifying role which may be important for community organizing and outreach.

Avoid targeting. Healthcare initiatives should avoid singling out the African immigrant population, as such an approach can engender suspicion or resentment at being somehow associated with a particular problem. For instance, prior healthcare outreach efforts have focused primarily on HIV/AIDS, and African immigrants have felt singled-out and even blamed as the source for the epidemic. This historic focus on HIV/AIDS has, for many in the community, created a stigma about associating with health care professionals or outreach workers. Consequently, any interventions or educational campaigns perceived as being ethnically targeted will likely be rejected.

Unmet basic health and economic needs

Sister Constance Touey, a teacher at the St. Francis de Sales Parish School, shared with us a story of two young boys from Cameroon who were often mocked at school for foul smelling uniforms. When school workers finally paid a visit to the home, they discovered that the family had no running water and no furniture.

Diverse opinions exist about H1N1 vaccination. For many African immigrants, vaccination is widely accepted and considered an important aspect of maintaining health. Some organizations even offered to distribute the H1N1 vaccine at their community center if possible. Many are familiar with vaccination campaigns for children in their homeland, but may be less familiar with vaccinations for adults. Most of the time, African immigrants will do as instructed by a physician, including undergoing vaccination. However, many are not under the care of a doctor and are not accustomed to seeking out preventive care. Additionally, some suggested that the vaccine would be declined because of religious beliefs that God is in control and vaccination would represent a denial of this belief. For immigrants from war-torn countries such as Liberia, for whom survival to the next day was always an uncertainty, vaccination will often not be a priority. Likewise, many Africans are used to dealing with diseases like malaria, and the potential dangers of H1N1 infection may appear underwhelming by comparison.

Basic health and economic needs are most pressing. The vast majority of community leaders repeated the sentiment that H1N1 influenza was not a current concern for most members of the communities they represent. Many African immigrants are supporting relatives in Africa and working multiple jobs, and they are preoccupied with basic needs—paying bills, buying food, and clothing children. In the array of challenges facing African immigrants, the potential threat of influenza is a low priority in comparison to immediate, more urgent economic crises.

Information travels best by word of mouth. There is no widely read African newspaper, and although email listservs exist, verbal communication is still preferred. Radio programs such as Radio Xalaat, cellular phones, and places of gathering such as shops, businesses, churches and mosques are the primary ways in which information travels. Community events are typically announced at cultural gatherings or during religious services.

A rich network of community organizations and leaders already exists. Within each community, distinct networks propagate information. Community leaders, including health providers, religious institutions, and service organizations, command immense trust and respect and often serve as the starting point from which information flows. While informal, these networks are the practical way in which most information reaches the immigrant community.

Best Practices in the Literature

The literature on best practices for emergency preparedness planning for immigrant communities is increasingly robust. Particularly since Hurricane Katrina, there has been more attention paid to improving the federal government's ability to respond to large-scale emergencies and to serve vulnerable populations.¹ The literature emphasizes that for most public emergencies, local governments play many key roles: they are the first responders, their knowledge of communities helps guide efforts by other agencies, and eventually they must address the aftermath of any disaster.¹ The literature also identifies several factors that increase the vulnerability of certain populations in an emergency: language barriers, isolation from public agencies, and fear of interacting with public agencies. Specifically regarding pandemic influenza preparedness, it is reported that immigrant and refugee populations may be more vulnerable due to a combination of several factors: limited access to preventive medical care; social, linguistic, economic, and housing barriers that limit the acceptability of vaccines, antiviral agents, and other public health recommendations such as remaining home while ill, voluntary isolation and quarantine, and social distancing among school children and adults.¹² Public agencies must develop planning and communication approaches that address these types of specific challenges.¹² Several guidelines have been proposed for how public agencies can incorporate immigrants into the process of emergency planning:

Public agencies should develop a better understanding of the demographics, languages and cultures of immigrant communities, by working with immigrants, refugees, and their service providers to collect essential community data.^{1,12} Efforts towards this goal include the creation of a database of potential partner organizations, as well as mapping out the geography of community and gathering places. To further develop a more in depth understanding of communities, the literature also recommends convening focus groups, as well as designating a point person of contact to maintain regular communication.¹³

Public agencies should convene a community advisory group, comprised of community leaders and service organizations, to help guide preparedness efforts.¹ This community advisory group will assist public agencies to address the community's concerns, including but not limited to emergency preparedness. The formation of this group will cultivate trust and credibility with key stakeholders in the community. In partnership with public agencies, the community advisory group should develop a clear set of goals, principles, and responsibilities. These community leaders and organizations can help to develop and test message content for public health recommendations, addressing the unique concerns of immigrants and refugees. Particularly for communicating about risk, tailored public health messages and trusted channels of information will help to ensure message accuracy and acceptability, as simply translating materials might not suffice.²

The community advisory group should help to practice the distribution of messages through existing community networks, for example by using non-emergency related public health messages.¹ Using these existing communication channels in non-emergency situations can test their effectiveness, and also improve public health awareness in the community. Moreover, consistent attempts at culturally-competent messaging can shorten the cultural distance between public agencies and immigrant communities, leading to greater trust of government response during an emergency.¹

Recommendations for Emergency Preparedness and H1N1 Influenza

Recommendation 1: Craft culturally competent messages

Crafting culturally competent messages is a core principle of the ongoing work of the PDPH. In order to build on the Department's existing efforts to provide culturally competent information, several principles should guide design of messages about H1N1 influenza for African immigrants in Philadelphia:

- *Remember that this population is highly diverse, with respect to nationality, ethnicity, language, and risk perception.* While the cultures of each of the communities within the African immigrant population are rich, there are few universal beliefs around which a single message can be relied upon to ensure H1N1 influenza vaccine uptake.
- *Recognize sensitivities related to religious diversity.* For example, the term "swine flu" may be offensive in Muslim communities. Consequently, the term "H1N1 influenza" should be used instead of the term "swine flu" in all publications, workshops, media releases and outreach efforts.
- *Appreciate that distrust of government institutions is common.* Many African immigrants lived under ineffective and even cruel governments in their countries of origin, leading to inherent skepticism about messages that come directly from the government. Even legal immigrants are fearful of deportation, and are therefore often wary of public officials. Further, immigrants hoping to eventually gain U.S. citizenship may be hesitant to receive government-supported services due to fears of becoming a "public charge."
- *Faith-based organizations are one place where longstanding ethnic divides can be narrowed.* Leaders of these groups are often highly respected sources of information and instruction about issues of concern to the community. These trusted community leaders, in addition to heads of social service groups and health care organizations, can play a central role in crafting message content to accurately communicate risk in a culturally acceptable way.
- *Messages should be clear and consistent.* When instructions from public officials change, much confusion can result, as was the case with Hurricane Katrina and the Southern California wildfires.
- *Ensure that community members understand messages about H1N1 are part of a broad citywide effort.* If African immigrants feel they are being specifically targeted because of a higher level of risk for infection, or because of specific cultural or ethnic characteristics, community members may disregard current and future public health messages.

Recommendation 2: Disseminate information through existing community networks

Cultural competence should remain a guiding principle in disseminating messages about H1N1 influenza to African immigrant populations. We believe the most effective way to spread information in a culturally competent way is to utilize the longstanding rich social networks that are already in place. These networks are formed by an intricate and dynamic web of relationships that grow along with the community. The following key principles should guide information dissemination:

- *Partner with community leaders to help disseminate messages to their communities.* As trusted, visible figures, these leaders are central to rich social networks and integral to obtaining, understanding and maintaining access. Notably, certain healthcare workers -- including physicians and nurses -- already command significant respect in their communities and would make excellent partners for both this and future public health initiatives.
- *Focus on community gathering places and special events as opportunities for outreach and information dissemination.* As with any other population, certain areas of social gathering provide important opportunities for sharing information. For African immigrants, these include but are not limited to ethnic restaurants, churches, mosques, hair-braiding salons, and taxi stands (see Appendix 1). In addition, many regular, recurring cultural events (e.g., the Annual AFRICOM African & Caribbean Health Fair and the African Festival organized by ACANA) offer important opportunities to spread information (see Appendix 3).
- *Word-of-mouth remains the preferred method for communication.* There is no one print media outlet from which a majority of African immigrants receive their news. Information about important community events often originates from the speech of community leaders and spreads to others through verbal communication. While many different dialects are spoken in the African immigrant population, English and French are the most common languages.
- *Utilize ethnic media.* Consistent with preferences for word-of-mouth communication, ethnic radio programs are popular and effective ways to disseminate information to large numbers of community members. Radio Xalaat, for example, is a local weekly two-hour radio show that is broadcast in several languages and reaches many African immigrants. In addition to radio programs, ethnic websites and email listservs serve as dynamic information sources that supplement word-of-mouth communication.

Recommendation 3: Consider non-traditional vaccine distribution strategies

African immigrants in Philadelphia face many of the same health care challenges that immigrants of other ethnicities face. With respect to H1N1 influenza prevention and vaccination, however, certain financial, cultural and geographic barriers are particularly notable:

- *Financial access barriers.* Many African immigrants work multiple jobs for an hourly wage. Missing work to receive a vaccine or isolate themselves when sick is therefore difficult, and keeping ill children at home from school poses significant child care challenges.
- *Cultural barriers.* Cultural beliefs and experiences can also pose barriers. Many African immigrants are refugees or asylees who lived through wars where daily survival was always in question. For many individuals, receiving an elective health service such as a vaccine to prevent an illness that could occur months in the future or not at all, may not be a high priority. As noted earlier, a high proportion of African immigrants are limited in their English proficiency, and French interpretive services and health education materials are not always readily available. Multiple community leaders also noted that fear of deportation is a major obstacle for accessing health services provided by -- or in close affiliation with-- a government agency. Even for African immigrants who are in Philadelphia as naturalized citizens, legal immigrants, refugees, or asylees, many will be reluctant to provide personal information to a government program for fear of being deported.
- *Geographic barriers.* Finally, many African immigrants do not routinely interface with the medical system. In many of their countries of origin, regular preventive medical care is not widely available or received. As a consequence, those who have been well may not have had much experience with the U.S. health care system. Many lack a primary care physician or are unsure where they can go to receive health care services. Therefore, a vaccine dissemination strategy that relies solely on hospital and clinic settings may fail to reach many individuals.

While these barriers pose significant challenges for H1N1 influenza prevention among African immigrants, the following approaches could help overcome these obstacles:

- *Go to where community members gather.* Distribute hand sanitizers and masks at taxi stands, hairbraiding shops, local churches and mosques. This can be coupled with delivery of flyers and verbal explanations about dates, times and locations where the vaccine will be available.
- *Make the vaccine available during evening and weekend hours.* This could accommodate the busy and often inflexible work schedules of many immigrants.
- *Develop a unique identifier system for tracking vaccine distribution.* A unique identifier system is a tracking mechanism that uses information such as a person's birth date and only a portion of a personal identifier to create a unique code that is entered into a database instead of a name each time a vaccination is administered. As compared with named reporting, this type of system offers the ability to track vaccine distribution while reducing privacy concerns associated with use of a person's name, and could mitigate many immigrants' fears about immigration status and deportation. Distrust may also weaken efforts to distribute vaccinations through government-run clinics.

- *Expand both paid and volunteer interpretive services.* Since most African immigrants speak either English or French, French interpreters should be available on-site at all vaccine clinic sessions, particularly in West Philadelphia. In order to translate information for African immigrants who speak neither English nor French, we recommend partnering with community agencies to train and recruit interpreters for some other relatively common tongues in this population like Mandingo or Arabic.

- *Consider offering H1N1 influenza vaccinations at community sites outside of the City of Philadelphia Health Centers.* Clearly efforts to distribute the H1N1 influenza vaccine are limited by a host of resource and logistical constraints that favor offering the vaccine in a limited number of locations. However, expanding the number and types of locations where the vaccine could be available (for example, at faith-based organizations or social service providers in addition to the City Health Centers) could make significant strides towards overcoming many cultural and geographic access barriers in this population.

Recommendation 4: Create a community advisory group

A community advisory group would have valuable roles to play in facilitating the design of culturally competent messages, shepherding the dissemination of information through existing community networks, and supporting the development of non-traditional vaccine distribution strategies to overcome access barriers for African immigrants. More specifically, the group could be charged with the following responsibilities to help achieve these goals.

- *Develop a shared understanding of immigrant needs and resources.* Community leaders are ideally positioned to provide the PDPH with firsthand, real-time information about specific barriers faced by individuals and assess the Department's capacity to address ongoing concerns. Members could then serve as a liaison to the community to share the PDPH's perspective and resources for addressing issues.
- *Improve the PDPH's language capacity in African immigrant communities.* As noted earlier, even if public health messages are provided in English and French, individuals who speak neither language will still encounter difficulty acquiring information. Advisory group members could help identify individuals in their communities who may be available to translate into additional languages on an as-needed or even recurring basis.
- *Assist with outreach and communication strategy development.* Group members could assess currently developed posters and other public materials for cultural sensitivity and language effectiveness. The group could also further identify opportunities in their communities for the delivery of public health messages.
- *Test message content and distribution.* Once an outreach and communication plan is in place, the PDPH can begin practicing and testing its communication strategy in this community by activating phone trees or broadcasting a public service message through established networks such as radio interviews or announcements at faith-based organizations. The community advisory group could then help the Department determine how effectively these trial messages were circulated.
- *Provide on-the-ground support in the event of an emergency.* Finally, in the event of an emergency like a local H1N1 outbreak, members of a community advisory group could help provide crucial on-the-ground support to the PDPH as response efforts evolve.

This community advisory group could take many forms, with members drawn from representatives of the key community partners we identified. It could, for example, be an informal network of community leaders who can serve as consultants as needed. Alternatively, it could be a new and more formalized group created as part of a larger task force on emergency preparedness in all vulnerable populations, including representatives from other immigrant communities. Yet another option would be an extension of a currently existing group, such as the Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Affairs, or the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force Vulnerable Populations Workgroup. The exact shape and scope of this group is of course subject to the PDPH's needs and resources; the most important thing is that the community has a voice and is a formal partner in efforts to prepare for and combat H1N1.

Recommendation 5: Invest in community relationships

Investing in community relationships with a long-term commitment to ongoing engagement is critically important, as all of the above recommendations will be ineffective unless there is community trust and buy-in.

Several approaches can help nurture relationships with African immigrant communities in Philadelphia:

- *One point person should serve as a contact from the PDPH to maintain relationships with key leaders and organizations.* Having a staff member who can serve as a primary contact person in the Department will provide community leaders with a channel for open communication, particularly in their communities where oral communication is so critically important.
- *Expand and attend community events.* As mentioned earlier, we created a calendar of community, cultural and health events, and attended some of these events throughout the summer (see Appendix 3). This list should be further expanded, and events attended regularly if possible. Many of the organizational meetings are monthly, and the health fairs are generally annual.
- *Use technology to maintain connections with the community.* Younger individuals in the African immigrant community are facile with technology, and regularly use the Internet for communication and cell phones for texting. Ensuring the PDPH's website is up to date, user-friendly and translatable into other languages -- especially French -- is important. Subscribing to organizational listservs is another way to connect online.
- *Nurture relationships and connections with culturally competent providers.* One way to utilize the skills of culturally competent providers of health care to African immigrants, and to communicate regularly with community members who work in health care, is to encourage their enrollment in the Medical Reserve Corps (www.phila.gov/mrc).
- *Empower community organizations in capacity-building efforts.* The PDPH can play a key role in capacity-building for the community and enhancing the ability of organizations and leaders to provide needed services to the populations they work tirelessly to serve. Such capacity-building can be in the form of health workshops, grant-writing workshops, and identification of funding sources for service programs.

The long term benefits of an investment in community relationships are two-fold. First, outreach efforts as new public health threats emerge will be more successful if relationships with the community are already in place and are strong. Second, such relationships can be a gateway to addressing broader health and social challenges within the community.

Our efforts this summer have expanded this investment, but it is imperative to continue building on these efforts to promote a long-term dialogue about the health needs of African immigrants in Philadelphia.

Closing Remarks

If there is one message that a health department official, policy maker, or any planning agency should understand if they hope to engage the African immigrant community, it is that the role of community leaders is paramount. This is in part because most African cultures hold elders in esteem and show respect for authority. However, this is especially important in the context of African immigrants, among whom perceptions of the American healthcare system typically involve suspicion of targeted interventions and experimentation and perceptions of American government are dominated by the fear of deportation. Community members, therefore, rely on trusted leaders to serve as both advocates and gatekeepers, who protect the community's interests and privacy.

With this in mind, our core recommendations center on the community and religious leadership as well as trusted community organizations—those relied upon to vet information, programs, and partnerships on behalf of the larger community. If external institutions are going to be successful in accessing and engaging the African immigrant community, they must first be committed to establishing trust and sustained relationships with community leaders.

The most important tasks in H1N1 prevention and vaccination will be educating community leadership about its relevance and importance to their community, involving the leadership in important aspects of planning, and partnering with the leadership in crafting messages in a manner that is acceptable to the larger community. Most importantly, these efforts at partnership and outreach must be sustained over time. When the emergency has resolved, the support, dialogue and engagement cannot also recede. In fact, the work of community engagement *is* the work of community preparedness. In partnership, we can develop relationships, build bridges, and establish networks that will serve as the foundation for coordinated action in times of crisis.

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Dr. Vicki Cargill

Dr. Josh Metlay

Dr. Katrina Armstrong

Appendix 1: Directory

African hair braiding salons

Adaeze Hair Braiding
6306 Woodland Ave
Philadelphia 19142
215-729-3901

Adja Braiding
4507 Baltimore Ave
Philadelphia 19143
215-386-0727

African Hair Braiding
5414 Woodland Ave
Philadelphia 19143
215-727-1676

Aissatou Professional West African
Hair Braiding
P.O. Box 6372
Philadelphia 19139

Atajmil Salon and Boutique
830 South Street
Philadelphia 19147
215-627-3693

Bibas African Hair Braiding
1825 N 54th Street
Philadelphia 19131
215-877-1500

Blek Hair Braiding
4616 Baltimore Ave
Philadelphia 19143
215-382-9737

Dawuda African Hair Braiding
1201 Pratt Street
Philadelphia 19124
215-288-0600

Dounaba Braiding
1044 South Street
Philadelphia 19147
215-928-4744

Elsa African Hair Braiding
6437 Woodland Ave
Philadelphia 19142
215-729-5210

Fama African Hair Braiding
4914 N 5th Street
Philadelphia 19120
215-457-1700

Fame African Hair Braiding
1017 W. Olney Ave
Philadelphia 19141
215-924-3314

Fanta African Hair Braiding
2828 W Girard Ave
Philadelphia 19130
215-787-0213

Fatou's African Hair Braiding
3517 Germantown Ave
Philadelphia 19140
215-221-5098

Fatou's Hair Braiding
4717 N Broad Street
Philadelphia 19141
215-329-6101

Gallery African Hair Braiding Salon
1630 W. Passyunk Ave
Philadelphia 19145
215-389-6778

Kane's Hair Braiding Salon
4424 Locust St
Philadelphia 19104
215-386-2155

Koumba Hair Braiding
32 N. 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-9976

Mamey African Hair Braiding
1106 South Street
Philadelphia 19147
215-625-0219

Mathilda African Hair Braiding
2101 S Woodstock St
Philadelphia 19145
215-339-1008

Nene's Hair Braiding
217 S. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-7964

Poya African Hair Braiding
5243 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-7801

Sisters African Hair Braiding
4718 Oxford Ave
Philadelphia 19124
215-744-7188

Sitan African Hair Braiding
1226 South Street
Philadelphia 19147
215-545-2551

Sofia's African Hair Braiding
4250 Lancaster Ave
Philadelphia 19104
215-349-6607

Community organizations

ACANA
5530 Chester Ave.
Philadelphia 19143
215-729-8225

African American Chamber of
Commerce
30 South 15th Street
Ground Floor
Philadelphia 19102
215-751-9501

<p>African Congress, Inc. 1525 W. Erie Avenue P O Box 38127 Philadelphia 19140 215-228-4848</p>	<p>Association of Islamic Charitable Projects 4431 Walnut Street Philadelphia 19104 215-387-8888</p>	<p>Ga-Adangbe Association 4237 Baltimore Ave Philadelphia 19104</p>
<p>African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA) 5530 Chester Avenue Philadelphia 19143 215-729-8225</p>	<p>Block Captain 5110 Walton Ave Philadelphia 19143 215-747-6445</p>	<p>Ga-Adangbe Foundation 2144 W. Godfrey Avenue Philadelphia 19138 484-716-9083</p>
<p>African Cultural and Community Center 145 South 60th Street Philadelphia 19139-3039 215-472-1510</p>	<p>Caribbean & African Network (The CAN) 586 Snowden Road Upper Darby 19082 610-203-3215 Children's Crisis Treatment Center 1823 Callowhill Street Philadelphia 19130-4109 215-496-0707</p>	<p>Girard Coalition, Inc. 704 W. Girard Avenue Philadelphia 19123 215-825-8821</p>
<p>African Immigrant Ministries (AIM) 6300 Gray's Avenue Philadelphia 19142 215-727-0115</p>	<p>City Of Phila. City Council 6108 Carpenter St. Philadelphia 19143 215-686-3440</p>	<p>Guinean Association, Inc. 1826 S. 56th St. 1st Floor Philadelphia 19143 215-651-7245</p>
<p>African Islamic Community Center 5521 Chester Avenue Philadelphia 19143 215-729-8066x105, 729-8225</p>	<p>Consulate of The Republic of Liberia International House of Philadelphia 3701 Chestnut Street Philadelphia 19104 610-272-5900</p>	<p>Institute of African American Mobilization 1101 Market Street Suite 800 Philadelphia 19107 215-685-5424/26</p>
<p>AFRICARIBE P.O. Box 27337 Philadelphia 19118 215-248-2204</p>	<p>Eritrean Community of Phila., Inc. 6343 Race Street Philadelphia 19139-2206 215-748-5511</p>	<p>Intercultural Family Services 4225 Chestnut Street Philadelphia 19104 215-386-1261</p>
<p>AFRICOM 4020 Market Street Philadelphia 19104 215-220-8518</p>	<p>Ethiopian Comm. Association of Gr. Philadelphia 4400 Chestnut Street Philadelphia 19104 215-222-8917</p>	<p>International House of Philadelphia 3701 Chestnut Street Philadelphia 19104 215-895-6521</p>
<p>Agape African Senior Center P O Box 33012 (229 N. 63rd St - 19139) Philadelphia 19142 215-474-4440</p>	<p>Friends of Malcom X Memorial Park 539 Osage Avenue Philadelphia 19143 215-748-5329</p>	<p>Mayor's Office of Health & Fitness 3900 Ford Rd, Unit 23C Philadelphia 19131 215-906-2074</p>
<p>Akwa Ibom State Assoc. of Nigeria 5243 Market Street Philadelphia 19139 215-476-0938</p>	<p>Minority Arts Resource Council 1421 W. Girard Avenue Philadelphia 19130 215-236-3688</p>	

Monrovia College Alumni Association
in the Americas (MCAAA)
C/o Danial Mensah
6424 Dicks Ave
Philadelphia 19142
267-240-9502

Multicultural Family Services
7016 Terminal Sq. Ste 1A-4A
Upper Darby 19082
484-461-8660

Nationalities Services Center
1216 Arch Street #4
Philadelphia 19107
215-893-8400

Oromo Liberation Front
4401 Spruce Street
Apt 104
Philadelphia 19104
215-387-7129

Owerri Obinwanne Association
Delaware Valley
6224 Race Street
Philadelphia 19139

Partnership CDC
4020 Market St, Suite 100
Philadelphia 19104
215-662-1612
PCDC
5923 Ellsworth St.
Philadelphia 19143
215-528-5478

SEAMAAC, INC.
1711 South Broad Street
Philadelphia 19148
215-467-0690

Southwest Community Development
Corp.
6328 Paschall Avenue
Philadelphia 19142
215-729-0180

Southwest Community Development
Corporation
6328 Paschall Avenue
Philadelphia 19142
215-729-4546

Southwest Community Enrichment
Center
1341 South 46th Street
Philadelphia 19143
215-386-8250

Sudanese Society of Greater
Philadelphia
2705 South 76th Street
Philadelphia 19153
215-492-5331

Spruce Hill Community Association
257 S. 45th Street
Philadelphia 19104
215-349-7825

Walnut Hill Community Association
4637 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 19139

Walnut Hill Community Development
Corporation
262 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-472-3363

Women's Opportunities Resource
Center
2010 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 19103
215-564-5500x218

YMCA - West Philadelphia
5120 Chestnut St
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-2700

Yoruba Development and Cultural
Organization of the Delaware Valley
106 North 11th Street
Philadelphia 19107
215-418-2251

Cultural specialists

Global Interdependence Center
3701 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 19104
215-898-9453

Malcom X Park
5039 Osage Ave.
Philadelphia 19143
215-748-5329

Norris Sq. Civic Associate
149 W. Susquehanna Ave.
Philadelphia 19122
215-426-8723

Parkside Association of Philadelphia
5180 Viola Street
Philadelphia 19131
215-878-1304

Philadelphia Folklore Project African
Dance
735 South 50th Street
Philadelphia 19143
215-726-1106

Princess Hawa Daisy Moore
2111 South 60th Street
Philadelphia 19142
610-626-0946

Immigration services

HIAS and Council Migration Services
2100 Arch Street
3rd Floor
Philadelphia 19103
215-832-0920

Media

WPEB Community Radio
541 B South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19143
215-910-0381

Africa Connection--900 AM WURD
Philadelphia
P.O. Box 28627
Philadelphia 19151

Food, restaurants, bars and clubs

241 K& T
241 South 60th St
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-5123

<p>52nd Food Plus 446 S. 52nd St Philadelphia 19143 215-748-1255</p>	<p>Blue Nile Falls Ethiopian Restaurant 720 South 52nd St Philadelphia 19143 215-747-9607</p>	<p>Finest Deli Inc. 278 S. 52nd St Philadelphia 19139 215-472-3678</p>
<p>52nd Skyline Restaurant 47 South 52nd Street Philadelphia 19139 215-748-5485</p>	<p>Broadway Pizza 284 S. 52nd St Philadelphia 19139 215-471-4949</p>	<p>Freetown Market 6634 Woodland Avenue Philadelphia 19142 215-724-4210</p>
<p>52nd Station Diner 9 South 52nd St Philadelphia 19139 215-476-5722</p>	<p>Brown Sugar Bakery & Rest Inc 219 S. 52nd St Philadelphia 19139 215-472-7380</p>	<p>Fresh Up Food Market 5206-10 Filbert Street Philadelphia 19139 215-474-4741</p>
<p>A Table Before Me 5126 Market Street Philadelphia 19131 215-471-5349</p>	<p>Cedar Supermarket 600 S. 52nd St. Philadelphia 19143 215-748-2925</p>	<p>Gojjo Ethiopian Cuisine 4540 Baltimore Ave Philadelphia 19143 215-386-1444</p>
<p>Abby's Desert Lounge 229 South 45th Street Philadelphia 19104-2918 215-387-2424</p>	<p>Chestnut Fresh Donut 5206 Chestnut Street Philadelphia 19139 215-472-2760</p>	<p>Golden Empire 1732 S. 58th Street Philadelphia 19143 215-727-8050</p>
<p>Amigo African Food Market 108 South Farragut St Philadelphia 19139 215-748-8077</p>	<p>China House 306 S. 52nd St. Philadelphia 19143 215-476-4992</p>	<p>Justin's Snack Corner 601 S. 52nd St Philadelphia 19143 215-474-3509</p>
<p>Angie's Kitchen 618 S. 52 St Philadelphia 19143 215-471-1422</p>	<p>Connie's Food Market 5153 Walnut Street Philadelphia 19139 215-747-8977</p>	<p>Kaffa Crossing 4423 Chestnut Street Philadelphia 19104 215-888-2859</p>
<p>Asmara ConXion 6521 Haverford Ave Philadelphia 19151</p>	<p>Dahlak Eritrean and Ethiopian Restaurant 4708 Baltimore Avenue Philadelphia 19143-3503 215-726-6464</p>	<p>La Calebasse 4519 Baltimore Ave philadelphia 19143 215-382-0555</p>
<p>Baltimore African Market 4533 Baltimore Avenue Philadelphia 19143 215-387-5205</p>	<p>Fatou and Fama Restaurant and Catering 4002 Chestnut Street Philadelphia 19104 215-386-0700</p>	<p>Lebel Pizza 5254 Market St Philadelphia 19139 215-783-7933</p>
<p>Big Jim Tuckers Restaurant 5329 Market Street Philadelphia 19139 215-472-8171</p>		

Lee Hua Restaurant
5140 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-5603

Market Laundromat
5122 Market St
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-5853

Mary's Deli
516 South 52nd St
Philadelphia 19143
215-471-4487

Mary's Steak & Hoagies
5430 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-4904

Medina Restaurant
308 S. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19143
215-476-2300

Mezquita Grocery
300 S. 52nd St.
Philadelphia 19143
215-474-3630

Mr. Hook Fish & Chicken
206 S. 52nd St.
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-5074

Penn Deli
24 N. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19139
215-477-0468

Pete's Eats
35 South 52nd Steet
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-4995

Queen of Sheba Pub and Restaurant
4511 Baltimore Ave
Philadelphia 19143
215-382-2099

Rainbow Deli
5215 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-648-0818

Soleil de Minuit
5148 Locust St
Philadelphia 19143
215-459-2255

Southside Pizza
333 S. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19143
215-474-0700

Taste King
5245 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-3333

Top Shelf Lounge
5564-66 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-4245

Urban Nutrition Initiative
3451 Walnut Street
Suite P-117A
Philadelphia 19104
215-898-1600

Wahid Ent Pool Hall & Music Ent
1216 North 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19131
215-475-2296

Medical services

Balmont Family Practice Group
5008 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia 19143
215-724-5889

Dr. Samuel F. Quartey, DPM
5023 Spruce Street #1
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-1407

Dr. Terrence Curley, DO
5008 Baltimore Avenue
Ste A
Philadelphia 19143
215-764-8520

Dr. Umeh Onuorah, MD
4237 Baltimore Ave
Philadelphia 19104-4499
215-382-1040

Mednet Healthcare Systems Inc
249 S. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-4410

Mercy Hospital
501 South 54th St
Philadelphia 19143
215-748-9300

Mercy Wellness Center
5008 Baltimore Avenue
#2B
Philadelphia 19143
215-764-8500

People's Emergency Center
325 N. 39th Street
Philadelphia 19104
215-382-7522x296

Podiatric Surgeon
5023 Spruce Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-1407

Sickle Cell Disease Assoc of America
5070 Parkside Ave # 1404
Philadelphia, PA 19131-4747
215-471-8686

Philadelphia Business & Technical
Center
5070 Parkside Ave; Suite 1404
Philadelphia 19131
215-471-86868

West Philadelphia Medical Center
273 South 52nd St
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-8000

Religious organizations

African Apostolate: Divine Mercy
Parish
6667 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia 19143
215-727-8300

Archdiocese of Philadelphia - Catholic
Social Services, Immigration Services
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia 19103-1299
215-587-3600

Beulah Baptist Church
5001-21 Spruce Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-4544

Bible Way Baptist Church
1323 N. 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19131
215-477-0778

Black Clergy (Philadelphia, PA)
3814 Parrish Street
Philadelphia 19104
215-382-1536

Christ Apostolic Church of Philadelphia
5200 Paschall Avenue
Philadelphia 19143
215-724-5711

Christ Assembly Lutheran Church
229 North 63rd Street
Philadelphia 19139-1111
215-474-9200

Christ International Baptist Church
2210 South 65th Street
Philadelphia 19142-2220
215-729-0214

Christian Faith Baptist Church
6014 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-1484

Debre Genet Kidus Amanuel Church
PO Box 38590
Philadelphia 19104

Holy Family
53 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia 19143

Holy Temple Of The Lord Savior Jesus
PO Box 9378
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-7656

Lutheran Children and Family Services
231 N. 63rd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-7500x206

Masjid Al-Jamia Mosque
4320 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 19104
215-898-0605

Masjid Al-Tawheed Mosque
3027 North 22nd Street
Philadelphia 19132
215-229-3586

Mount Zion United African Church
1453 North 52nd St.
Philadelphia 19131
215-477-0290

New Heritage Church
471 W Dearborn St
Philadelphia 19139
215-878-2589

Oromo Community Association of
Greater Philadelphia
5025 Florence Ave
Philadelphia 19143
215-476-8364

Oromo Evangelical Church of
Philadelphia, Waldaa Oromoo Warra
Wangeelaa Kan Filaadelfiaa
PO Box 19806
Philadelphia 19143
215-747-0328

Presbytery of Philadelphia
2200 Locust Street
Philadelphia 19103
215-732-1842

Schools and youth groups

A New Start - Youth Development
7245 Paschall Avenue
Philadelphia 19142
215-365-3877

African Studies Center, University of
Pennsylvania
650 Williams Hall
Philadelphia 19104
215-898-6610

Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture
526 S. 46th Street
Philadelphia 19143
267-303-0070

Bartram High School African Students
Association
2401 South 67th Street
Philadelphia 19142-2298
215-492-6450

Boy's Latin of Phila Charter School
5501 Cedar Ave
Philadelphia 19143
215-387-5149

Huey Middle School
52nd & Pine Sts
Philadelphia 19143
215-471-2901

Office of Language Equity Issues –
School District of Philadelphia
Public School Notebook
3721 Midvale Ave
Philadelphia 19129
215-951-0330 x2107

Penn African Student Assn (PASA)
[http://www.dolphin.upenn.edu/pasa/
index.htm](http://www.dolphin.upenn.edu/pasa/index.htm)

PHENND Philadelphia Higher
Education Network for Neighborhood
Development
3451 Walnut Street
Suite P-117
Philadelphia 19104
215-573-2379

QUBA Institute
4637 Lancaster Ave
Philadelphia 19131
215-473-8589

Storey's Developmental Center
500 S. 52nd St.
Philadelphia 19143
215-476-6623

Struttin Lightly
39 North 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-6794

The Care Garden
216 S. 48th St
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-5528

West Catholic High School
4501 Chestnut Street
(Work)
Philadelphia 19139
215-386-2244x218

Specialists, retail and services

Photography

Love Photo
41 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-1100

Art

Alahmako African Arts
40 South 54th Street Apt B
Philadelphia 19139
267-992-4886

Home is Where The Art Is - Fine Art &
Custom Framing
5150 Hazel Ave, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia 19143
215-476-9638

Owusu Ansah, Sculpture and Stained
Glass
2024 Fitzwater Street
Philadelphia 19146
215-893-0295

Auto sales and services

Baltimore's Finest
5239-49 Baltimore Ave
Philadelphia 19143
267-334-8294
Scotties
43 North 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-313-7164

University Collison Services. Inc
4542 Baltimore Ave
Philadelphia 19104
215-222-3800

Barbershops

Ahmad's Barbershop
530 S. 52nd St.
Philadelphia 19143
215-472-0922

Calvin's Hair Professional's &
Barbershop
5651 Market St
Philadelphia 19143
215-472-3428

Crowns of Glory
5114 Market Street/ PO Box 9447
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-8251

Distinctively Different Barbershop
5134 Market St
Philadelphia 19139
267-974-1324

Ed Owen's Barber Shop
5415 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-906-0777

Ellis Christian Hairstylist
19 North 60th Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-0561

Liz N Daughters
5525 Addison St.
Philadelphia 19143
215-859-8000

Ms Jerri's
5150 Hazel Ave.
Philadelphia 19143
215-472-6428

Ray's Divine Creations
509 S. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19143
215-472-7248

Shear Pandemonium
126 N. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-0214

Beauty shops

Amazing Beauty Supply
4626 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia 19143
215-662-1968

Arman Perfume & Variety Shop
122 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-2447

Black Barber Beautician Assoc.
1218 Oak Lane
Philadelphia 19126
215-224-4664

Chic Afrique
5421 Hunter Street
Philadelphia 19131-3511
215-592-9023

Golden Perfumer & Etc Eleg
242 South 52nd St
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-4542

The Philadelphia Beauty Showcase
National Museum
514 S. 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19143

The PNC Financial Services Group
University City
3535 Market Street
Philadelphia 19104
215-823-2305

Bicycle shops

Swaray's Bike Shop
612 S. 52nd St.
Philadelphia 19143
215-476-0903

Books stores

T/A Ramona's Goods (Book Busters)
5541 Thompson St
Philadelphia 19131
215-877-8739

Business associations

40th Street Area Business Association
3937 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 19104
215-222-2300

60th St Business Association
P.O Box 9361
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-8994

60th Street West Market Street
Business Association
P O Box 9361
208 S. 60th Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-8994/267-973-8152

Agyei Business Services
623 S. 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19143
215-474-4388

Agyei Business Services
5334 Vine St
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-7677

All Forms Financial
281 S. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-1655

Alliance Unlimited Inc
2007 Fairwood Lane
Willmington 19810
302-983-7588

Baltimore Avenue Businessmen's
Association
4521 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia 19143
215-387-8911

Belmont Improvement Association
4087 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia 19104
215-222-1445

CattleLogos
2522 Lombard Street
Suite 300
Philadelphia 19146
215-732-1553

L.W. Farmbry & Associate
7300 City Ave. Suite 220
Philadelphia 19145
215-877-4950

Lancaster Avenue Business
Association-CDC
5186 Media-Bible Way Streets
3rd Floor Rear
Philadelphia 19131
215-879-0909

Langenwalter Carpet Dyeing of
Northeast/west Philadelphia
28 Blacklake Place
B-7
Philadelphia 19154
215-464-5863

Parkside Business Association
5070 Parkside Avenue
Suite 2400
Philadelphia 19131
215-879-8500

Philadelphia Business & Technology
Center
5070 Parkside Avenue
Suite 2400
Philadelphia 19131
215-879-8500

PhilaPOSH
3001 Walnut St.
5th Floor
Philadelphia 19104
215-386-7000

PML Enterprise
7715 Crittonden St. #197
Philadelphia 19118
267-975-7311

KC Wireless
5242 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-4530

MN Fashion & Jewelry
45 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-0822

South Street West Business
Association
1537 South Street
Philadelphia 19146
215-735-0458

Clothing

African Expressions
229 North 63rd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-9200

Sandaga Custom Made Clothing
7130 Germantown Ave
Philadelphia 19119
215-753-0455

W. Phila. Coalition of Neighborhoods
and Businesses
4601 Market Street
1st Floor
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-0400

Fine Line Boutique
23 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19143
267-357-0026

Comprotex
148 S. 60th Street
Philadelphia 19143
215-476-4416

West Girard Business Association
(WGBA)
2712 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia 19130
215-235-7233

First Class Seconds Boutique
141 So. 60th Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-3815

Computing 2000+
P.O. Box 231
Landsdowne 19050
610-721-9474

West Phila. Economic Development
Corporation
23 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-3133

Han's Discount & Clothing
136 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-472-8595

Mt. Nimba Computer Center (Philly
Computer Hospital Inc.)
5263 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia 19138
215-748-7495

Carwash

52nd Scrub Station
5219 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-2739

Jeans World
46 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-1295

Premium Electronics Inc
5120 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-6559

Side Technology, Inc.,
4944 Lancaster Ave
Philadelphia 19131
215-473-0110

Cellular services

City Wireless Solutions
5221 Market Street/ 31 S. 52nd St.
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-4380

Jones Christian Enterprise II
5248-50 Market St
Philadelphia 19139
215-236-6043

Consultants

Brenda Shelton-Duston Consulting
2107 Montrose St
Philadelphia 19146
215-715-5919

Double Connect Inc
5130 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-6922

Makola African Fashion Boutique,
4614 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia 19143
215-222-7390

DMR Consulting, Inc.
1927 S. 21st Street
Philadelphia 19145
215-545-1008

Econsult Corp
3600 Market Street
6th Floor
Philadelphia 19104
215-382-1894

The Consulting Group LLC
5070 Parkside Avenue
Suite 1426
Philadelphia 19131
215-473-2314

Contractors

MFW Builders
1200 South 53rd Street
Philadelphia 19143
215-817-0668

Pantheon Design & Construction
5032 Walton Ave
Philadelphia 19143
267-251-5702
Copy and print

Bartash Printing, Inc.
5400 Grays Avenue
Philadelphia 19143
215-724-1700x206

711 Copy & Printing , Ink-2
711 S. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19143
215-472-7778

African Audio Video & Copy Center
5413 N. 5th Street
Philadelphia 19143
215-386-4022

Common Balance Publishing Inc
PO Box 38643
Philadelphia 19141
215-748-6750

Day care

Nana Bear's Love-N-Care Day Care Plus
5310 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-8866

Peake's Little Angels
5200-06 Baltimore Ave
Philadelphia 19143
215-747-8666

engineering

KOH Engineers, LLC
2501 Wharton Street
Suite K
Philadelphia 19146
267-639-9782

entertainment industries

Bryheem Ent Inc
629 S. 52nd St.
Philadelphia 19143
215-471-1628

Jazz Ent Inc
5113 Chestnut St
Philadelphia 19139
215-287-9497

Mogauwane Mahloele - Dikoma
Aesthetics (Musician)
57 Letchworth Ave
Yardley 19067
215-321-3755

Exterminators

Dynamite Pest Control
279 S. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-2700

Financial services

West Philadelphia Financial Services
Institution (WPFSI)
5200 Warren Street
Philadelphia 19131
215-452-0106

Furniture and glass

Kings
140 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-3966

Central Glass Company
4313 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia 19104-1303
215-222-3777

Insurance

Al-Jay Insurance Agency, Inc.
5236 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-7590

McFadden's Insurance Agency
603 S. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19143
215-474-8741

Nilien Insurance Service
4521 Baltimore Ave
Philadelphia 19143
215-387-8911

Jewelers

Ming Jeweler
10 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-6255

Laundromats

Clear View Cleaner
5252 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-3062

E-Z Cleaner
701 S. 52nd St
Philadelphia 19143
610-331-5076

Hamilton Washer Service
506 S. 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19145
267-236-3619

Market Cleaners
5247 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-3203
Weekly Press
33A South 42nd Street
Philadelphia 19104
215-222-2846

Law services

Christian Nduka, Attorney
1233 Saint James St.
Philadelphia 19107-5413
215-731-1620

University Realtors, Inc.
3737 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia 19104
215-662-1010

Palace Travel, Inc.
5301 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-8555

Johnson Associates & Co., Inc.
133 S. 60th Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-2915

Rehab-Renovations-Rentals (RRR)
209 S. 52nd Street
2nd Floor
Philadelphia 19139
267-307-5800

Palm Branch Corporation
5343 Arlington Street
Philadelphia 19131
215-477-1424

Susan Toler, Attorney at Law
211 North 13th Street
Philadelphia 19107
215-849-9745

Goodman's Radio & T.V. Service
519 South 52nd St
Philadelphia 19143
215-471-5800

Variety stores

52nd St Variety Store
41-43 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-667-0224

Optometrists

National Eye Glasses
49 North 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19143
215-472-2550

Retail
Mam's Inc
NEC 53rd & Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-528-5045

Cousin Danny's Exotic Haven
320-322 South 52nd St
Philadelphia 19143
215-417-8890

Victory Vision Inc
5135 Chestnut St
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-7408
West Philadelphia Eye Assoc, Inc
501 South 54th Street, Suite 25
Philadelphia 19143
215-748-0185

Philadelphia Vacuum Co.
5246 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-4801

Dollar Plus Discount & Variety
27 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-1674
EZ Bargain
5230 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-1105

Realty

A&R Properties
4704 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia 19143
215-727-4560

City Life
4548 Market Street L5
Philadelphia 19139
215-895-4003

Nova Realty
2700 S. 70th Street
Philadelphia 19142
215-365-8200

Sports

Retroaction Sports
615 S. 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19143
267-978-8100

Tattooing

J.R.'s Tattoo & Body Piercing Studio
6110 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-474-5020

Golden Box
25 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-1227

Taxi and transportation

Lady Liberty Transportation Co., Inc.,
1242 South 47th Street
Philadelphia 19143
215-724-8888

Ivan Supply
2100 Washington Avenue
Philadelphia 19146
215-546-5440

Philadelphia Neighborhood Housing
Services, Inc
5234 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-4205

Travel associations

Addison Tours
1506 South 58th St
Philadelphia 19143
215-429-1116

Lee's Discount
10 North 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-0377

**Low Price Super Store
5237 Market Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-471-1193**

**New Dynamic Dollar
5224-26 Market St
Philadelphia 19139
215-748-4706**

**Q&S Discount
130 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-476-3828**

**Sandeco African Inc. International
Market
325 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19143
215-476-5630**

**Star Wigs
8 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
215-747-4948**

**Super Perfume Jewelry and Variety
Store
271 South 52nd Street
Philadelphia 19139
21-5474-5822**

Appendix 2: Contact Directory

Partner	Contact Person	Organization	Information	Contact Information	Add'l Notes
Ethnic Media	Elhadji N'Diaye	Radio Xalaat	Weekly radio program on Saturday evenings, 10pm - 12am, on WURD AM 900 featuring discussions on topics such as current events and health in 3 languages (English, French, Wolof).	215-239-5939 yaakar@hotmail.com	Willing to have PDPH and partners participate on the show.
Faith-based	Mohammed Jomandy, Pres of AICC	African Islamic Community Center	Serves population of several thousand people during events (such as Ramadan). Draws from both local community as well as suburbs. Although many groups are represented, most common are Liberians, Sierra Leoneans, Guineans, and Ivoirians. Weekly religious services held on Friday typically draw 800 people. They also offer weekend classes for children and general, counseling and weddings, funerals and baby-naming are regular occurrences at their center. Located at 6300 Grays Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19142, http://www.africanislamiccenter.org/	215-727-0115 jomandy@verizon.net	Announcements are made during the service as well as bulletin boards for community events in the lobby. Informal communication occurs very quickly via phone calls.
Faith-based	Rev. John K. Jallah, Executive Director of Agape	Agape African Senior Center, Mayor's Commission on African & Caribbean Cultural Affairs	The Agape African Senior Center is a Faith-based 501(C)3 nonprofit organization. The Center provides survival skills training, instructions in English as a second language, and citizenship education for seniors especially African refugees and immigrants. Targets Liberian immigrants. Located at African Immigrant Service Building; 229 North 63th Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19139 http://www.agapeafricanseniorcenter.org/	215-474-9200	Very influential person in Liberian community.
Faith-based	Rev. Joseph G. Watson (Director)	Archdiocese of Phil, Office of Pastoral Care	Archdiocese offers a multiple services to West Africans including legal counsel, employment opportunities, food, and aid in finding housing.	215-587-3540, migrefug@adphila.org	Though Rev. Watson is the director, it may be easier to reach James King (administrator), j.king@adphila.org . Individual parishes have greater tie to community.
Faith-based	Linda Hauber	Association of Islamic Charitable	AICP is an international organization which seeks to teach a moderate balanced Islam. It is their mission to maintain what they see as the true heart of Islam	215-387-8888 info@aicp.org	Announcements made during Friday services, daily classes and prayer. They also

Partner	Contact Person	Organization	Information	Contact Information	Add'l Notes
		Project (AICP)/ Masjid Musalla Ahli-Sunnah Wal lamaah	(improving character, high morals) and stand against extremists. While AICP is an international organization, there are 14 sites in the US and Canada: the West Philadelphia site serves as the North American headquarters. http://www.aicp.org/		maintain an email/ phone list.
Faith-based	Naomi Brown	Divine Mercy Parish- Nurse Facilitator	Nurse working with Parish nurses as outreach for South Philadelphia since 2005. Works with 35 parishes from Market Street to South Philly to set up health programs and provide services for the elderly. Part of a 5 nurse facilitator group (2 in North Philly, 2 in Bucks County). She has served in this capacity since 2004.	215-696-7819 215-726-1728	
Faith-based		Masjid Al-Jamia	Masjid Al Jamia is a mosque that is diverse, mostly African, with many individuals who are Senegalese, Sudanese, or Ugandan. Located at 4228 Walnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104.		Close ties with Penn Muslim Students Association (which holds the deed to the mosque and has representative on the mosque's Board of Directors). Would speak with PMSA or Masjid Al-Jamia Board of Directors about having announcements made after prayers since current Imam speaks very little English. His primary language is Arabic.
Faith-based	Minister Malcolm Byrd, Assoc Director	Mayor 's Office of Faith Based Initiatives	The Mayor's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives (MOFI) was established by Mayor Street to assist in the development of practical expressions of Government/Faith Community cooperative programming. http://navigator.phila.gov/mayor/initiatives/faith/index.html Located at Suite 400 Municipal Services Building1401 J.F.K. Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 19102	malcolm.byrd@phila.gov	Referred here by Don Schwartz: this office attempts to aid various faiths when community events occur; they have many contacts throughout Philadelphia, but no specific agenda
Faith-based	Sister Mary Lydon,	Saint Cyprian's	Parish serves 700 families/households with 400 people that attend semi-regularly. Predominantly African	215-747-3250, sntcyprian_srmay@verizon.net	Every Wednesday, information is sent home to

Partner	Contact Person	Organization	Information	Contact Information	Add'l Notes
	Coordinator for Outreach	Parish	American, with large West African population. Diverse nationalities represented (Nigerian, Liberian, Ghanaian, and Cameroonian). Also many Caribbean countries represented (Trinidad, Jamaican, Haitian). Pastor is Rev. Msgr. Federico A. Britto. They organize an annual health fair. Located at 525 Cobbs Creek Pkwy, Philadelphia PA 19143. http://www.archdiocese-phl.org/parishes/7743.htm		parents in a particular envelope. The form must be signed and brought back to school to verify parents have read it. In general, parents are very good about this.
Faith-based	Sister Constance Marie Touey	St. Francis de Sales Parish	Runs a school with 510 children, drawn from 15 different African countries. Also offers scholarships for immigrant families. Located at 4625 Springfield Ave. Philadelphia PA 19143, http://www.saintfrancisdesales.net/	215-387-1749 FAX 215-222-5821, stfdsschool@yahoo.com	The church uses flyers, bulletins and announcements during worship services. All materials are in English
Health Provider	Dr. Terrence Curley	Balmont Family Practice Group	Serves many West Africans. Located at 5008 Baltimore Ave #A, Philadelphia, PA 19143-4271	215-724-5899 215-748-5818	Dr. Terrence Curley - Mercy Fitzgerald- has served Guineans for many years and is well-respected in that community.
Health Provider	Dr. Grace Ryder, Division Director of Center-Based Services	Children's Crisis Treatment Center	CCTC is a non-profit mental health agency for children. Services include outpatient to intensive community based work. West African Program: Identifies children (mostly West African refugees) with trauma-based mental health needs, and provides therapy.	215-496-0707x1450, gryder@cctckids.org	Close ties with Philadelphia public schools.
Health Provider	Dr. Marc Altshuler	Jefferson University Hospital Refugee Health Center	Family physician who is Director of Refugee Health Center at Jefferson Hospital. Refugees must have exam within 30d of arrival in USA - are referred to this clinic from refugee resettlement agency (3 in Philly - NSC, Lutheran Catholic Services and one other). After referral, clinic performs exam and often ongoing health care. Recently has mostly cared for Southeast Asian, West African and Iraqi patients.	877-656-1016, marc.altshuler@jefferson.edu	
Health Provider	Dr. Helena Kwakwa	PDPH, City Health Centers	Internist, Infectious Disease, HIV Specialist	hkwakwa@aol.com, helena.kwakwa@phila.gov	Important health provider leader/community liaison

Partner	Contact Person	Organization	Information	Contact Information	Add'l Notes
Health Provider	Dr. Victor Igbokidi	PDPH, City Health Centers	Pediatrician	victor.igbokidi@phila.gov	Important health provider leader/community liaison
Health Provider	Magatte Dia	PDPH, AFRICOM	Magatte is an HIV Prevention and Outreach Worker to African and Caribbean Communities, and works for the Philadelphia Dept of Public Health Ambulatory Health Services.	215-817-8838, magatte.dia@phila.gov	Important community liaison.
Service	Voffee Jabateh	African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA)	ACANA provides outreach services, case management, information and life skills workshops to over 300 African immigrants per year. Also addresses the needs and concerns regarding immigration status. http://acanaus.org. Located at 5530 Chester Ave. Philadelphia PA 19143	215-729-8225, voffeejabateh@acanaus.org	Largest service organization serving African immigrants
Service	Antoinette Ghartey	AFRICOM		aghartey@gmail.com	Nurse, helps organize annual AFRICOM Health Fair
Service	Philip Udo-Inyang	AFRICOM		pudoinyang@africom-philly.org	President of AFRICOM
Service	Raphia Noumbissi	AFRICOM		raphiatou@yahoo.com	Social worker & outreach coordinator for AFRICOM
Service	Dr. Eric Edi	AFRICOM, Cote d'Ivoire Association		eedi@africom-philly.org	One of AFRICOM's founders. Appearances on Radio Xalaat.
Service	Dr. Vera Tolbert, Chair of Health Committee on Mayor's Commission	AFRICOM, Mayor's Commission on African & Caribbean Affairs		215-241-9837 vera.tolbert@ibx.com	Organizes annual AFRICOM Health Fair
Service	Stan Straughter	Mayor's Commission of Caribbean and African Affairs	The Commission seeks to encourage the development and implementation of policies and practices intended to improve conditions affecting the numerous systems (including health, educational, political) for African and Caribbean immigrants, refugees, and asylees residing in Philadelphia. Meetings take place in the City Council Caucus Room	215-817-9887 slstraughter@verizon.net	

Partner	Contact Person	Organization	Information	Contact Information	Add'l Notes
			401, Philadelphia PA 19107.		
Service	Portia Kamara	Multicultural Family Services	The mission of the Multicultural Community Family Services is to empower individuals, children, youth and families to gain a greater capacity to succeed in their communities. MCFS is located at 7016 TERMINAL SQUARE. SUITES 1A, 2A, 3A & 4A	484-461-8660 Fax: (484) 461-8678 pkamara@mcfsorg.com	
Service	Juliane Ramic, Director of Refugee Social Services	Nationalities Services Center	Outreach, refugee resettlement services, primary West African population NSC serves is Liberians, http://www.nationalitiesservice.org/ . Located at 1216 Arch St. 4th Floor, Philadelphia PA 19107	215-893-8400 x1538, jramic@nscphila.org	
Service	Dr. Jude Iheoma	Nigerian Peoples Forum / Ibo Catholics	NPF is a non-partisan, American national organization of Nigerian-Americans and Nigerian-Nationals residing in the United States. With its chapters throughout the United States, it serves as a voice for over 1 million Nigerians in the US, of which over 500,000 are United States citizens.	215-801-4068 nnanyereugo1@verizon.net	One of the founders of AFRICOM, now President of NPF. Knows community leaders for each group of people-- Liberian, Senegalese, Ivorian.
Service	Sami Ahmed, Islamic Education Chair	Penn African Student Association	Organization formed 40-45 years ago to serve Muslims at UPenn and in surrounding communities. Currently has 400-500 members in UPenn community. Close ties to Masjid Al Jamia mosque, which has many West Africans in congregation. Located at Houston Hall 1st Floor Lobby, 3417 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19104. http://www.upennmsa.org/home/	smahmed@wharton.upenn.edu , upennmsa@gmail.com 267-324-8484	MSA has close ties to Masjid Al-Jamia mosque (e.g., they actually hold the deed, and have a representative on the mosque's Board of Directors). Many pre-med students who would be willing to serve as outreach workers.
Service	Natasha Kelemen, Health Services Director	Southeast Asian Mutual Assistant Associations Coalition, Inc. (SEAMAAC)	SEAMAAC is a long-standing service organization that supports immigrants from southeast Asia and Africans. Their services include health programs (e.g. prenatal care, Hepatitis B screening, lead screening) and other services. They have had a long partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. They are located at 1711 South Broad St. Philadelphia PA 19148.	nkelemen@seamaac.org 267-230-7337 215-467-0690 x18 Fax: 215-467-5301	

Appendix 3: Community Calendar of Events

Frequency	Date	Event	Description	Contact
Annual	Fri, Jun 12 – Sun, Jun 14, 2009	Annual ODUNDE Festival Weekend	Annual African-American festival weekend, partly sponsored by the Mayor’s Commission on African and Caribbean Affairs. The festival attracts over 500,000 people annually and takes place on Sound Street, between 21 st and 23 rd streets	ODUNDE, Inc. http://www.odundeinc.org Louis Fernandez 215-732-8510
Annual	Fri, Jul 24, 2009, 17:30 – 20:30	Celebrate Africa!	The African American Museum in Philadelphia in collaboration with the Liberian Association of Pennsylvania sponsored reception honoring the 162nd Independence Anniversary Celebration of Liberia. The celebration took place at 701 Arch St. Philadelphia PA 19103	
Annual	Sun, Aug 9, 2009, 12:00 – 17:00	The 9th African and Caribbean Health Fair at Kingsessing Recreation Center	Free health screenings, blood pressure, HIV testing & counseling, diabetes screening, dental and health information distributed. Also includes African & Caribbean food vendors, children's activities, talent show, soccer competition, free giveaways.	AFRICOM 4020 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 Vera Tolbert (215) 680-0722 Antoinette Ghartey (856) 304-4524
Monthly	Sat, Aug 15, 2009	African / Caribbean Task Force monthly meeting	Takes place at Mercy Hospital monthly in conjunction with Multicultural Family Services. It is a group that advocates for African and Caribbean service providers to deliver culturally competent behavioral health, social, health, and educational support services to their own communities.	Portia Kamara pkamara@mcsf.org.com
Intermittent	Tues, Aug 18, 2009, 18:00 – 02:00	Night in Mental Health with focus on domestic violence	Themed social event focusing on domestic violence, with social workers and case workers present.	Raphia Noubissi (267) 242-8233
Annual	Sat, Aug 22, 2009	Echoes of Africa	Echoes of Africa is a forum organized by the Office of Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell. The goal of the forum is public discourse and purposeful action in education, information, and development for African and the Diaspora. Event takes place at the Philadelphia Zoo.	Office of Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell: Anjali Chainani (215) 686-3418/3419, anjali.chainani@phila.gov
Monthly	Wed, Sept 9, 2009	Mayor's Commission on Caribbean and African Affairs	The Commission seeks to encourage the development and implementation of policies and practices intended to improve conditions affecting the numerous systems (including health, educational, political) for African and	Stan Straughter

Frequency	Date	Event	Description	Contact
			Caribbean immigrants, refugees, and asylees residing in Philadelphia. Meetings take place in the City Council Caucus Room 401, Philadelphia PA 19107.	
Annual	Sat, Sept 19, 2009, 12:00 – 18:00	Annual Blues Fest Block Party	The Partnership CDC, along with Elywn S.E.E.D.S., are making available a limited number of vendor spaces at the 4th Annual Blues Fest Block Party, to be held on Saturday, September 19. This year we expect 2,000 Philadelphians to gather around 40th and Market Streets for a day of entertainment, children’s activities, and community organizing. It’s a great opportunity to promote your products and services!	Contact Partnership CDC: (215) 662 - 1612
Annual	Sat, Oct 3, 2009	Health Fair at St. Cyprian’s Parish	Annual health fair	St. Cyprian’s Parish: Naomi Brown
Intermittent	Sat, Oct 18, 2009, 18:00 – 22:00	African & Caribbean Family Night & Banquet: Health Information & Discussion	African & Caribbean Family Night and Banquet Health Information and Discussion. Will include African & Caribbean food, dancing, free giveaways. Event to take place at Sikira Hall, 1040 S. 57th Street (57th and Baltimore) West Philadelphia, PA 19143	AFRICOM: Raphia Noubissi (267) 242-8233 Philip Udo-Inyang (484) 557-7445
Annual	March	Annual Migration Mass organized by Archdiocese of Philadelphia office of Pastoral Care	Annual mass that takes place during National Immigration Week in March which includes a colorful ethnic procession. Mass takes place at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul.	Office for Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees, (215) 587-3540 or migrefug@adphila.org
Weekly	Saturday evenings, 22:00 – midnight	Radio Xalaat, WURD, AM 900.	Weekly radio program on Saturday evenings, 10pm - 12am, on WURD AM 900 featuring discussions on topics such as current events and health in 3 languages (English, French, Wolof).	ElHadji N'Diaye

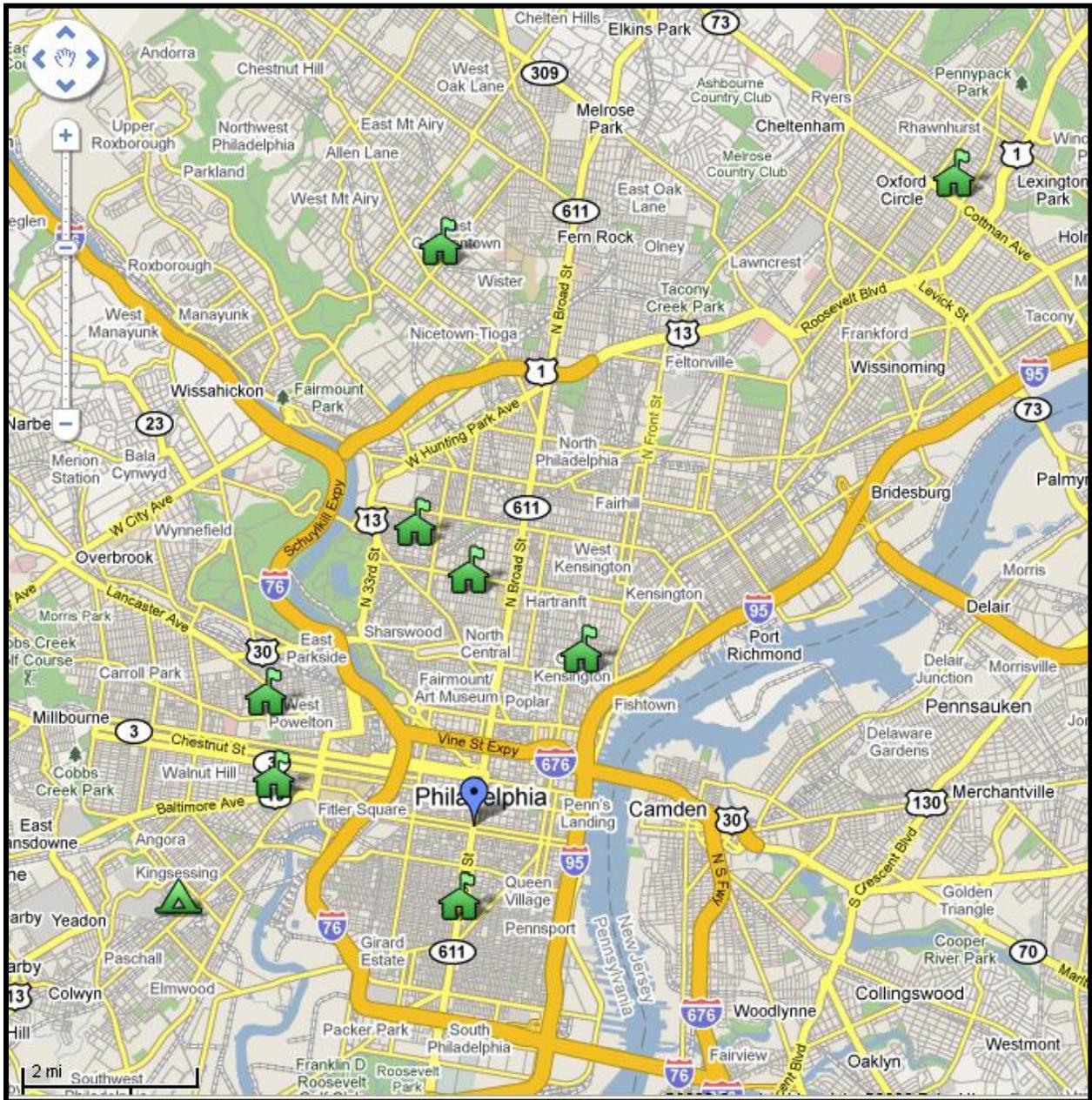
Appendix 4: Free Medical and Dental Care

Health Center	Address	Services and Phone Numbers
Philadelphia Health Care Center #1	1400 Lombard Street Philadelphia, PA 19146	STD & HIV testing only 215-685-6570
Philadelphia Health Care Center #2	1720 South Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19145	Medical (215) 685-1803 Dental (215) 685-1822
Philadelphia Health Care Center #3	555 South 43 rd Street Philadelphia, PA 19104	Medical (215) 685-7504 Dental (215) 685-7506
Philadelphia Health Care Center #4	4400 Haverford Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19104	Medical (215) 685-7601 Dental (215) 685-7605
Philadelphia Health Care Center #5	1920 North 20 th Street Philadelphia, PA 19121	Medical (215) 685-2933 Dental (215) 685-2938
Philadelphia Health Care Center #6	321 West Girard Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19123	Medical (215) 685-3803 Dental (215) 685-3816
Philadelphia Health Care Center #9	131 East Cheltenham Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19144	Medical (215) 685-5701 Dental (215) 685-5738
Philadelphia Health Care Center #10	2230 Cottman Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19149	Medical (215) 685-0639 Dental (215) 685-0608
Strawberry Mansion Health Center	2840 Dauphin Street Philadelphia, PA 19132	Medical (215) 685-2401 No Dental Services

Low Cost Health Care

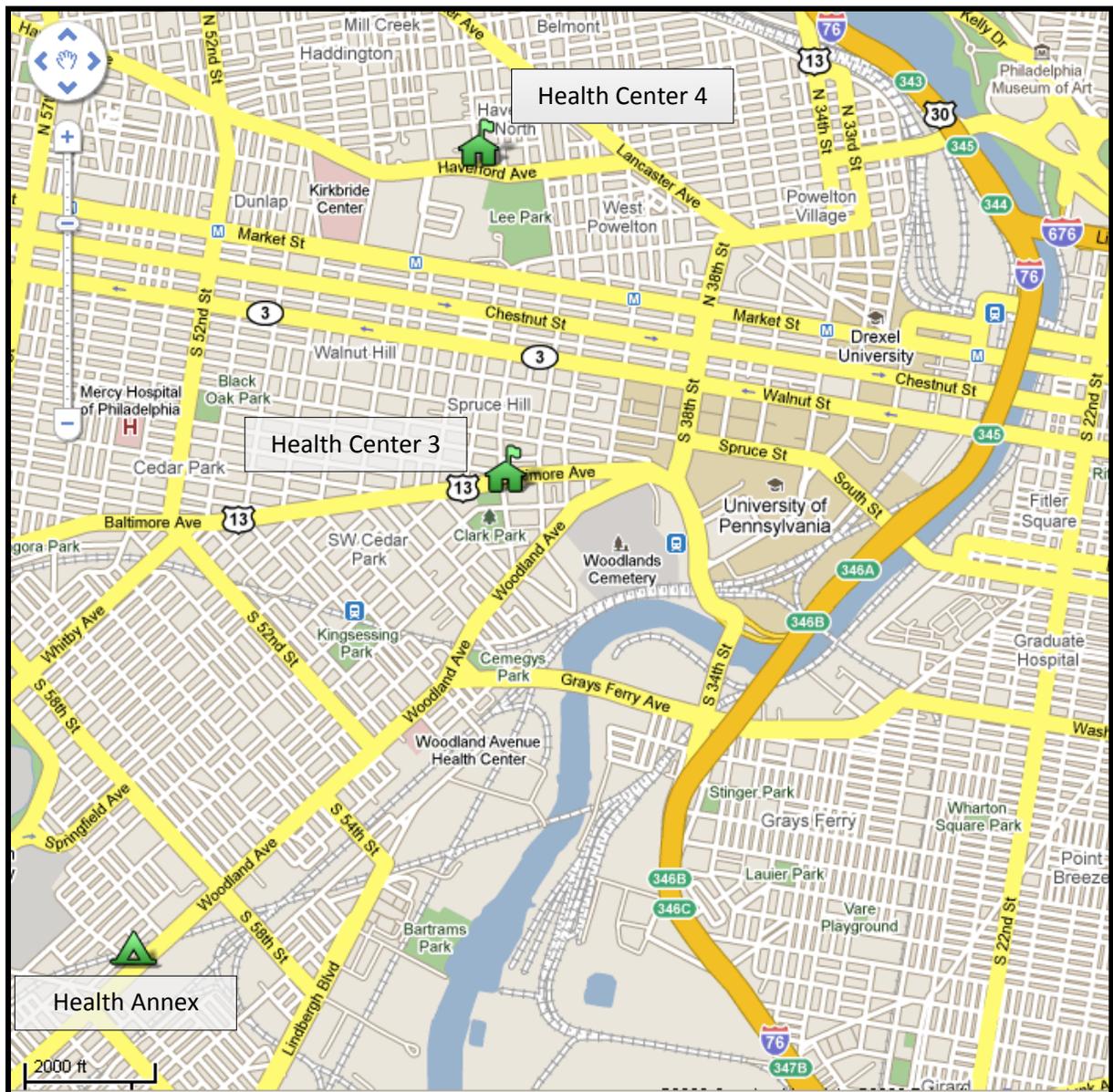
Health Annex	6120 Woodland Ave, Philadelphia, PA	(215) 727-4721 Medical (Sliding Scale Fee) Dental (Fixed prices)
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Map: Free Health Care Clinics, Metropolitan Philadelphia



-  Free Medical and Dental Care
-  Sliding Scale Fee Medical Care
-  STD & HIV Testing

Map: Free and Low Cost Health Clinics in West Philadelphia



Appendix 5: Funding and Grant-writing Resources for Non-Profit Organizations

Resource	Website	Resources
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health	www.ccph.info Join the listserv to get notices for grants	Public and private funding sources for program development and research in health promotion, disease prevention, and health disparities.
Foundation Center	foundationcenter.org Sign up for free newsletters to receive info on free seminars and funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comprehensive database on US foundations, corporate donors, and grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 5 Library/learning centers (New York, Washington, DC, Atlanta, Cleveland, San Francisco) ➤ Funding information centers at libraries, nonprofit resource centers, and organizations in every US states and abroad (i.e. Nigeria) ➤ Foundation Directory Online Directory (paid subscription or free on site use at all centers) ▪ Free and affordable educational programs (classroom and online) on the research funding process, proposal writing, etc.
AAUW (American Association of University Women)	www.aauw.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National and international fellowships, grants, and awards to advance educational and professional opportunities for women ▪ Community Action Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide funds to individuals or local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women/girls. ➤ Deadline Jan 15, 2010 ➤ One-year grants (\$2,000-7,000) ➤ Two-year grants (\$5000-10,000) ➤ Women who are US citizens or permanent residents
The Riley Guide	www.rileyguide.com/nonprof.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clearinghouse of information for nonprofits including directories of charitable organizations and resources for philanthropy, fundraising, and grant-writing
Online Consultant (Deborah Kluge)	www.proposalwriter.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides comprehensive and free information on grant/proposal writing, researching and obtaining grants, and other grant resources
Guide for Writing	www.learnerassociates.net/p	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clearing house of websites on proposal writing

a Funding Proposal	roposal/links.htm	
Step By Step Fundraising	www.stepbystepfundraising.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offers free and comprehensive grant-writing and fundraising resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Free training seminars, how-to articles, guides, foundation and grant databases/lists
National American Association for Environmental Education	eelink.net/pages/Grants+-+General+Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides information on funding resources, including grants, scholarships, awards, grant-writing assistance, links to websites ▪ Website has capacity to do multi-webpage grant search
Free Management Library	www.managementhelp.org www.managementhelp.org/fndrsng/np_raise/np_raise.htm www.managementhelp.org/gen_rsrc/megalist/megalist.htm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A complete integrated online library that contains many free resources for nonprofit organizations including online tutorials, in-depth explanations on topics such as fundraising and grant-writing, and listing of various websites with information for nonprofits
Pima County Public Library	www.library.pima.gov/research/grants/guide.php	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Free online grants and nonprofit information center providing guides on how to locate grants and other funding opportunities and write grant proposals
Yahoo's List of Grant-Making Foundations	dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Issues_and_Causes/Philanthropy/Organizations/Grant_Making_Foundations/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extensive list with links to several foundations
The Nonprofit Resource Center	www.not-for-profit.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information source for nonprofit organizations that provides a comprehensive list of websites of interest to nonprofits and grant-writing and fundraising resources
Fundsnet Online Services	www.fundsnet.com fundsnet.com/foundation-aa.htm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offers an alphabetical listing of foundation and other grant-makers ▪ Grant-writing and fundraising resources
Nonprofit Good Practice Guide	www.npgoodpractice.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nonprofit and philanthropy resource library containing information and good practices on many topics including fundraising