



The Black Belt Community Foundation

DATA IMPACT CENTER

The Black Belt Bulletin

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H.O.P.E. Ambassadors have recently completed surveys and handed out COVID19 informational flyers at several locations in Pickens and Sumter counties.

150+

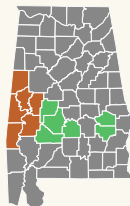
Regional partnerships established through H.O.P.E. Grant

Documented contacts with H.O.P.E. Grant county residents

3.5k

Project Directors, **Samantha Ledbetter** and **Wendell H. Paris** serve the following counties through the H.O.P.E. grant:

- Choctaw
- Greene
- Hale
- Marengo
- Pickens
- Sumter
- Bullock
- Dallas
- Lowndes
- Macon
- Perry
- Wilcox



Update on the H.O.P.E. Grant

To recap, The Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF) was awarded a Health, Outreach, Promotion and Education (H.O.P.E.) grant to advance Black health equity in the Black Belt region. BBCF H.O.P.E. Project Directors in charge of operations are Samantha Ledbetter and Wendell H. Paris. Director Ledbetter serves communities in Choctaw, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Pickens, and Sumter counties. Director Paris serves communities in Bullock, Dallas, Lowndes, Macon, Perry, and Wilcox counties.

One of the first tasks was the creation of the H.O.P.E. Ambassador Project which is an outgrowth of the Black Belt COVID-19 task force, a coalition of local political and community leaders who designed a regional approach to help access critical resources as well as address the issues of Black health in Black Belt counties. Through the creation of this project, "Ambassadors" will be recruited and trained to educating residents on the importance of vaccinations, boosters, and testing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 throughout the community.

In selecting Ambassadors for this project, Director Ledbetter said, "...the (most-important) attributes we were looking for in our candidates included: those who are well-known in the community, have an interest in healthcare and enjoy helping others, those who are open to new learning experiences and have a heart for outreach engagement, as well as those with great leadership skills...". The H.O.P.E. team rolled out a two-day curriculum training for H.O.P.E. Ambassadors the first week of February at Wallace Community College, and from all accounts Director Ledbetter says, "the training was a success!"

Overall, the BBCF H.O.P.E. Team is making great progress in its efforts. Currently, the Team has secured over 150 regional partnerships and documented over 3,500 contacts with residents. All-in-all, the project is steadily progressing and is already making inroads to provide a vital service to the communities throughout the region we serve!

BBCF H.O.P.E. Ambassadors & Community Coordinators



H.O.P.E. Ambassadors & Community Coordinators attended a two-day curriculum training the first week of February at Wallace Community College.

