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# Buffalo Center for Health Equity Annual Report

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December 2022



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# Leadership

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## Board of Directors

Pastor George F. Nicholas, President  
Rita Hubbard-Robinson, Esq., Treasurer  
Stan Martin, Secretary  
Dr. Mike Lamb

## Staff

Pastor George F. Nicholas, CEO  
Allita Steward Dockery, COO  
Dr. Willie Underwood, Director of Research  
Samantha Hidalgo, Public Health Program Manager  
Kimberly Slew-Ngarambe, Research Coordinator  
Ebony White, Community Health Engagement Manager  
Ebony Atwood, Exec. Assistant/ Office Manager  
AnnMarie Sava, Consultant (P2 Collaborative)

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# Introduction

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*Mission:*

*The Buffalo Center for Health Equity will eliminate race, economic and geographic-based health inequities by changing the social and economic conditions that cause illness and shorten lives.*

## **A Message from BCHE Leadership**

Prosperity, clarity and hope mark the year 2022 at the Buffalo Center for Health Equity (*hereafter*, The Center). As the epicenter for research, community engagement, policy development, advocacy and neighborhood development, we are energized by the advancements we've made to ensure a better quality of life for all. Our work has produced tangible results that respond to our nation's need to address the social determinants of health starting right here on the Eastside of Buffalo, New York.

In our mission to ensure equity, we have positioned traditionally excluded groups to not only join the conversation, but to also, lead the "movement." Establishing mechanisms for access connects an inter-generational group of leaders to the resources necessary to solve the most salient issues surrounding the social determinants of health. Moreover, a sense of urgency is incorporated into our *Phases of Response* as the individuals closest to the pain are empowered to devise remedies for a solution.

The information contained in this Annual Report, highlights the immense growth of The Center from a physical, organizational, programmatic, staffing and research perspective; and we are steadfast in our mission to cause a shift and forge a permanent path forward.

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# Capacity Building

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## Staffing

To ensure the highest level of service to our community, the Board of Directors voted to hire additional staff. Allita Steward Dockery and Samantha Hidalgo were hired as the organization's Chief Operating Officer and Program Development Coordinator, respectively. This expansion in professional talent was critical to the formation of an organizational structure suitable in the years to come. In addition to these roles, the following changes were implemented to build The Center's capacity:

- A part-time "Community Engagement Assistant" will join our existing Community Engagement team in January 2023.
- A full-time "Health Policy Advocate" was budgeted for hire in February 2023.

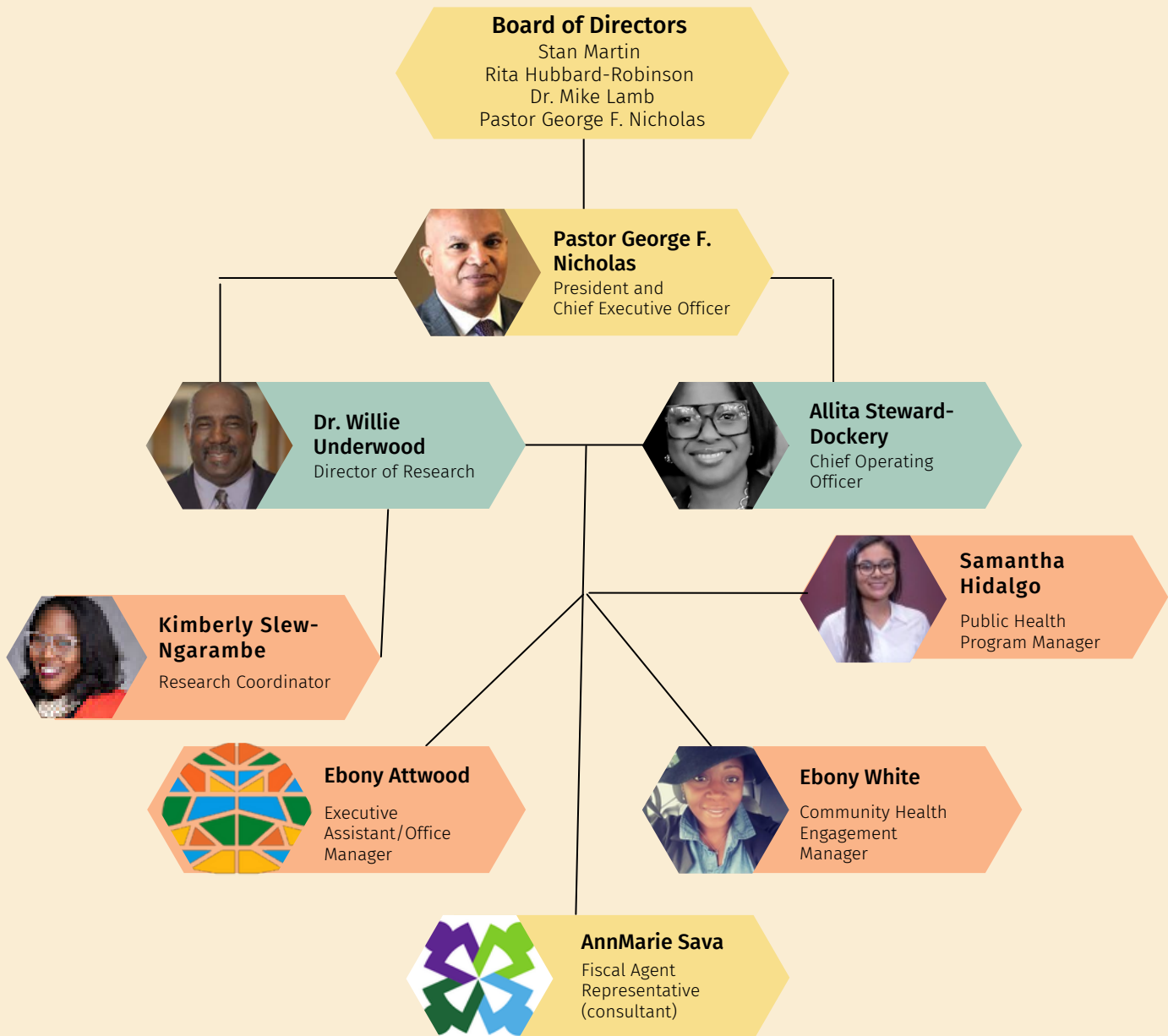
Furthermore, the job titles of the following employees has been updated to better reflect the needs of the organization:

- Ebony White, **Community Health Engagement Manager** (formerly Community Engagement Coordinator)
- Ebony Attwood, "**Executive Assistant/Office Manager** (formerly Executive Assistant)
- Samantha Hidalgo, **Public Health Program Manager** (formerly Program Development Coordinator)
- Kimberly Slew-Ngarambe, **Research Coordinator** (formerly Director of Operations)

## Fiscal Management

As part of the BCHE's transition from an organization that requires a fiscal manager (Population Health Collaborative) to one with financial independence, we have begun standardizing our Procurement Policies and Processes to improve organizational efficiency. Our improved capacity for financial management was verified as our organization was approved as a vendor to New York State Grants, through Grants Gateway. With this approval the BCHE is eligible to receive State funding. Federal grants, through a SAM.GOV registration are in process. With these updates as well as our approved 501c(3); the organization's full corporate independence is quickly forthcoming.

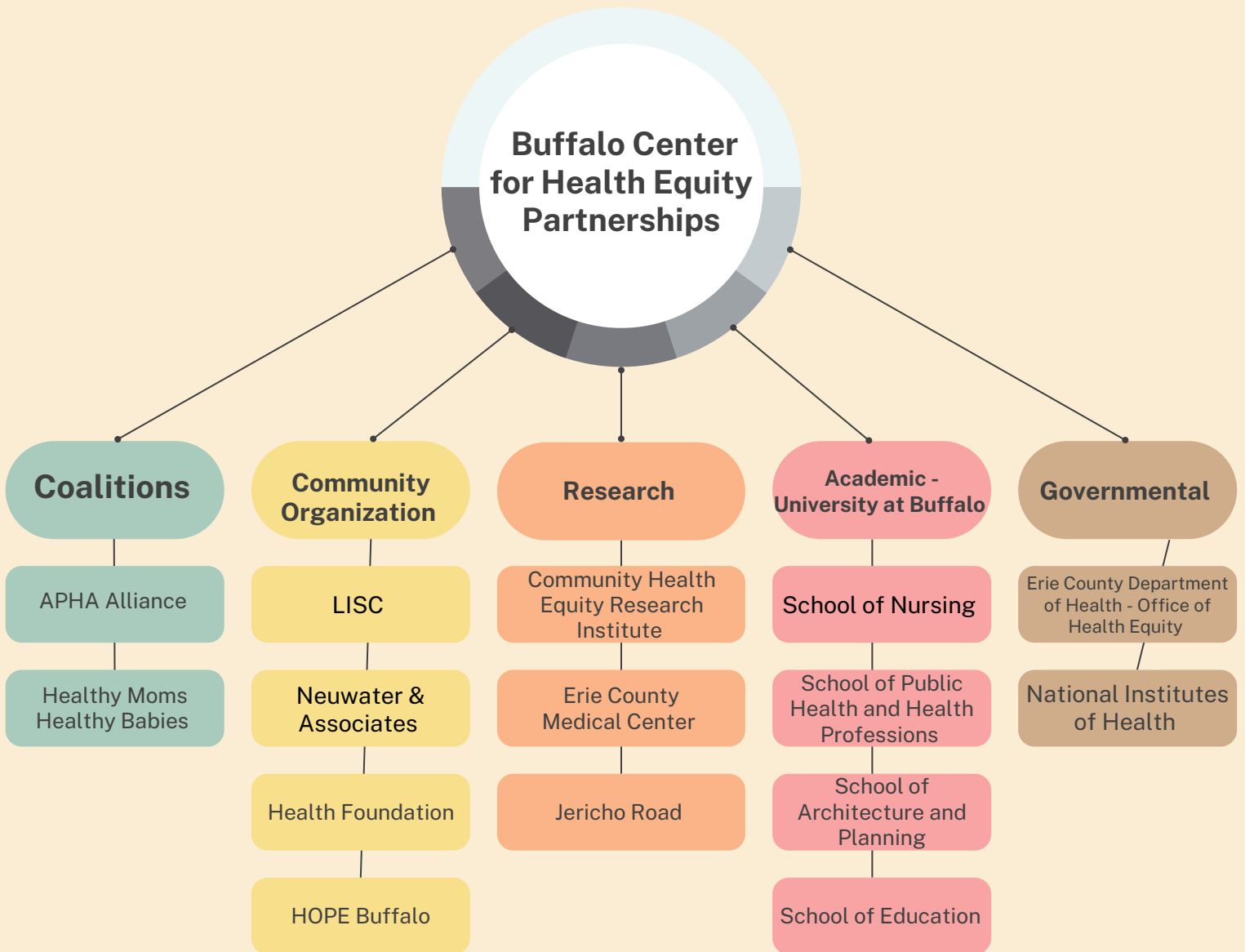
# Organizational Chart



# Partnerships



Our success relies on Key Partnerships, the following chart is an outline of the different partnerships and the various organizations we engage.



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# Programs & Activities

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The following is a time line of the public health programs and activities we have executed.

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## 1 / Igniting Hope

This annual conference, hosted at the Jacobs School of Medicine, is dedicated to discussing and unpacking root causes of health disparities. The theme for this year was: Advocating in a New Reality: Breaking Barriers, Maintaining Resilience and Reconstructing a Community of Care

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## 2 / BUILD Health Challenge Grant

The Center initiated pursuit of the BUILD grant and have spearheaded the development of the second round application. We are the convening partner agency for program planning

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## 3 / FoodSmart

A project dedicated to closing the food insecurity gap through virtual telehealth meetings with a registered dietician and meal planning assistance  
Assisted in the program planning project for FoodSmart to roll out in Buffalo

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## 4 / UB MPH Intern Program

Committed the BCHE as a hub for emerging public health leaders through the MPH program at the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions.

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# Programs & Activities

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The following is a time line of the public health programs and activities we have executed.

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## 5/ Rite Aid:



### Healthy Futures

Assisted in the creating of the quarterly report for the Rite Aid Foundation

We continue to assist in food equity work and the faith based food equity network

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## 6 / Food as



### Medicine

When planning for the utilization of 1115 Waiver funding the Center has made a commitment to expanding Food as Medicine programs. We have consulted with CHLPI (Harvard Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation) on how to implement Food as Medicine program and connected with The Food Pantries of the Capital District to help develop a statewide comp plan.

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## 7 / APHA



### Alliance

The Center became a member of the APHA Alliance, a multi-disciplinary coalition of CBOs, non-profits, business groups, and philanthropies, to discuss how we do health equity work in Buffalo and how we can do equitable work around the county.

We created a short presentation to explain our history and roots in the community

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# Programs & Activities

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The following is a time line of the public health programs and activities we have executed.

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## 8 / Research Day

The second annual Research Day sponsored by the Community Health Equity research Institute was hosted in October 2022. The Center participated and was updated on other local health equity research studies and initiatives.

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## 9 / Earth Day

The Center is planning an Earth Day event with NYPA and other environmental agencies to bring awareness and education to the community.

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## 10 / NIH

### ComPASS

Submitted an LOI to the NIH for Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society (ComPASS) Program: Community-Led, Health Equity Structural Intervention Initiative

Decision for invitation for full application will be announced on December 16th

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## 11/ Rise Project

Completed a Lead application for a NY Department of Criminal Justice project RISE. This project will allow the Center to assist smaller grassroots agencies the capacity to carry out anti-violence and violence prevention programming.

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# Programs & Activities

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The following is a time line of the public health programs and activities we have executed.

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## 12 /Healthy Mom

### Healthy Baby

The BCHE joined the HMHB United Way and March of Dimes coalition. This coalition is made up of maternal health organizations in Buffalo and Western New York who are committed to ending maternal health disparities.

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## 13/ Child

### Maltreatment

### Project

Joint pilot project with University at Buffalo - SPHHP Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health and Department of Geography and SUNY Albany, to determine if the expansion and then subsequent reduction of social safety net programs influenced child maltreatment which includes child neglect and abuse

If successful a proposal will be submitted for an R01 NIH grant and the Center will assist in project expansion, participant recruitment, and research dissemination

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# Community Engagement

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The Center is comprised of subject matter experts that are leaders and influencers of equity change within the domain of social determinants. Our organization participated in the CDC funded REACH Buffalo initiative (Racial Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) and was key in supporting flu health promotion, community access, and partner participation to improve the vaccination uptake.

BCHE's civic engagement has strengthened its position among area institutions. The net result was an expanded community network for project management activities. Domains of services impacted include: community organizing, policy, research, and advocacy (through the input of its community engagement strategy). The following partners are integral in the collection of quantitative and qualitative data. This data informs the development of workshops designed to improve the health of Black and Brown communities negatively impacted by systemic social and healthcare delivery systems.

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<b>Partner</b>	<b>Activity / Project</b>	<b>Estimate Outreach</b>
National Witness Project	Door to door, tabling, community surveys, and listserv enrollment and COVID-19 vaccine education, appointment scheduling and uptake.	1,200 persons reached
Health Sciences Charter School	Anchoring health equity workshops for upcoming health professionals and qualitative data opportunity for students, families, and faculty	400 persons reached
Heart of the City	Environmental stewardship program providing equity workshops, community canvassing surveys for REACH, and volunteer opportunity coordination	300 persons reached

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# Community Engagement



Partner	Activity / Project	Estimated Outreach
Western New York Integrated Collaborative Care	Supporting Diabetes Prevention Programming with trained DPP Life Coach/Diabetes Peer Leader for evidence-based programs and supporting Horizon Health pilot referral of community clinical linkage	150 persons reached
CAI/REACH Buffalo	Supporting the strategy for training community vaccine champions, coordinating events, vaccination administrators, reports, and liaison for new partnerships to improve vaccination uptake of both COVID-19/flu vaccination	30,000 persons reached via through radio, newspaper, tabling, and workshops offered collaboratively.
Cornell Cooperative Extension Healthy Community Store Initiative	Managing the advocate group with training, tabling coordination, reporting, and budget monitoring to satisfy grant deliverables.	3000 persons reached
UB Jacobs School of Medicine	Supporting with content for equity and SDOH workshops offered by residency program to improve the patient/provider relationships with meaningful exercises to assist with delivery of healthcare. Coordination of community engagement opportunities with stakeholders and/or faith organizations.	120 persons reached

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# Research

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The research department successfully launched the Blue Fund Diabetes study in early 2022. This study, in partnership with Dr. Ilozue of Rapha Family Medicine and Connie Ervin from Aunt Connie's Ed-U-Kitchen has been completed. The resulting data from this work was collected is on schedule to be reviewed and analyzed for dissemination and reporting at the close of December 2022.

In June, the research department successfully launched the Hypertension Remote Patient Monitoring project in partnership with Erie County Medical Center (ECMC). To date, the project is meeting its goals as it aims to develop a comprehensive remote patient monitoring program for hypertensive patients. This was done in an effort to increase compliance with best practice protocols and to increase hypertension control rates for a defined patient population. The defined patient population consists of any Highmark or Independent Health product patients assigned to an ECMC owned and operated Primary Care Center. These individuals were required to have been seen for at least one preventative visit (as defined by CMS through CPT codes) in 2021 with their ECMC Primary Care provider, and who are hypertensive stage one (1) as defined by the American Heart Association as having a blood pressure between 130/80 and 139/89 or hypertensive stage 2 as defined by the American Heart Association as having a blood pressure greater than or equal to 140/90.

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## 269

Enrolled participants  
(needed 100)

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## 0

Patients in the  
emergency room

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## 306

Alerts from 84 patients.  
Which occurred from  
either participants  
smoking and or drinking  
coffee directly before  
checking BP.

# Budget



## Highmark Blue Fund Fiscal Report 2023 Budget Draft

### Highmark Blue Fund

#### Buffalo Center for Health Equity

#### Capacity Building and Targeted Programs

January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

Interim Report: January 1 - October 31, 2022

Appendix B-1

BCHE Budget Projection 2023

#### Gross Payroll: Leadership Team

	2022 Budget	Actual Jan 1 - Oct 31, 2022	In-Kind Jan 1 - Oct 31, 2022	2023 Budget
Chief Executive Officers: <b>CEO</b>	105,000.00	10,000.00	86,400.00	115,000
Chief Executive Officers: <b>COO</b>		326.92		85,000
Admin Support/ Bookkeeper ( <b>Office Manager</b> )	40,000.00	31,553.01		45,000
Project Coordinator	60,000.00			
Admin Assistant	30,000.00			30,000
Gross Payroll: Leadership Team	235,000.00	41,879.93		275,000
Fringe Benefits @22%/22.5%	51,700.00	6,267.59		61,875
<b>Total Leadership Expenses</b>	286,700.00	48,147.52		336,875

#### Subcontractor Expense to support the five Pillars

<b>Research</b>				
Team Leader	90,000.00			90,000
Research Assistant	45,000.00			
Equipment and supplies	10,000.00	1,399.99		10,000
<b>Policy Development</b>				
Sr. Policy Analyst	70,000.00			70,000
Consultant services	15,000.00			15,000
Travel/conferences	10,000.00			10,000
Equipment and supplies	5,000.00			5,000
<b>Community Engagement</b>				
Community Engagement Coordinator	65,000.00			
<b>Food Equity</b>				
		35,000.00		42,000

# Budget



## Highmark Blue Fund Fiscal Report 2023 Budget Draft (cont.)

Consultant services	15,000.00	70,000.00		60,000
Community meetings	12,000.00	2,971.29		12,000
Equipment and supplies	5,000.00			5,000
<b>Advocacy and Communications</b>				
Communications Specialist PT	30,000.00			30,000
Advocacy Coordinator PT	30,000.00			30,000
Equipment and supplies	20,000.00			20,000
Advertising / Pod Cast	15,000.00	2,809.93		15,000
<b>Neighborhood Development</b>				
Neighborhood Development Coordinator	60,000.00			60,000
Consultant services	20,000.00			20,000
Equipment and Materials	5,000.00			5,000
Training, travel, conferences	10,000.00			10,000
<b>Total Subcontractor Expense</b>		532,000.00		
<b>Other Project Expenses</b>		138,000.00		40,000
			46,276.00	
			2,000.00	
<b>Other Operating Expenses</b>				
Igniting Hope Conference	50,000.00			42,000
Rent	30,000.00		30,893.00	
Technology, Internet/ <b>Office Equipment &amp; Supplies</b>	10,000.00	1,567.35		15,000
Meeting Expense	2,000.00	1,477.33		4,725
Mileage Expense for Staff	1,300.00			2,400
Fiscal & Overhead Support	50,000.00	6,101.17		50,000
		1,650.00		
<b>Total Expenses/ Total Investment</b>		1,100,000.00		
<b>Highmark</b>	<b>1,000,000.00</b>	<b>219,400.58</b>	<b>117,293.00</b>	<b>1,000,000.00</b>
<b>HFWCNY Expenses not included in the Highmark fiscal report</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>			



# Budget



## Highmark Blue Fund Fiscal Report due December, 2022

Highmark Blue Fund				
Buffalo Center for Health Equity				
Capacity Building and Targeted Programs				
January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022				
Interim Report: January 1 - October 31, 2022				
Appendix B-1				
BCHE Year 1 budget	Budget	Actual Jan 1 - Oct 31, 2022	In-Kind Jan 1 - Oct 31, 2022	Notes
<b>Gross Payroll: Leadership Team</b>				
Chief Executive Officers: <b>CEO</b>	105,000.00	10,000.00	86,400.00	Inkind: Pastor Nicholas (Jan-Sept)
Chief Executive Officers: <b>COO</b>		326.92		
Admin Support/ Bookkeeper ( <b>Office Manager</b> )	40,000.00	31,553.01		
Project Coordinator	60,000.00			
Admin Assistant	30,000.00			
Gross Payroll: Leadership Team	235,000.00	41,879.93		
Fringe Benefits @22%	51,700.00	6,267.59		
<b>Total Leadership Expenses</b>	<b>286,700.00</b>	<b>48,147.52</b>		
<b>Subcontractor Expense to support the five Pillars</b>				
<b>Research</b>				
Team Leader	90,000.00			Contract finalized December 2022
Research Assistant	45,000.00			
Equipment and supplies	10,000.00	1,399.99		Dell Computer for Dr Underwood
<b>Policy Development</b>				
Sr. Policy Analyst	70,000.00			
Consultant services	15,000.00			
Travel/conferences	10,000.00			
Equipment and supplies	5,000.00			
<b>Community Engagement</b>				
Community Engagement Coordinator	65,000.00			
<b>Food Equity</b>				
		35,000.00		NeuWater & Assoc.

# Budget



## Highmark Blue Fund Fiscal Report due December, 2022 (cont.)

Consultant services	15,000.00	70,000.00		The National Witness Project, Inc.
Community meetings	12,000.00	2,971.29		
Equipment and supplies	5,000.00			
<b>Advocacy and Communications</b>				
Communications Specialist PT	30,000.00			
Advocacy Coordinator PT	30,000.00			
Equipment and supplies	20,000.00			
Advertising / Pod Cast	15,000.00	2,809.93		Jennifer Williams/ Jazz Cast Pros/Pod Cast
<b>Neighborhood Development</b>				
Neighborhood Development Coordinator	60,000.00			
Consultant services	20,000.00			
Equipment and Materials	5,000.00			
Training, travel, conferences	10,000.00			
<b>Total Subcontractor Expense</b>	<b>532,000.00</b>			
<b>Other Project Expenses</b>	<b>138,000.00</b>			
		46,276.00		May 14th Support
		2,000.00		American Food Equity Conference
<b>Other Operating Expenses</b>				
Igniting Hope Conference	50,000.00			
Rent	30,000.00		30,893.00	
Technology, Internet	10,000.00	1,567.35		Spectrum, Square Space, Msft, Zoom
Meeting Expense	2,000.00	1,477.33		
Mileage Expense for Staff	1,300.00			
Fiscal & Overhead Support	50,000.00	6,101.17		P2 Collaborative / Fiscal Agent
		1,650.00		Roseanne Wisniewski/ Grant Writer
<b>Total Expenses/ Total Investment</b>	<b>1,100,000.00</b>			
<b>Highmark</b>	<b>1,000,000.00</b>	<b>219,400.58</b>	<b>117,293.00</b>	<b>336,693.58</b>
<b>HFWCNY Expenses not included in the Highmark fiscal report</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>			