Who We Are

We are educators, professionals, volunteers and advisors committed to improving the health of older African Americans in Detroit. The University of Michigan and Wayne State University provide the faculty who jointly lead the Healthier Black Elders Center initiative. Through a combination of research and education, the HBEC reaches often overlooked residents of the urban landscape to improve their health and aging. Located at the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State, the HBEC is part of the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR) and is funded by the National Institute on Aging.

How We Help Others

The HBEC is committed to research and service, and strives to improve the lives of Detroit’s Black Elders by engaging them, community leaders, health professionals, researchers, and city residents through the following programs:

We Help Healthcare Professionals Assess and Treat Older African Americans

We Share Best Research Practices with Universities, the Community and Healthcare Providers

We Train Scholars to Research the Health of Older African Americans

We Educate the Public about:
- Arthritis
- Blood Pressure
- Cancer
- Caregiving
- Dementia
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Falls and Balance
- Heart Disease
- Nutrition
- Pain and Palliative Care
- Prostate Cancer
- Sexually Transmitted Disease
- And other topics relevant to successful aging
How You Can Help Us

A core goal of the HBEC is to encourage older African American adults to consider participating in research projects that have been approved by the HBEC. In the past, researchers have been hampered by difficulties recruiting older African Americans to be involved in research projects. Research is critical to understanding why African Americans are at much higher risk of developing certain diseases and why these diseases have a greater impact on their health and longevity.

The HBEC has worked to correct this problem by creating a Participant Resource Pool or PRP. If you agree to be part of the PRP, the Center guarantees that:

• All research projects meet the highest quality Federal State and University standards
• Your information will be handled with the strictest confidence
• You will be considered for research that is of interest to you
• You have the right to decline a research project for any reason at any time

What’s Next?

To learn more about our work at the Healthier Black Elders Center and how to join our Participant Resource Pool, please contact Ms. Karen Daniels at 313-871-0735 or visit the HBEC website at: www.mcuaaar.wayne.edu

Who’s Who

Community Advisory Board

Dr. Ethel Ambrose
Retired, Social Worker

Ms. Dorothy Bell
Vice President, Resident Council
Presbyterian Villages - Village of Brush Park

Dr. Joanne Benton
Founder, Women’s Justice Center

Mr. James Bridgforth
Retired, Claims and Servicing Manager
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Ms. Tyrone Carter III
Retired, Detroit Police Department

Ms. June Clark
Program Director, WSU – ACTIVE Research Project

Ms. Precious Everett
Retired, City of Detroit Principal Medical Tech

Mr. Charles E. Jackson
Gerontology Counselor

Mr. Chester Johnson
HSTA Senior Case Manager, City of Detroit

Ms. JoAnn H. Labostrie
Retired, Detroit Public School Math Educator

Ms. Johnetta McLeod
President, Detroit Direct Development, LLC

Mr. Eugene Odom
Retired, Insurance Rep., American General Insurance Company

Ms. Allena Robinson
President, Senior Ambassador of Michigan

Ms. Narvell C. Stotts
Retired, Information and Referral Specialist
Detroit Senior Citizens Dept

Ms. JoAnn Smith-Taylor
Retired, Medicare/Medicaid

John J. Villa
Retired, General Electric Company

HEALTHIER BLACK ELDER CENTER

University of Michigan and Wayne State University’s Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR): A National Institute on Aging Grant Program