

# **Innovative Pathways to Health Equity: The West Baltimore RICH Collaborative**

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### Background

- According to the CDC, approximately 61% of Black/African Americans suffer from hypertension
- Four zip codes (21201, 21217, 21223, and 21229) in Baltimore account for a strikingly high rate of hospitalizations due to hypertension and cardiovascular disease.
- Social isolation exacerbates risk for heart disease
- Traditional siloed approaches to addressing health inequities have not successfully eliminated health inequities in marginalized communities.
- Innovative models that reduce fragmentations across places of care are urgently needed.

# **Program Goals**

West Baltimore **RICH** Collaborative is a Pathways for Health Equity Grant and aligns with the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act

- **Reduce Health Disparities**
- Improve Health Outcomes
- **Increase Access to Primary Care**
- Promote Primary and Secondary Preventive Services
- Reduce Costs, Admissions and Readmissions

# Implications

Strong, trusting partnerships between health care, community, academic, and faith-based organizations can result in collective impact to reduce health inequities in hypertension and social isolation.

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### **Results/Desired Outcomes**

Shared learning across diverse sites to reduce fragmentations in patient

Decrease disparities in hypertension and social isolation

Decrease health related social need for participants by addressing health related social need with community outreach workers

Reduce unnecessary admissions and readmissions with primary care via four nurse led clinics and self monitoring of BP at home

Increase access to primary/secondary care and support groups to address underlying issues including social isolation and grief