

NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE (NBCI) OVERVIEW

Organization Overview

- **The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI)** is a coalition of 34,000 African- American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment.
 - **Mission:** To provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public.
- NBCI's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities.
- NBCI's programs are governed by a methodology that utilizes faith and sound health science. credible statistical analysis, science-based strategies and techniques, and methods.

History

- The National Black Church Initiative was formed in 1991 when a group of African American ministers from various religious denominations launched the DC Black Church Initiative in Washington, DC to address racial disparities in healthcare and the need for the expansion of human and social services in the District. The initial purpose was to address race in healthcare services.
- In 2008, the Board of Directors decided to begin major initiatives aimed at broadening the Initiative's mission.

Reach

- 34,000 African American and Latino churches comprised of 37 denominations and 26.7 million members are part of the NBCI with an additional 116,000 sister churches, working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. A list of key member churches can be found [here](#).
- The NBCI is organized into five geographic areas: South East (Atlanta, GA), North East (New York, NY); Mid-West (Chicago, IL); Western (Oakland, CA) and South West (Dallas, TX)
- Membership rates are \$350 annually for churches and organizations, and \$150 annually for individuals.
- The group offers a [newsletter](#) (most recent issue from 2017).
- Total # of Social Media Followers:



@NationalBlackChurchInitiative;
990 followers



@NBCIBlackChurch;
281 followers



NBCI Leadership



Rev. Anthony Evans
President

Reverend Anthony Evans became President of the NBCI in 1992 and leads the coalition of churches across the country to fight to reduce health disparities, foreclosure, homelessness and black on black crime as well as promote financial literacy and help to preserve environmental justice across the country. Reverend Evans has had a long history as a cause advocate including the following:

- In 2010 Rev. Evans organized a group of young hip hop artists and traditional black church leaders to launch an initiative to aid Haiti and Haitians, committing NBCI for seven years to work through Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention to aid in the reconstruction of Haiti, especially in the areas of housing, parenthood, economic development and civil society.
- In 2005 in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Rev. Evans and the NBCI mobilized over 15,000 volunteers to serve in the disaster relief effort. These volunteers came from many ethnic backgrounds, illustrating NBCI's policy of an interfaith and interracial approach to solving social problems. NBCI churches, along with other minority churches across the country, helped to raise more than \$1 billion in cash and social services.
- In July 2006, Rev. Evans participated in a massive protest outside the Sudanese embassy to denounce the country's role in the genocide of its African citizens.
- In 1989, Rev. Evans was arrested during a protest in front of the South African embassy until the end of minority rule and the freeing of Nelson Mandela. He helped continue that protest for nearly two years.
- A native of Savanna, GA, Rev. Evans earned a Bachelor's degree in Religion in 1981 from Middlebury College, Vermont. Rev. Evans was ordained in 1982 and went on to earn a Master's in Divinity in 1988 from Howard University School of Divinity.

Key Programs & Initiatives

Under the leadership of Rev. Anthony Evans, NBCI has launched three key programs:

NBCI Health Emergency Declaration (HED)

- NBCI has issued a **Health Emergency Declaration (HED): A Preventative Health Strategy**
- Throughout its 34,000 churches and 35 focused communities, HED's aim is to educate communities across the country and promote preventative healthcare.
- As a part of its HED educational offerings, the group provides information on Spirituality, Health & Healing, Men's Health, Women's Health, Family Health, Food and Nutrition, and Physical Fitness.
- For 2019-2020, HED is leading a fifteen-part nationwide lecture tour that will highlight the top 15 African Americans clinicians in the country in their various clinical fields of expertise.
- The tour aims to further NBCI's Clinical Trials Education Awareness and Participation Program (CTEAPP) whose goal is to assure 15% or more black participation in clinical trials.
 - CTEAPP has partnered with **Bridge Clinical Research (BCR)** that provides recruitment strategies and solutions to address the unique challenges surrounding minority participation in clinical trials. **Owen Garrick, MD** is President & CEO of BCR.
- As a part of HED, NBCI partnered with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLC) for the **Myeloma Link Pilot Program**.
 - The Myeloma Link Pilot Program featured church-based activities that were implemented in

Atlanta, GA and Washington, D.C. between March, 2017 and May, 2018, particularly in low-income communities, in an effort to heighten awareness of myeloma.

- The populations were reached with a variety of activities including media, church-based awareness events and education.:
- A summary of the results and reach of the Pilot Program can be found [here](#) in the Executive Summary (2018, pdf).

In 2017, NBCI provided a 109-page [Recommendations to the Food and Drug Administration](#); the proposal's aim was to "compel the Food and Drug Administration to utilize its regulatory authority over the National Institute of Health and pharmaceutical industries to provide a substantive plan and framework to increase the numbers of African Americans in clinical trials."

- NBCI's goals in light of the recommendation to the FDA as noted in the report:
 - To create a 5-year framework for increasing African American participation in clinical trials to 10-20 percent while incorporating the existing efforts and approaches by both government and pharma.
 - To utilize the FDA and its authority to enforce the premise of the framework within the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry.
 - To institutionalize this 10-20 percent goal into the life of this country's healthcare system
- Within the report, NBCI notes:
 - The National Black Church Initiative has worked with a number of pharma companies around the issues of clinical trials over the past 20 years and we know firsthand that the present pricings of the vast majority of Pharmaceutical companies seems just to us. Largely because of the enormous amount of money that is reinvested on research and development. We have met many of the researchers over the years who have such an unshakeable and unwavering commitment. Their perseverance gives us hope that the health disparity gap will someday soon be closed.

NBCI Financial Literacy Initiative

As a part of its Financial Literacy initiative, NBCI produced a 210-page Ten Year (2017-2027) Economic Development Plan. A few of the highlights of the plan include:

- The reestablishment of the National Black Church Initiative Economic Advisory Board consisting of a representative from each of the denominations.
- Developing a savings culture in the Church (promoting to raise African American Savings rates by 40% over the next ten years).
- Teaching African-Americans the necessity of having five different channels of income.
- Conducting a fifty-state income and savings data analysis of African Americans annually with comparative data from the National Urban League state of Black America
- A comprehensive data study on Black home ownership

NBCI Housing Literacy Program

- NBCI teamed with national mortgage and housing organizations to provide congregants and the public with information on how to keep their home.
 - One of the products of the program is the NBCI Foreclosure Prevention Guide that helps to identify resources for the explicit purpose of assisting homeowners facing financial difficulties.
- Some of the other NBCI programs and initiatives include:
 - **A \$5 million campaign and fundraising to help black women defeat lupus.**
 - **Education Initiative**
 - **Small Business Initiative**
 - **Digital Divide Initiative**
 - **Environmental Initiative**



Covid-19

- NBCI was referenced in an August 5, 2020 WSJ article titled: [Covid-19 Vaccine Trials Have a Problem: Minority Groups Don't Trust Them](#):
 - The National Black Church Initiative, which includes about 150,000 U.S. churches, is working with Moderna Inc. MRNA -5.30% after contacting the drugmaker about collaborating on enrollment. Pastors will help educate church members about vaccines and encourage them to enroll, said Rev. Anthony Evans, president of NBCI, which has worked with the industry on more than a dozen trials before Covid-19... "We want to be included. We don't want to be thought of afterward," he said. "And since the disease is impacting the African-American community greater than any other community, we demand that."

Patient Advocacy Group Affiliations

- The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) hosted a webinar on Monday, December 2, 2019, which included a presentation by the National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) titled ["Creating a New Path Toward Clinical Trials In the African American Community Utilizing a Faith-Based Scientific Approach."](#)
- As a part of HED, NBCI partnered with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLC) for the Myeloma Link Pilot Program (see above).

In 2019, the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF) conducted a study to determine the underlying reasons for the increased risk of myeloma in certain races and in family members as a part of its IMF African-American Initiative. NBCI noted that it was happy to work with the IMF to help raise awareness about multiple myeloma among African Americans. [no further details of the relationship were located on either the NBCI or IMF sites].

Industry Affiliations

- In 2018, NBCI issued a boycott against Wells Fargo noting that the bank's unfair mortgage practices targeted African American communities and suppressed economic growth in Black neighborhoods.
- In 2011, as a part of NBCI HED series, the group partnered with Novartis on a multiple myeloma [campaign](#) (link to campaign fact sheet).

Sponsors

NBCI lists some of its partners as: Amerigroup, The DC Department of Health, Carefirst, The Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association, The National Dairy Association, The National Medical Association, and Black Entertainment Television (BET).

Financials

- The group offers [fiscal plans](#) on its website for the years 2017-2022.
- The group is not required to file an annual return with the IRS because it is a church [Guide-Star].

PRIORITIZING EVERY PATIENT

Prioritizing Every Patient Prioritizing Every Patient (PEP) is an Rx4good initiative to identify partners and approaches that can help address health disparities and improve outcomes for minority populations. Our team of researchers and advocacy experts explore the healthcare and broader social landscape to reveal collaboration and engagement opportunities that can help advance your diversity and inclusion goals. If you would like to know more about how we can help, [click here](#).

