

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INNOVATION

IMPROVING OUR REGION'S HEALTH SINCE 2010

As the official public health institute serving Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI) develops multi-sector partnerships and innovative solutions to improve the public's health and well-being across the region. Our work strengthens health systems and policy, enhances conditions that promote health and builds community capacity to ensure equitable health opportunities for all.

OUR IMPACT

With backing from the National Network of Public Health Institutes and regional stakeholders, IPHI launched in 2010 as the DC-MD-VA region's official public health institute. Over the subsequent decade, IPHI secured millions in new funding for the region, expanded the public health workforce, led policy and systems change and forged partnerships with a wide range of government agencies, universities, health care providers and insurers, foundations and charities, community-based organizations, businesses and many other partners.

10

Years strengthening policies, systems and environments to create healthier, more equitable communities.

25

Million dollars secured for public health programs benefiting the region.

700

Community health workers (CHW) trained and 120 CHW jobs created.

175

Local and state policies passed to improve community health and advance equity.

500

Public health professionals and organizations across the country trained on applying an equity lens to their work.

400

COVID-19 emergency responders hired, trained and deployed.

OUR ACTION AREAS



**Strengthening
Policies, Systems
and Environments to
Create Healthier,
more Equitable
Communities**



**Expanding the
Public Health
Workforce**



**Increasing Access to
Community Health
Resources**



**Creating Healthier,
Equitable and
Sustainable Food
Systems**




**Expanding Local
Capacity to Respond
to the COVID-19
Pandemic**

STRENGTHENING POLICIES, SYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENTS TO CREATE HEALTHIER, MORE EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

The context in which people live, learn, work and play has tremendous influence over their health, both directly and indirectly. From a regional campaign to create healthier cities and towns to our role as a backbone for local and state coalitions advocating for structural change to address inequitable health outcomes, IPHI has become an important partner in efforts to strengthen policies, systems and environments to produce better community health in our region.





The HEAL resolution has been a catalyst in our organization and in our community for a wide spectrum of activities, programs, and education all designed to improve community health."

— Former Williamsburg, Virginia Mayor Paul Freiling

EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT



IPHI secured over \$2M in funding to implement the 4-year Healthy Montgomery Transforming Communities Initiative (TCI) in Montgomery County, Maryland. This demonstration project supported policies to address food insecurity, raised the legal purchase age for tobacco products to 21, established healthier school environments and more.

[LEARN MORE](#)



IPHI's technical support enabled 69 municipalities in Maryland and Virginia to pass HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living) resolutions outlining policy goals to improve opportunities for residents to access healthy food and be physically active. Over an 8 year period, member municipalities implemented over 350 new policies, practices and environmental changes.

[LEARN MORE](#)



IPHI has worked in partnership with the Cameron Foundation in Petersburg, VA to integrate an equity lens into their philanthropy. IPHI provided technical assistance for the Foundation's first conference on health equity, supported the development of an equity-focused needs assessment, and provided training and TA on integrating an equity lens into local organizations' work.

[LEARN MORE](#)



EXPANDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

Community health workers (CHWs) are frontline public health workers who are trusted members of and/or have an unusually close understanding of the communities they serve. IPHI is a regional leader in supporting CHWs, having trained and created jobs for hundreds of workers, designed and implemented dozens of CHW-based programs, influenced state policy and funding and helped launch CHW professional networks in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT



Trained over 700 CHWs and directly employed over 120 CHWs working on HIV/AIDS, chronic heart failure, diabetes, asthma, housing and the COVID-19 emergency response.



Led coalitions to define CHW scope of practice, core competencies, training requirements and policy recommendations. Through these efforts, both MD and VA now have CHW certification and DC is currently working towards establishing certification.

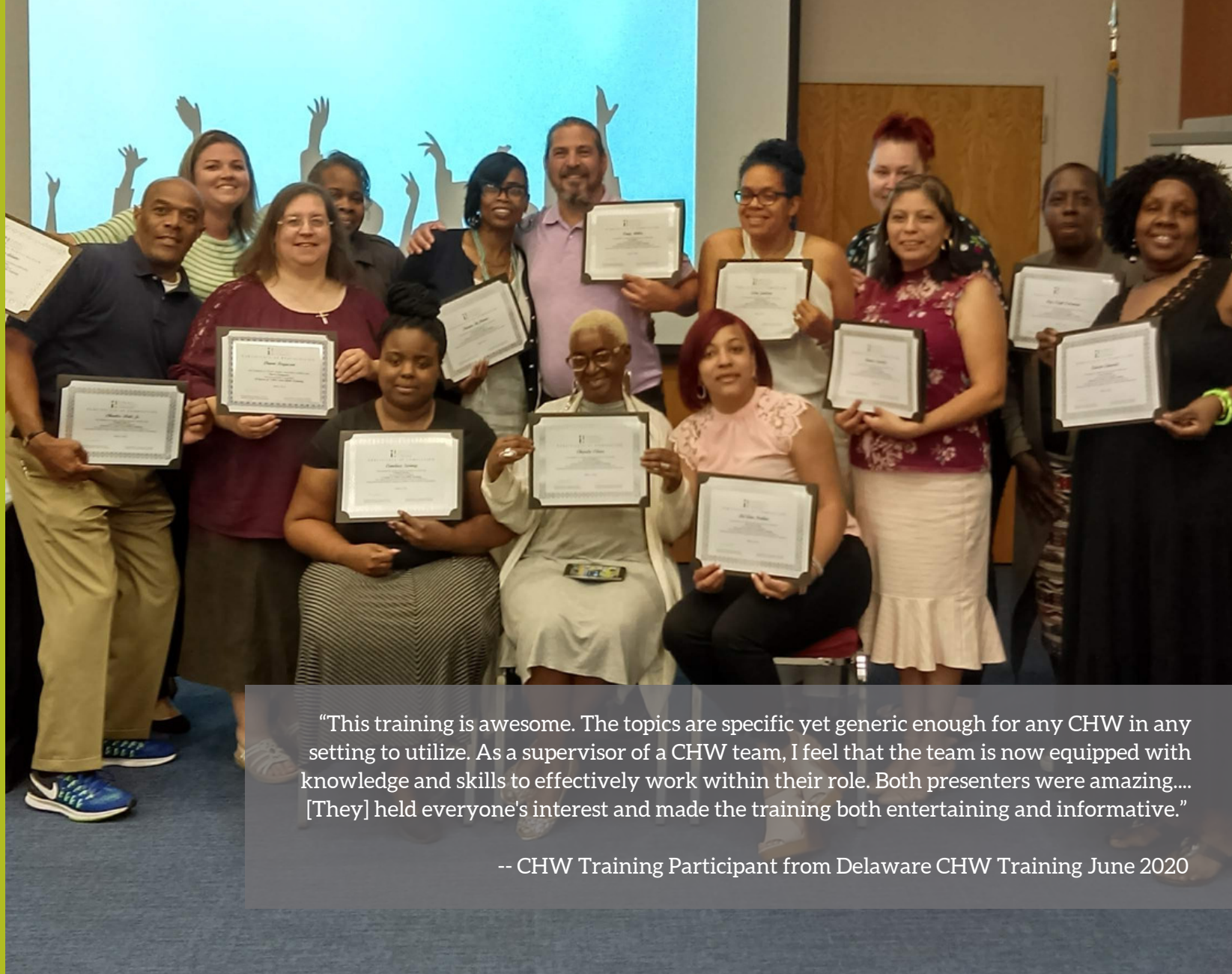


Launched the Center for Community Health Workforce, a regional center for advancing community health worker practice, research and policy.



Supported the development of CHW professional associations in DC, MD and VA through technical assistance and capacity building.

[LEARN MORE](#)



“This training is awesome. The topics are specific yet generic enough for any CHW in any setting to utilize. As a supervisor of a CHW team, I feel that the team is now equipped with knowledge and skills to effectively work within their role. Both presenters were amazing.... [They] held everyone's interest and made the training both entertaining and informative.”

-- CHW Training Participant from Delaware CHW Training June 2020

INCREASING ACCESS TO COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES

IPHI has worked with health departments, hospitals, managed care organizations and other partners across the region to innovate in the development and implementation of community-based health services. With our expertise hiring, training and deploying community health workers, we're working with partners to create new models of prevention and care that increase access to health resources and improve care coordination and patient support.





“Sawa (IPHI CHW) — You have been very willing to answer all of my questions. You have tried so hard to get me to exercise, even volunteering to come walk with me. You’ve stayed in touch for many months, and I always felt that you would be there if I needed you. It helps to have a friendly presence when dealing with hospitals and big, scary medical things. Thank you, Sawa, for all that you do.”

- George Washington Care Transitions Project Heart Failure Patient

EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT



Led a network of partner organizations and trained peer CHWs to enroll 1,300 HIV-positive African Americans in Positive Pathways, a 5-year demonstration project to improve access to HIV medical care and other support services. Twelve months after enrollment, 78% of participants had a suppressed viral load.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Demonstrated the effectiveness of community health workers as essential members of prevention and care teams within hospitals and managed care organizations. This led to sustained, long-term investments in the integration of CHWs within major healthcare organizations such as The George Washington University Hospital and AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia.

[LEARN MORE](#)



CREATING HEALTHIER, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Healthy food systems foster healthy communities. When local agribusinesses thrive and engage in sustainable approaches and residents have access to fresh, healthy food, our economy, our environment and our health improve. However, we know that not all communities have equitable access to healthy, affordable or culturally appropriate food due to policies and systems that impact local food environments. IPHI is working with partners throughout our region to address some of these challenges.

EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT



IPHI led diverse stakeholders to develop Maryland's Food Charter, a guiding document to help policy makers and food system leaders develop a healthy, sustainable, equitable and more economically viable food system.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Since 2013, the Prince George's Food Equity Council has been a voice for Prince George's County residents at the policy making table. The FEC has successfully advocated for legislation to streamline farmers market restrictions and permitting requirements, reduce zoning and resource barriers for urban farmers and expand access to school meal programs.

[LEARN MORE](#)



“IPHI has been a tremendous asset in launching the Food Equity Council. Through IPHI's support and staffing, we were able to form a coalition of community members and volunteers that continues to advocate for policies that are changing the food systems landscape in our county. IPHI also played an instrumental part in establishing and supporting localized efforts such as the Food Justice Coalition and The Capital Market. These initiatives aim to increase access to local, healthy, fresh produce in the county's greater Capitol Heights community and strengthen the local food system.”

– Tarin Shaw, FEC Steering Committee Member



EXPANDING LOCAL CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for strong collaborative relationships that enable partners to effectively respond together when faced with such enormous public health challenges. During this historic public health crisis, IPHI has leveraged its partnerships and role as a public health institute to provide essential capacity to help control, prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT



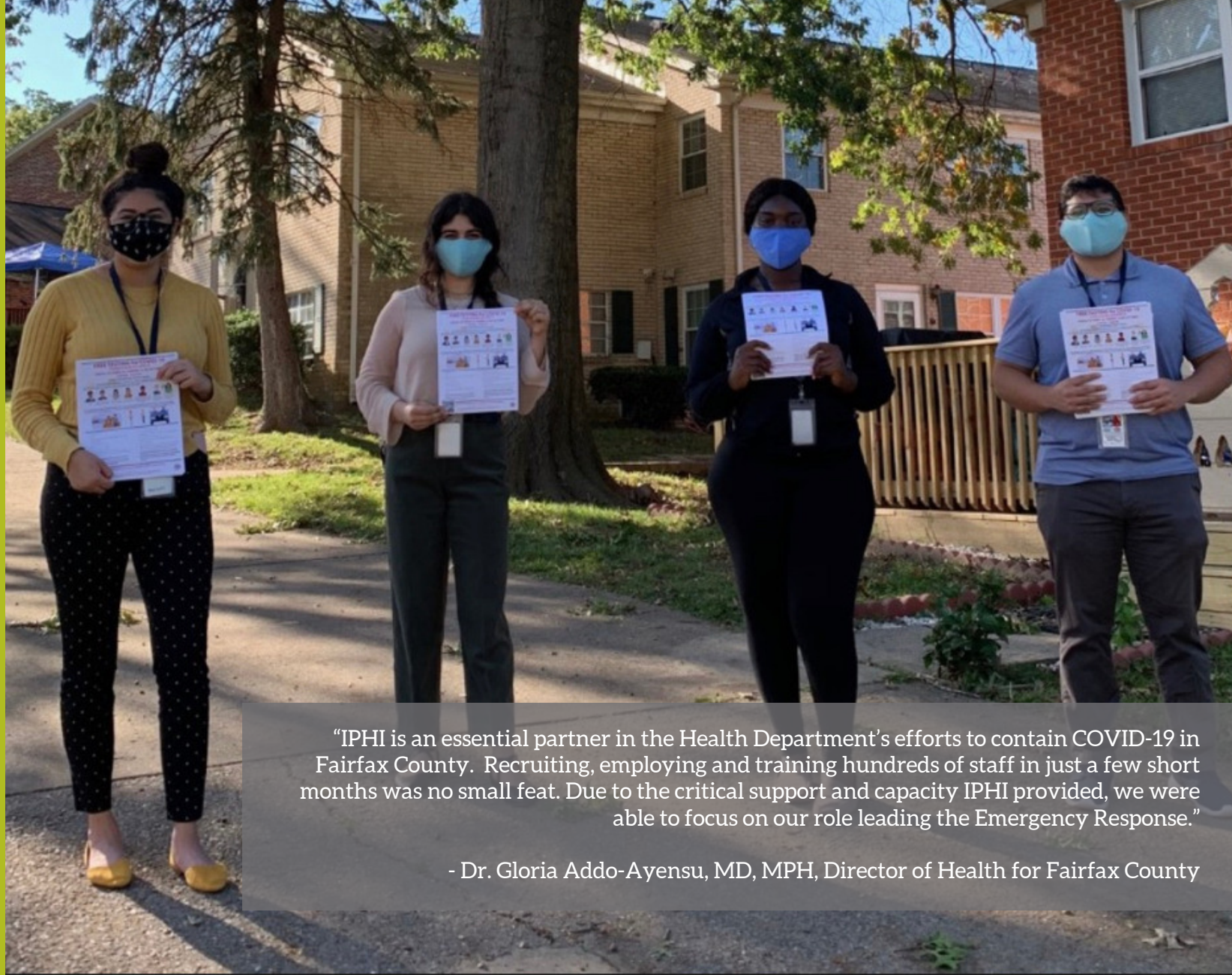
Through a partnership with the Fairfax County Health Department, IPHI has recruited, trained, deployed and supported over 400 emergency responders, including contact tracers, environmental health specialists, community health workers and epidemiologists engaged in COVID-19 containment efforts in Fairfax County.

[LEARN MORE](#)



The Prince George's Food Equity Council has led Prince George's County's COVID-19 emergency food assistance response by helping fill gaps in fragmented food distribution networks, launching a comprehensive food assistance resource hub, co-hosting bi-weekly virtual convenings with over 70 food assistance providers and county agencies and providing educational resources and advocacy support.

[LEARN MORE](#)



“IPHI is an essential partner in the Health Department’s efforts to contain COVID-19 in Fairfax County. Recruiting, employing and training hundreds of staff in just a few short months was no small feat. Due to the critical support and capacity IPHI provided, we were able to focus on our role leading the Emergency Response.”

- Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH, Director of Health for Fairfax County



For more information about our work, please visit www.institutephi.org.