

# Embracing Inclusive Leadership in Maternal and Infant Health

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Washington University Social Policy Institute

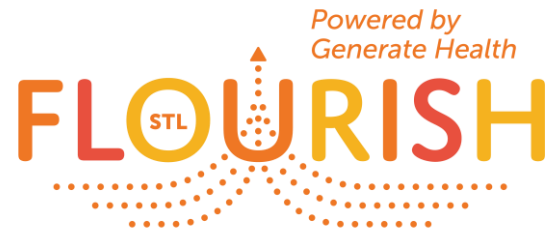
September 23, 2021

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Generate Health STL





Generate  
Health mobilizes  
and inspires the  
St. **Louis** region  
to advance  
racial equity in  
pregnancy  
outcomes,  
family well-being  
and community  
health.



**FLOURISH St. Louis** is a community led initiative with backbone support provided by Generate Health.

We work to align providers, researchers, advocates, and policy makers to support the FLOURISH community priorities.



Our North Star is **zero racial disparities** in infant mortality by 2033.

# FLOURISH Leadership

The Community Leaders Cabinet (CLC) provides strategic direction for FLOURISH, identifies barriers to racial equity and potential solutions from direct experience and engages the broader community in addressing the challenges families face.



*“I believe engaging parents and community members can make a big impact in improving conditions for Black families.”*



*“I am proud that we’ve established ourselves as a voice in the community, an organization that stands up for those who can’t.”*



*“I want a future where all the systems changes on behalf of our children. Education, jobs, health care, welfare, policing...”*

# Community-Led Investment

- Missouri Foundation for Health’s interest in participatory budgeting.
- Community Leaders Cabinet establishes priority areas for funding and annual grant allocations.
- A Community Review Committee selects projects to invest in aligned with priority areas.
- Our impact: FLOURISH has made over **100 grants** to more than **90 organizations**, **86% are Black-led**. Grants support maternal and infant vitality, provide social support and healing, build community, address safe sleep, improve coordinated quality care and address the social determinants of health- including housing and transportation.

## Community Mobilization and Innovation granted partner spotlight:

*Da Hood Talks Podcast* aims to improve community engagement and provide resources that empower and promote healthy wellbeing for Black moms and their families.

### Ferguson resident launches “Da Hood Talks” podcast

“I want to do this because I feel like it will be opening doors for other people who feel the same as me,” Spratt said. “And we’ll be able to give them their own platform where they can talk about things that are happening and how they feel and get their voices out, because their voices matter – especially everyday people who are not sitting at tables where decisions are being made.”

This podcast will be a place where community voices will be elevated, celebrated and supported.”

Savannah Spratt FLOURISH  
Community Cabinet Leaders Fellow





# Guiding Principles

Requires a shift in mindset and innovative approaches



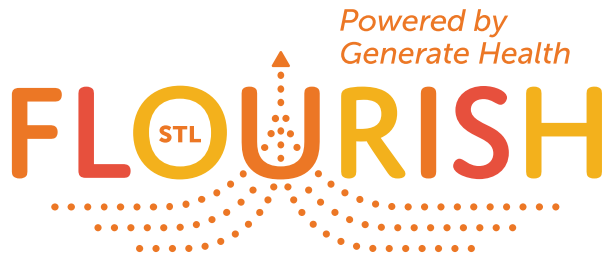
- ✓ Recognize the power of community to make change
- ✓ Be accountable to the communities most impacted by racial inequities
- ✓ Create sustainable systems change
- ✓ Manifest shared resources across the FLOURISH network
- ✓ Reinforce trauma-informed, responsive practices
- ✓ Insist on authentic relationship building
- ✓ Practice equity at all levels

# Recommendations for the Region



- Collect and disaggregate data by race
- Listen to the Black community members impacted by the issue
- Trust the expertise and fund Black-led organizations
- Require racial equity training for staff/volunteers
- Demonstrate interconnectedness of issues related to Black maternal and infant health
- Let community guide investment decisions
- Attract resources to the region
- Become a safe sleep city
- Create access to consumer-focused transportation choices for families
- Create access to affordable, safe and healthy housing

# QUESTIONS?



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