



**ALIGNING COMMUNITY SYSTEMS
FOR RESILIENCE INITIATIVE
(ACSRI)
ANNUAL REPORT 2022**



In Our Community

HEALING BEGINS WITH **TRUTH**



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About the Resilient Georgia Regional Grants

This section has been completed for you.

[Resilient Georgia](#) has been working with 16 regions across Georgia to provide an emphasis on trauma informed awareness and care, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and child sexual abuse prevention training as a basis to transform systems and procedures crossing both public and private sectors.

- Resilient Georgia serves as a supportive and guiding resource during each region's planning and implementation process.
- These regional action plans each address the behavioral health needs of individuals birth through 26 years old and families in the community and surrounding counties using the Collective Impact framework (a diverse, robust and well-planned public-private partnership).
- Trauma Informed Care, ACEs and child sexual abuse prevention can be the basis for systemic changes in a community. Each region has identified how one or more of these content areas are delivered to diverse community members through formal training, education, marketing and communications.
- Round 1 grants were awarded in Nov 2019 to regional coalitions based out of Athens, Augusta, Macon, Savannah and surrounding areas. Round 2 grants were awarded in July 2020 to regional coalitions based out of Albany, Columbus, Rome, Thomasville and surrounding areas. Round 3 grants were awarded in March 2021 to regional coalitions based out of Clayton, Cobb, Gwinnett, Valdosta and surrounding areas. Round 4 funding was awarded in December 2021 to regional coalitions based out of Brunswick, Chattahoochee Valley, Northeast Georgia and Waycross and the surrounding areas.

Coalition Mission

Provide a brief description (1-3 sentences) about the mission of your coalition.

To develop and implement a culturally responsive trauma awareness and prevention initiative in Clayton County that promotes and celebrates community resilience.



Summary

Create a quick 5-6 sentence summary (can include bullet points) of your coalition's work, partnerships, and target populations

The ACSRI Coalition focuses its efforts on authentically engaging stakeholders from various sectors of the Clayton County community using culturally tailored tools and strategies to raise awareness of (and prevent) ACES. **The Many Faces of Trauma** was developed as framework for characterizing the many forms of trauma that minority youth and their families negotiate daily. Our coalition's work is centered around creating spaces for honest discussions about the impact of racism, marginalization, and generations of familial trauma on youth and families; and the infusion of culturally tailored evidence-based practices into the various sectors of the Clayton County. Collectively, our efforts are designed to respond to existing trauma and prevent future trauma.

Leadership Team and Contributors

List the members of the coalition, leadership of the coalition, and other contributors. Please include primary organization and title.

Jevon Gibson

CHS Technical Advisor

Pastor Emmett McCord

Coalition Lead/ Lead Community Organizer

Tony Alexander/Mark Lawrence

CHS Cross Sector Stakeholder Engagement Support

Taylor Bryan (transitioned)

CHS Program Coordinator/Trainer

Danielle Smith

Coalition Secretary



Chief Thomas Trawick
Coalition Leadership Team

Lisa Wood
Coalition Leadership Team

Charles Brooks, esq
Coalition Leadership Team

Dion Walker-Smith, MPH
Community Based Initiatives, GCAPP

Angel Young, MEd
Senior Program Manager, CBI

Kamaladevy Sivalingam, MDP
Director of Evaluation and Research, GCAPP

Coalition Partners

List all the partners within your coalition:





Message from the Principal Investigator(s) (optional)

Feel free to insert a short message from the Principal Investigators (PIs) or leadership about your coalition's work, if you would like.

Efforts to prevent ACES in marginalized minority communities must intentionally address the complex (commingling) factors that impact community trauma. ACES are often exacerbated by issues of structural and contextual racism, disparate health and social outcomes and the pervading "culture of silence" and shame in communities where Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) are the majority. Efforts to engage communities like this must be intentional about empowering that community to craft its own narrative around difficult conversations while celebrating the inherent resilience that also exists therein.

Key Impacts/Accomplishments

Outline in bullet points your coalition's high level or major/important statistics, achievements, and/or progress over the year.

- The development of a strategy for authentically engaging servant leaders that could potentially champion this work in their respective sectors
- Created a framework (The Truth About our Trauma) that incorporated both traditional ACES awareness and prevention with the social justice and contextual factors that informs individual and community trauma.
- Successfully used a peer-to-peer leader engagement model to build coalition core partnerships
- Developed culturally tailored messaging, tools and project resources that allowed partners to begin difficult conversations
- Generated a ground swell of interest in the faith-based community to have difficult conversations and to incorporate training opportunities
- Created a web site as a resource for ongoing community engagement efforts
- Created multiple social media platforms for "The Truth About our Trauma"
- Successfully crafted a business and private sector engagement strategy
- Trained project staff as trainers of various evidence based interventions as a strategy for sustainability
- Created a project message box to help project partners to engage community stakeholders in their respective circles of influence



Description of Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)- Related Efforts

TIC/ACES Services – General (optional)

Feel free to include a general description of your TIC/ACES-related work if you wish.

Prevention/Intervention

What have you accomplished in the areas of preventions and/or intervention? How? Any concrete results, partnerships/collaborations involved, and planned next steps if any?

Includes but is not limited to prevention and intervention-related: TIC and ACES mentoring and therapy services, parenting programs, community events, partnership events, speaker series etc.

GCAPP and CHS hosted two Resilient GA Connect Matter trainings and one coalition meeting in October to support the efforts of Resilient Clayton. Partners had an opportunity to give input and feedback on the next steps as it relates to Resilient Clayton's next steps, including having more frequent coalition meetings to support Clayton's immediate community needs. Coalition partners are being tasked with identifying new coalition members that should be at the next coalition partner meeting. The coalition team is in the process of establishing a regular cadence with meetings and being sensitive to the community's immediate needs (i.e. COVID, mental health, transition due to COVID, etc.)

Advocacy and Policy

What have you accomplished in the area of advocacy and policy? How? Any concrete results, partnerships/collaborations involved, and planned next steps if any?

Includes but is not limited to advocacy and policy-related: policy momentum, meetings with policymakers, policy actions, community events, internal and external policy informational sessions, speaker series, partnership events, etc.

During this reporting period, much of the work for Resilient Clayton was focused on faith-based and community based institutions. Coalition members were tasked with identifying opportunities to begin infusing Connections Matter and Stewards of Children into the daily operations of youth serving/youth supporting agencies in their circles of influence. Coalition partners in the faith-based community have stepped up and agreed to begin encouraging their network of churches to begin incorporating Connections Matter and Stewards of Children Training in youth ministries and affiliated youth program volunteers and staff. Given that our



partners lead an extensive *network* of churches, the opportunity to promulgate evidence-based ACES training countywide is promising.

Next steps include establishing and identifying more coalition members from various sectors of the Clayton County community that includes law enforcement, school-based connections, parents overall. The coalition members have recently been tasked to provide additional linkages to these other stakeholders that can benefit from our Connect Matter and Stewards of Children training in the months to come.

Research

- At GCAPP we apply a range of quantitative and qualitative evaluation techniques for each of our programs. For ACSRI, we will leverage culturally responsive and participatory evaluation approaches to involve program staff, program participants, racially and culturally diverse key-informants, and other stakeholders with high interest and low levels of power in evaluation design, data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Based on the range of perspectives that inform the Clayton community's evaluation questions, we've selected the best methods to inform these questions and have captured these in the evaluation plan.
- While we tailor evaluation to unique program needs, there are a set of shared indicators we track across all programs to determine our organizational impact. At the start of each program, we collect demographic information such as race/ethnicity, gender, and sexuality to understand who we are currently serving and the population we haven't yet reached. As a capacity building organization, we will also collect a reasonable amount of process data for such as recruitment, retention, and program completion rates which will be useful in determining ACSRI's reach.
- Finally, to assess broader impact we conduct pre and post knowledge assessments and/or check-ins/ semi-structured interviews with program participants to determine changes in knowledge, skills, and behavior as a result of our programming.
- So far, community partners in Clayton have provided feedback to the evaluation plan and are in the process of scheduling activities. Once these dates are established, the team will coordinate the corresponding data collection activities.

*Please see the evaluation plan for more details. The evaluation plan will be attached to the email and submission of this report.



Training

Do you provide any training opportunities? What have you accomplished in this area? How? Any concrete results (e.g., population reached, number of workshops, etc.), partnerships/collaborations involved and planned next steps if any?

Resilient GA Clayton provided several trainings on the following days:

- Connections Matter Train-The-Trainer course on Tuesday 9/21 (CHS, Ms. Taylor Bryan)
- Stewards of Children Training 9/22 [CHS, Ms. Taylor Bryan, (former) Senior Consultant]
- Community Resiliency Teacher Trainings 10/20 -10/22; 10/28th-10/29th [CHS, Ms. Taylor Bryan, (former) Senior Consultant]
- Connect Matter Training provided 11/16th and 11/17th to four people virtually [CHS, Ms. Taylor Bryan, (former) Senior Consultant]
- Resilient GA Clayton provided Connect Matter training December 16th and there were 5 people in attendance virtually. The session was led by Ms. Angel Young, M. Ed, GCAPP's Sr. CBI Program Manager. The next step is to train Resilient Clayton's coalition members on the Connect Matter training. Resilient Clayton had a wonderful introductory planning meeting during the month of October to gather interest in the Resilient Clayton project overall. There were approximately 19 individuals from the Clayton County Service area and all were interested in learning more about the Resilient Clayton project.

Other efforts that do not fall into the categories listed above? (optional)-

If so, what have you accomplished in these areas? How? Any concrete results, partnerships/collaborations involved and planned next steps if any?

Innovative Partnerships

Reflect: What collaborations has your coalition engaged in/ partnerships has your coalition brought to the table that are pioneering/varied/unique/diverse? How have you done so, and what have been the outcomes?

Engaging the faith community as a key partner with highly visible, widely respected minister/servant leadership to spearhead engagement efforts, was innovative for this county. In Clayton County, traditional approaches to key stakeholder engagement are often hampered by local politics, history and or personal agendas. Identifying individuals with no clear affiliation to



one political or social group, who are affiliated with the faith-based community as a whole and actively engaged in the social and civic fabric of the community, proved a tremendous resource. The servant leader engagement strategy enabled the Project Team to systematically identify influential like-minded local leaders who were genuinely interested in making a difference and were willing to lay personal agendas to the side for the greater good of the project. Arguably, it could have been considerably more difficult to draw in local stakeholders if the messengers were not trusted servant leaders from the faith community.

Spotlight

Here is your coalition's chance to highlight an exceptional accomplishment – a project, initiative, event, or story.

During our first coalition meeting in October, members of the coalition began to discuss some of the challenges that they were having themselves as it relates to parenting and the pandemic. Coalition members indicated that they too need additional support services as it relates to the COVID pandemic and support services to get them through their mental health. Coalition members discuss how important projects like Resilient GA are to help move the work throughout the community. The coalition members had representation from various sectors throughout the Clayton community which included law enforcement, Social Workers, Clinical Counselors, Educators, Local clergy members and a host of other agencies that represent the community.

Some of the main takeaways were that more individuals should be at these coalition meetings to support the much needed work within the Clayton County service area. Members mentioned that they were willing to continue to support any efforts that are needed to ensure that individuals learn more about the training and to support the overall initiatives of Resilient GA overall. Here are some pictures below from the event:



Inspired Action-

- *Add specific, practical tips on how readers can help support your coalition's efforts in your region.*



THE ACSRI project team spent a considerable amount of time unpacking “how” best to characterize trauma in the Black community and how to create a common language that properly characterized ACE. This characterization had to intentionally (and authentically) frame the ACES conversation within the context of the historical and contextual experiences of minority county members. It appears that our approach is opening doors and creating safe spaces for open and honest dialogue that rarely (if ever) occur.

Income and Expenses/Financials

*Please provide an updated financial report and describe how the grant funds have been used year to date vs. projected amounts, and how any remaining funds will be used. **We encourage you to include this as an appendix that can be removed from your report easily.** Please see the attachment in the email.*

Other Donors/Funding Sources (optional, if applies to your coalition)