



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation entered a cooperative agreement with Xavier University of Louisiana, providing \$420,000 to develop mitigation strategies to reduce and prevent the disproportionate COVID-19 transmission among African Americans in the New Orleans metropolitan area. The New Orleans area has experienced one of the highest rates of mortality from COVID-19 in the state of Louisiana and the nation. Xavier, with support from the CDC Foundation, is implementing a wide-reaching campaign to counter health disparities and raise awareness in an effort to combat COVID-19.

This important funding opportunity is helping to fill a void for African Americans hit the hardest by the pandemic by documenting the social determinants and health disparities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Our efforts with the elderly and other community members and organizations through this opportunity will help identify specific impacts related to economics, food insecurity, social isolation, and other mental health conditions.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the health disparities faced by people of color in the United States," said [redacted], President of Xavier University of Louisiana. "Xavier students are taught to seek a more just and humane society, including in the realms of public health. Xavier is proud to join the efforts of the CDC in developing strategies to reduce the rate of infection using research and science."

The university is already working to engage the community through collaborations with local partners. These include neighborhood associations, community leaders, faith-based organizations, the City of New Orleans Health Department, and other educational institutions.

"This award from the CDC will allow for the research and planning that is critical in preventing health disparities," said [redacted], Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Xavier University of Louisiana. "At Xavier we rely on evidence-based educational and clinical practices that reflect our long-standing core values of compassion, professional excellence, community engagement and life-long learning. The only way to change the world is by addressing the real issues that affect us. This award will aid Xavier in accomplishing the mission of creating a more just and humane society for all."

The "Southern Strategy" project is supported by the Cooperative Agreement number 6 NU380T000288-02-07, CFDA Number(s) 93.421, and awarded to the CDC Foundation. It is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assist