

Resilient Church Collective

A Trauma-Informed Community Network

A Program of Alliance for Greater Works™



INTRODUCTION

The Black Church is an invaluable asset, especially throughout United States' history, the Black Church is the only institution that has consistently served the interests of People of African Descent and other people of color. No other institution in the People of African Descent community rivals its influence. As an anchor institution, the Black Church has addressed the spiritual, basic, political, and financial needs of families living in communities of color.¹

The Resilient Church Collective: A Trauma-Informed Community Network is a new initiative of Alliance for Greater Works™ with seed funding of a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment over the next five years.

The Resilient Church Collective is a statewide initiative for the state of Texas that will enable congregations serving People of African Descent, and other people of color, to thrive by supporting and guiding churches to establish a framework of trauma-informed healing

The Resilient Church Collective's goal is to equip and mobilize churches, throughout the state of Texas, to respond to psychological trauma experienced by youth and adults such as:

- COVID-19
- Intergenerational trauma
- Community violence

¹Collins, W. L., & Perry, A. R. (2015). Black Men's Perspectives on the Role of the Black Church in Healthy Relationship Promotion and Family Stability. *Social Work & Christianity*, 42(4); Frazier, E. (1963) *The Negro Church in America*. Liverpool University Press, *Freeing the Spirit: The Magazine of Black Liturgy and Faith*. Washington, DC; Frazier, EF, & Lincoln, CE. (1974). *The negro church in America*. Sourcebooks in Negro History; Taylor, RJ, Ellison, CG, Chatters, LM, Levin, JS, & Lincoln, KD. (2000). Mental health services in faith communities: The role of clergy in black churches. *Social work*, 45(1), 73-87.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2021 and 2022, a cohort of up to approximately 25 Texas churches will be selected to participate in the Resilient Church Collective. Rural, urban, and suburban churches are all eligible. Participation in the program is gained through an open, competitive process.

The Resilient Church Collective will be delivered to two cohorts of 25 congregations — with one cohort active 2022-2024 and another active in 2023-2025.

Participating congregations will receive:

- (a) a trauma-informed assessment of their current level of healing-centered engagement
- (b) trauma-informed and healing-centered education and capacity-building services
- (c) small sub-grants to support their congregations' healing-centered goals
- (d) twice-yearly Congregational Leadership Gatherings/events
- (e) a pastoral support network
- (f) special training to lead online crisis care groups
- (g) access to the Healing Youth Alliance 3.0 curriculum

During the year, informal technical assistance and collaboration opportunities will take place as needed.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

This is a competitive process, so please carefully and fully complete all questions on the program application by October 15, 2021.

You will be notified if your congregation has been selected by October 31, 2021. The program will begin in January 2022.

Eligible churches are:

- Serving predominately People of African Descent and people of color
- Committed to serving the community outside their four walls
- Interested in proactively addressing trauma, including:
 - COVID-19 exposure
 - Intergenerational trauma
 - Mass shootings affecting youth and adult congregants

Please note that applying for the program does not guarantee acceptance. In 2021 and 2022, there will be an open, competitive process to select up to 25 churches in Texas to take part in the Resilient Church Collective program.

For additional information, contact resilient@alliancetxt.org.