



ABOUT THE HEALTH JUSTICE PROJECT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Health Justice Project at AJE focuses on promoting equitable access to healthcare and addressing systemic disparities that disproportionately affect Black and Latino children and youth with special healthcare needs (CYSHCN) in DC. By engaging in advocacy, providing educational resources, and fostering partnerships, the project aims to empower individuals and families to navigate the DC systems of care more effectively.

**To learn more about the Health Justice Project or to get involved, contact us:
advocacy@aje-dc.org 202-678-8060**

PROJECT GOALS

- **Improve Access to Quality Care:** Provide support, training, and information to families of CYSHCN to ensure they are informed decision-makers.
- **Enhance Systems-of-Care:** Improve the overall DC systems-of-care for CYSHCN by fostering collaboration among District-wide stakeholders and increasing parent engagement.
- **Empower Youth:** Enhance the ability of youth with special health care needs to navigate community resources, identify a primary adult care provider, and advocate for their own healthcare needs.
- **Promote Early Intervention:** Improve care of infants and toddlers in the Early Intervention program by providing support and education to families to better navigate early childhood systems of care and transition.
- **Advance Equitable Access:** Improve equitable access to healthcare for Black and Latino CYSHCN through parent-led advocacy efforts in collaboration with stakeholders and policy decision-makers.

KEY OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Peer Trainings and Support:** AJE's Parent Ambassadors will conduct trainings for other families on early intervention and healthcare-related topics, provide peer support, and link families to community-based services.
- **Professional Technical Assistance:** Conduct training for healthcare professionals on implicit bias and the importance of family-centered practices, cultivate a referral network, and develop partnerships with ally organizations.
- **Disseminate Health Information:** Create and distribute newsletters, publications, and videos on health-related topics to reach a wide audience.
- **Public Policy System Engagement:** Develop a Community Health Advisory Panel for healthcare professionals and co-convened with AJE's Parent Ambassadors to address health disparities and achieve health equity.

AJE PARENT AMBASSADORS

- Promotes leadership development for veteran family leaders who have experience navigating the DC systems of care for children and youth with disabilities and special healthcare needs.
- Focusing on Wards 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8, AJE is committed to supporting our Parent Ambassadors to build the community's capacity to engage in family-centered and disability justice-focused systems change work.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVISORY PANEL

- Consists of a 20-member body of DC health care professionals, AJE Parent Ambassadors, and AJE's health justice staff
- Meets bi-monthly
- Identify solutions to health disparities for CYSHCN and their families in DC
- Co-develop a plan to address priority issues and increase knowledge of Panel members on issues important to CYSHCN and their families.

#HEALTHCAREISAHUMANRIGHT