

Community Resources

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As a Registered Nurse, knowledge of community resources is essential in assisting patients with specific physical or socioeconomic barriers that affect their access to services. Non-profit organizations support a need in their community that is not met by other means, such as affordable housing, food security, apparel, and more. Non-profit organizations strengthen their respective communities. People can participate and affect change. Leaders of non-profit organizations can be powerful advocates for change and pave the way for advancements for the people they serve. Non-profit organizations can alleviate requirements with grants and donations, as government resources are limited (Fairmont Community Development Partnership, 2022).

Urban Triage, Inc. is a community-based non-profit – For the People, By the People – with community membership and active community participation as the basis for outreach and the efficacy of all their programming. They seek to reduce health disparities and enhance the overall quality of life in the most vulnerable communities through personal leadership, advocacy, and direct services. They connect people to institutions, networks, and resources (Urban Triage, n.d.-d).

Mission and Vision of Urban Triage

Brandi Grayson founded Urban Triage Inc. in March 2019. The mission of Urban triage “is to foster, develop, and strengthen black economic power, black families’ self-sufficiency, community leadership, advocacy, and family success through transformative education, psychoeducation, community engagement, trauma response, healing, and cultural heritage” (Urban Triage, n.d.). Their vision is to “Empower and inspire breakthroughs and transformation through education and leadership in Black children, Black women, Black men, and Black communities” (Urban Triage, n.d.-b). Urban Triage's mission and vision enable it to contribute to

public health and safety improvements by providing essential services, resources, and support to underserved communities to promote equitable access to necessary resources and improve the overall quality of life. This also allows them to create a community where everyone can thrive, regardless of background, race, or socioeconomic status.

Equal Opportunity and Community Improvement

Urban Triage addresses the effects of social, cultural, economic, and physical barriers in the black community to achieve equal opportunities and strengthen the community. The organization provides low-income households with financial assistance, job training, and housing programs. During Covid-19, Urban Triage processed over 18 million dollars in rental support to residents to help with rental arrears, forward rent, and security deposits (Urban Triage, n.d.-f)

The Farm Business Development program promotes equal opportunities for black farmers. Once comprising 14% of all cultivators, black farmers today make up only 1.3%. Discrimination has resulted in losing 80 percent of farmland owned by farmers of color, particularly Black farmers. Urban Triage provides resources, programming, and support to Black Wisconsin farmers as they strive to create successful farm businesses (Urban Triage, n.d.-a).

Funding, Policy, and Legislation

Urban Triage is funded by private donations and funding from the federal government. Legislation and policy impact the ability of Urban Triage to provide services to community members. Urban Triage assisted residents with over 18 million dollars in rental support with the help of the American Rescue Plan Act's Emergency Rental Assistance provision. The law provided more than \$21.5 billion in emergency rental assistance to assist millions of families in paying their rent and remaining in their residences (HUD, 2021). With this funding from the federal government, Urban Triage could impact their community significantly. Reduced funding

could force Urban Triage to scale back its services, reduce staffing, or close down altogether, significantly impacting the community members who rely on its services.

The Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade* prompted Urban Triage to expand its services and resources to ensure people can access the necessary services and support. They provided outreach and community engagement to institutions and agencies that serve vulnerable adolescents, women, and LGBTQIA+ community members. These expansions require increased funding and resources (Urban Triage, n.d.-c). Legislation such as this impacts the ability of Urban Triage to provide services to community members.

Impact on Health and Safety

The organization works to raise awareness about the challenges facing underserved communities and advocate for policy changes to address these issues. Urban Triage can bring attention to the systemic issues contributing to health disparities and work towards long-term solutions through these efforts. According to Butel & Braun (2019), Achieving optimal health outcomes for all individuals, commonly called health equity, warrants mitigating social, economic, and environmental disparities prevalent in marginalized communities. Urban Triage aims to enhance favorable health outcomes and mitigate notable health inequalities at the community level by fulfilling fundamental necessities and involving communities through educational prospects and efficacious advocacy at various levels (Urban Triage, n.d.-b). They can provide health services to the community's people through partnerships with the Wisconsin Department of Health, the UW Collaborative Center for Health Equity, and the UW Health System (Urban Triage, n.d.-c).

There are multiple ways in which nurses can become involved with Urban Triage. One way is to volunteer with the organization to provide direct services to individuals in need by

using their clinical skills to provide medical care or assist with health screenings and education. Additionally, nurses can help identify individuals who may need assistance and connect them with the services Urban Triage provides. Nurses can also collaborate with Urban Triage to build community-based health programs that provide knowledge and resources to enhance health outcomes in underprivileged communities.

Conclusion

Urban Triage fosters equitable opportunity and improves the quality of life in a city by tackling many barriers that affect individuals. By providing inclusive, culturally sensitive, and economically feasible solutions, Urban Triage creates a more equitable and thriving community for all. Urban Triage's service delivery is significantly impacted by funding sources, policy, and legislation, which can both benefit and harm community residents. Nurses can get involved by volunteering with the organization, assessing individual needs, and connecting them to services.

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[space#:~:text=Urban%20Triage%2C%20Inc.%20is%20a%20community%20nonprofit%20%E2%80%93,outreach%20and%20the%20effectiveness%20of%20all%20our%20programming.](https://urbantriage.org/about/our-community-space#:~:text=Urban%20Triage%2C%20Inc.%20is%20a%20community%20nonprofit%20%E2%80%93,outreach%20and%20the%20effectiveness%20of%20all%20our%20programming.)

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