



# City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

## Agenda - Final-revised Healthy Neighborhoods

*Chairperson, Jan-Michele Kearney  
Vice Chairperson, Victoria Parks  
Councilmember Reggie Harris  
Councilmember Scotty Johnson*

---

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

12:30 PM

Council Chambers, Room 300

---

### PRESENTATIONS

#### Community Economic Advancement Initiatives

Eugene Ellington, President/CEO

#### Whole Again International

Kendra Scott, Executive Director

#### Community Engagement Collective

Amber Kelly, Founder/CEO

#### Cornerstone Renter Equity

Mary O'Connell, Development and Marketing Director

Alisa Berry, Executive Director

### AGENDA

- [202302817](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney from Eugene Ellington, President/ CEO titled, Community Economic Advancement Initiatives.  
**Sponsors:** Kearney  
**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)
- [202302818](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney from Kendra Scott, Executive Director titled Whole Again feeding at-risk children and enriching their lives.  
**Sponsors:** Kearney  
**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)
- [202302715](#) **ORDINANCE**, submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney, from Emily Smart Woerner,

City Solicitor, **DECLARING** that Avondale Avenue at Reading Road in the North Avondale neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Shirley A. Merrick Way” in honor of Shirley Merrick and in recognition of her contributions and public service to the City of Cincinnati.

**Sponsors:** Kearney

**Attachments:** [Transmittal](#)  
[Ordinance](#)

4. [202302823](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney from Dr Amber Kelly, Founder & CEO of Community Engagement Collective titled, Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) Mental and Behavioral Health Provider Directory Launch and Coalition Development.

**Sponsors:** Kearney

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)

5. [202302825](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney from Alisa Berry, Executive Director of Cornerstone Renter Equity, titled Boots on the Ground.

**Sponsors:** Kearney

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)

ADJOURNMENT



**Community Economic Advancement Initiatives**

# Who We Are

The Community Economic Advancement Initiative (CEAI) is a not for profit, asset-based, community development Organization

# Our Purpose



Community Economic Advancement Initiatives

To operate as a community economic development, finance and community engagement organization that is dedicated to strategically revitalizing the City of Cincinnati's predominately African American communities

# Our Strategies



- ▶ Business and real estate development
- ▶ Real estate and business ownership
- ▶ Job creation

- ▶ Financial education
- ▶ Personal development and other methods which contribute to community and economic sustainability
- ▶ Building generational wealth

# Our Projects

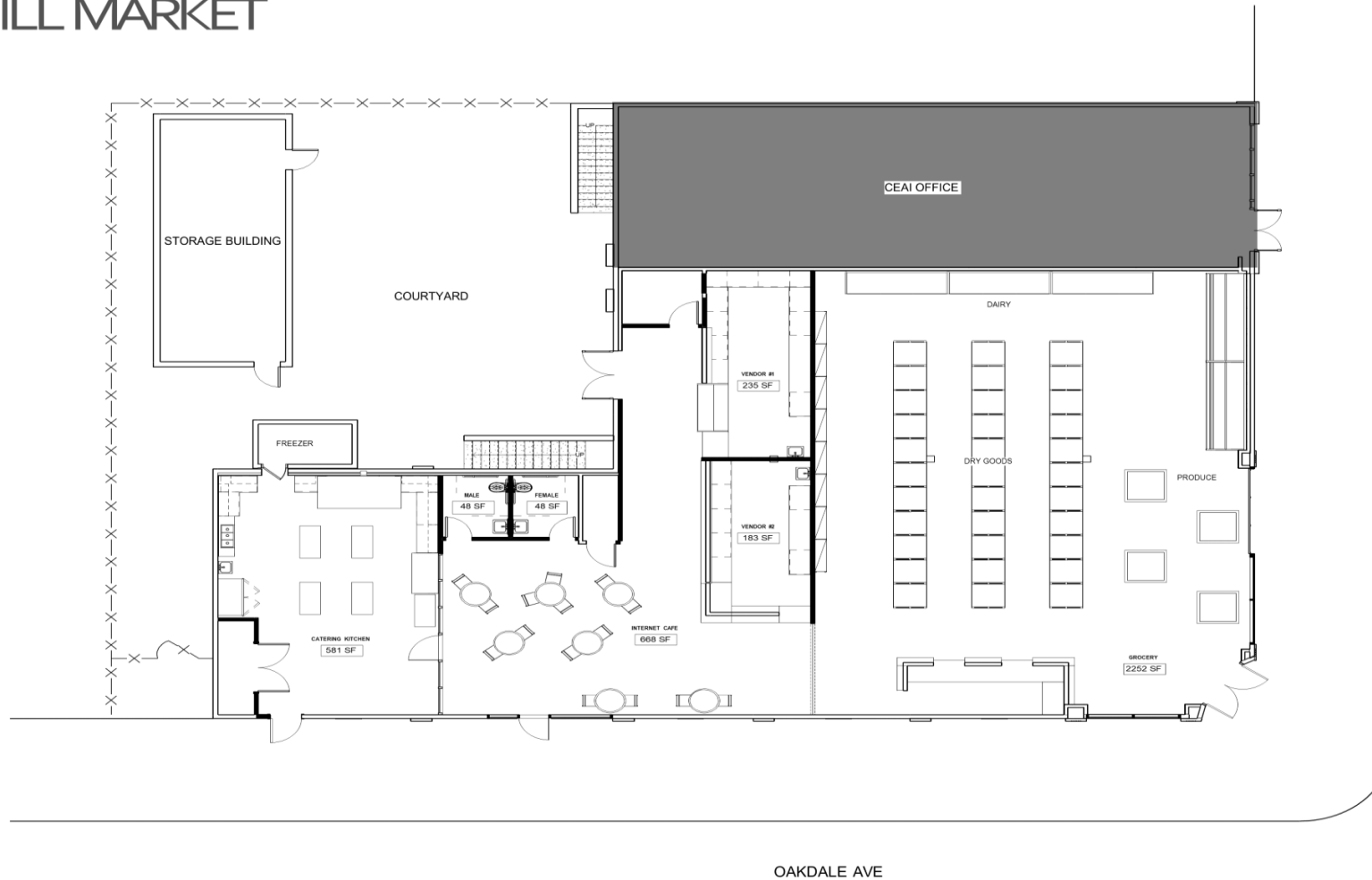
# The Bond Hill Market



## The Bond Hill Market Will Include

- ▶ 2500 sq. ft Grocery Store
- ▶ Cream and Sugar Coffee House
- ▶ Internet Café
- ▶ Commercial Kitchen

## BOND HILL MARKET



CALIFORNIA AVE

OAKDALE AVE

# California and Oakdale Townhouses



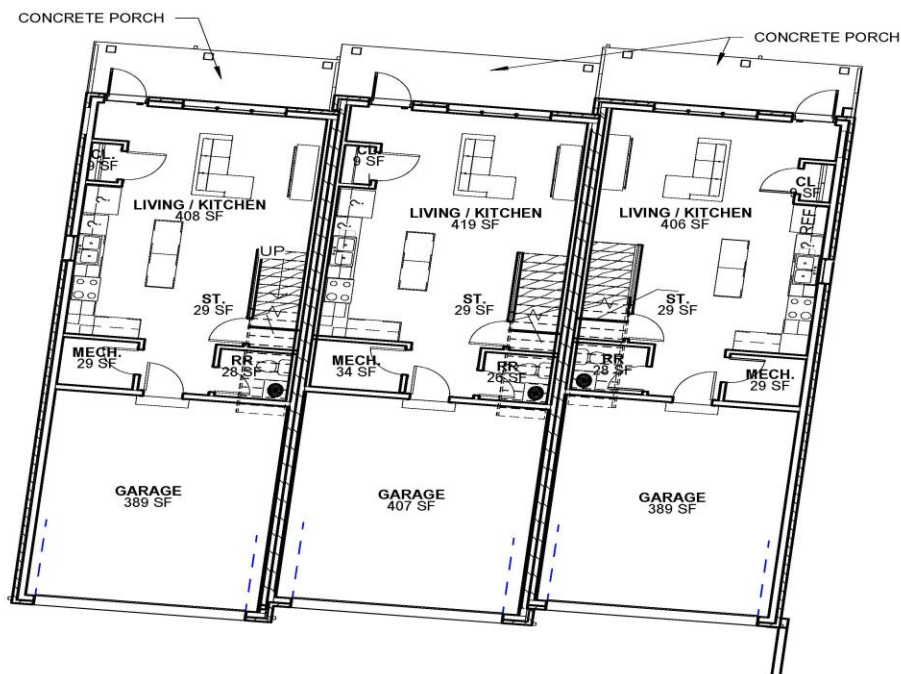




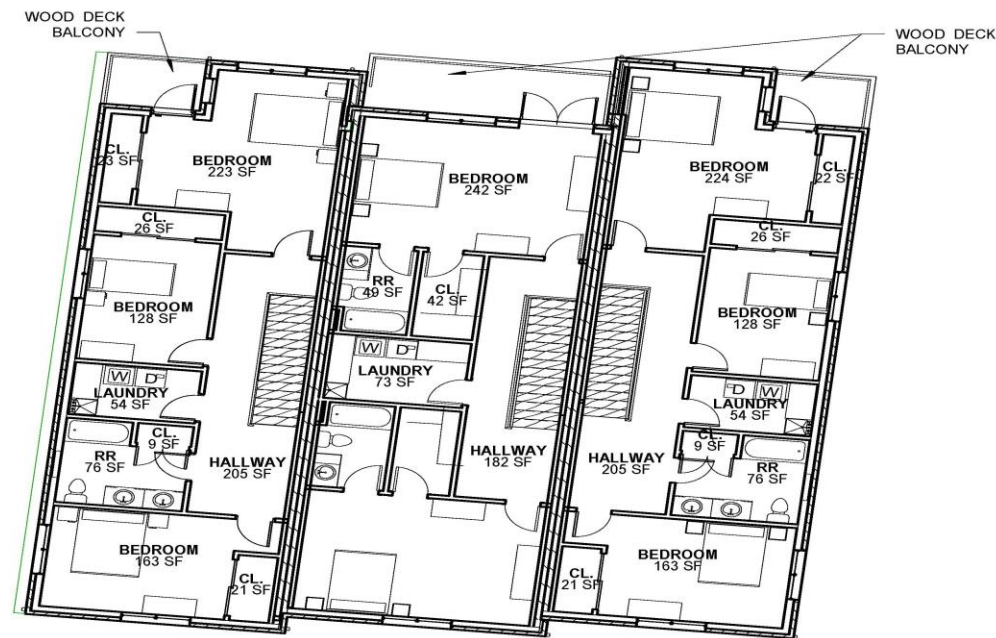
# FLOOR PLANS

1301 CALIFORNIA AVE.

01/30/23



① GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
3/32" = 1'-0"



② SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
3/32" = 1'-0"

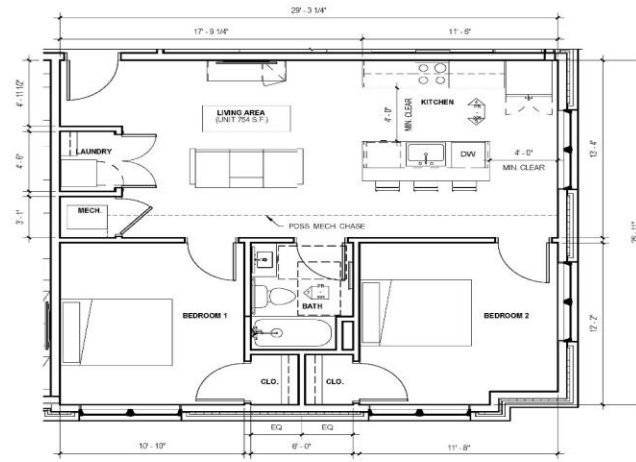


# Dawn Rd. 12-Unit Apartment Building

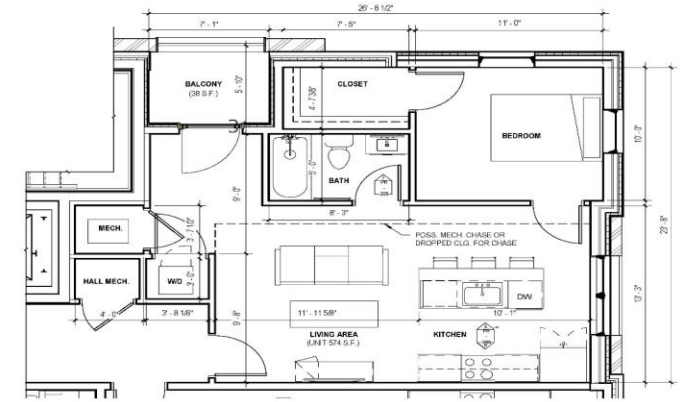


# ENLARGED UNIT PLANS

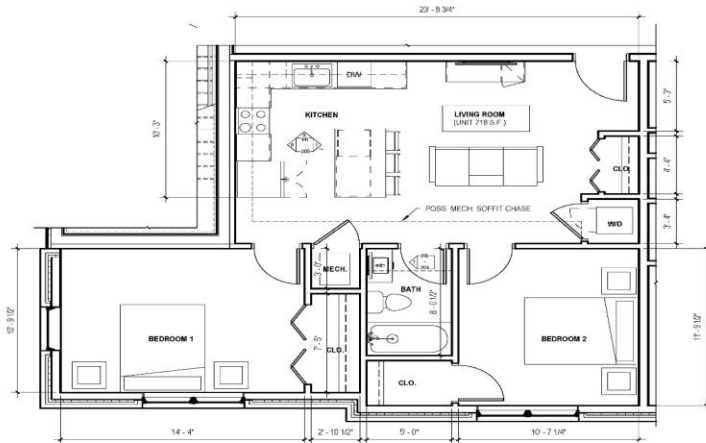
10/06/22



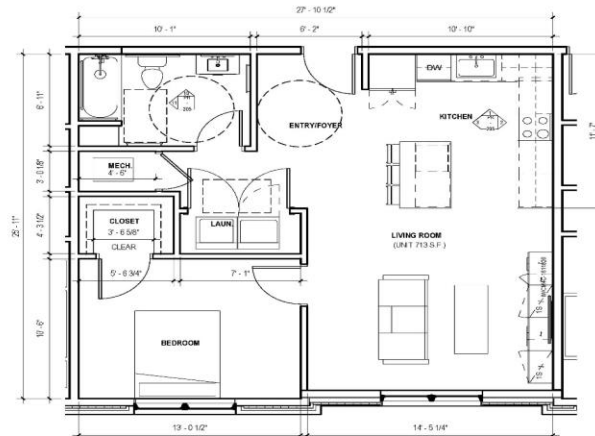
5 UNIT PLAN - TYPE 2 TYPE 'B'  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



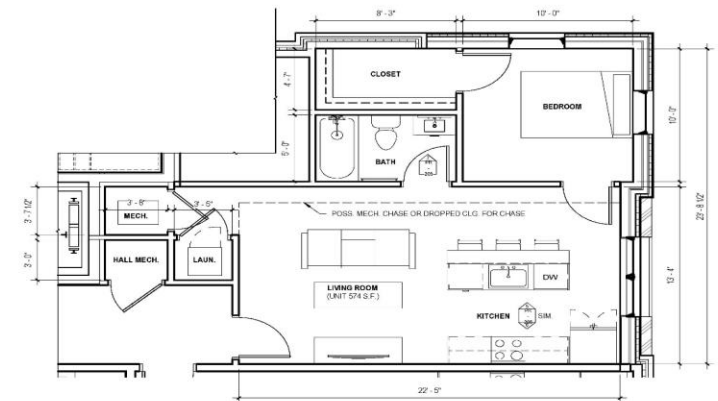
1 UNIT PLAN - TYPE 1B  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



2 UNIT PLAN - TYPE 4  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



4 UNIT PLAN - TYPE 3  
"ACCESSIBLE"  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



3 UNIT PLAN - TYPE 1A  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

# Thank YOU



# wholeagain

*feeding at-risk children and enriching their lives*

Kendra Scott

Executive Director

[kscott@whole-again.org](mailto:kscott@whole-again.org)

513-847-6038

## *Our Mission*

*To partner with faith-based and other non-profit organizations to provide meals and educational and enrichment programming to at-risk youth to assist them in developing a healthy mind, body, and spirit.*



# Summer Food and Enrichment Program



Meals

Education

Fitness



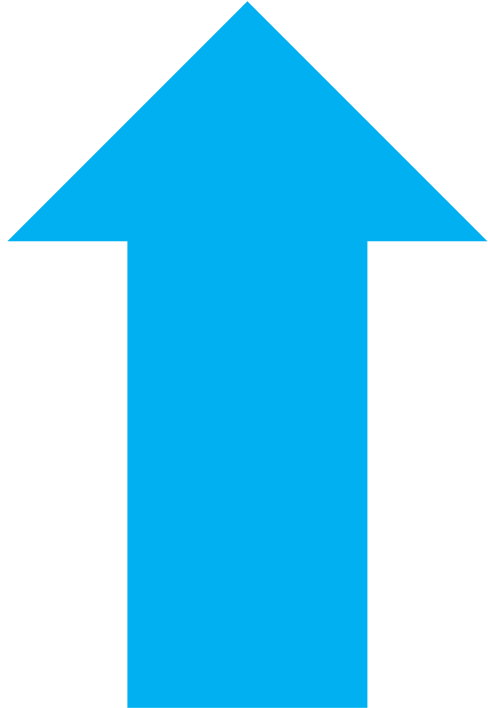
# 2023 Program

- 28 site partners
- 900+ children served
- 57,000+ meals served
- 500 children at Fun to Be Fit Day
- 2 academic enrichment sites





## *2023 Results - Meals*



Site Partners -10%

Meals served -15%

Children served -16%

## 2023 Results - Education



- **76%** of students increased their Oral Reading Fluency by at least 3%
- **95%** of students maintained or increased Reading Comprehension by at least 4%

# 2023 Results - Fitness

50% of students were active for at least 1 hour daily



# *Summer Food and Enrichment Program*



PROVIDED OVER  
**19,000**  
CHILDREN WITH  
NUTRITIOUS MEALS



OPERATED  
**420+**  
PROGRAM SITES



PROVIDED OVER  
**1.4 M**  
BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND  
WEEKEND MEALS

202302715

**Date:** November 29, 2023

**To:** Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney  
**From:** Emily Smart Woerner, City Solicitor *ESW*  
**Subject:** **Ordinance – Shirley Merrick Way Street Renaming**

---

Transmitted herewith is an ordinance captioned as follows:

**DECLARING** that Avondale Avenue at Reading Road in the North Avondale neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Shirley A. Merrick Way” in honor of Shirley Merrick and in recognition of her contributions and public service to the City of Cincinnati.

ESW/AKS(dmm)  
Attachment  
393415

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

JRS

EEW

An Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

- 2023

**DECLARING** that Avondale Avenue at Reading Road in the North Avondale neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Shirley A. Merrick Way” in honor of Shirley Merrick and in recognition of her contributions and public service to the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Shirley Ann (Moss) Merrick was born April 2, 1933 and moved to Cincinnati in 1959 settling and raising six children in the North Avondale neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Shirley A. Merrick established G & Shirley’s Health Vitamin and Herb Shop in the North Avondale neighborhood, sponsored by her beloved husband Henry P. Merrick, and Mrs. Merrick said, “the G stands for God because he is my partner”; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, health foods were still unknown to mainstream America, as well as unfamiliar in the black community where professional healthcare was minimally effectual. Mrs. Merrick brought the message of “food is medicine” to the people; teaching them how to use food and natural supplements to manage and address the symptoms of ailments, for example, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, asthma, and HIV; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Merrick studied under and was certified by Nobel Prize winning scientist Linus Pauling, the pioneer of the Vitamin C revolution; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Merrick regularly spoke at recreation centers, nursing homes, schools, churches, and civic centers and she wrote for NIP Magazine and the Cincinnati Herald; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Merrick was a member of Zion Baptist Church and shared her knowledge with her beloved fellow believers, designing plans for their respective health conditions; and

WHEREAS, Shirley A. Merrick conducted a weekly radio program about health on WCIN and she stayed aware of cutting-edge knowledge, acquiring the latest products for her store, and always providing the highest quality for her customers; and

WHEREAS, Shirley A. Merrick was the recipient of the Applause Magazine “Most Influential 100 Black Cincinnatians” award and local and national dignitaries have been beneficiaries of her health wisdom, including former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, U.S. Congresswoman and Ambassador to Ireland, Margaret Hecker; and

WHEREAS, Shirley A. Merrick’s extraordinary fitness routine inspired her son, Henry E.T. Merrick, to master fitness personally and as a trainer and, in 2003, he established LeanStyles Fitness Center, which has produced national champions, moreover, radically improved the health of Cincinnatians and clients throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Merrick's daughter, Valdasia Shirley Merrick, was the recipient of the LEAH Institute 2023 Spirit of Deborah Ministerial Leadership Award, and was inspired by her mother to establish in Cincinnati a church that offers training in farming and Sunday morning faith-based homeopathic education; and

WHEREAS, Vaneese Merrick, Mrs. Merrick's eldest daughter, established a health food store in Northern Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, G & Shirley's store turned 46 years old in October 2023, presently located in College Hill and owned and operated by Shirley's 4th daughter, Valynda Ann Mitchell, with customers nationwide and it is the oldest black-owned health food store in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Merrick has made a lasting impact to the Cincinnati community and to the City of Cincinnati's citizens, and her contributions and service in healthy living and advocacy for "food is medicine" will long be remembered; now, therefore,

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Avondale Avenue at Reading Road in the North Avondale neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of "Shirley A. Merrick Way" in honor of Shirley Merrick's public service and in recognition of her contributions and dedication to the City of Cincinnati.

Section 2. That the appropriate City officials are hereby authorized to do all things necessary and proper to implement the provisions of Section 1 herein, including the generation and installation of appropriate secondary street signage, which shall designate Avondale Avenue at Reading Road in the North Avondale neighborhood as "Shirley A. Merrick Way" in accordance with the Department of Transportation and Engineering's procedures relating to street designation and related signage.

Section 3. That a copy of this ordinance be sent to Valdasia Shirley Merrick via the office of Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms

of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to allow the Department of Transportation and Engineering to move forward with the administrative requirements related to the honorary naming of streets to provide for the ceremony and dedication of the honorary street name at the earliest possible time.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk



# BLACK INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC) MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER DIRECTORY LAUNCH AND COALITION DEVELOPMENT

Presented by  
Dr. Amber E. Kelly, PhD, MS, MHS



# FUNDING SUPPORT

1.  
Provider Recruitment

2.  
Directory Launch

3.  
Coalition Development



Community  
Engagement  
Collective

Greater Cincinnati  
Black Indigenous  
People of Color  
Mental & Behavioral Health

Provider Directory

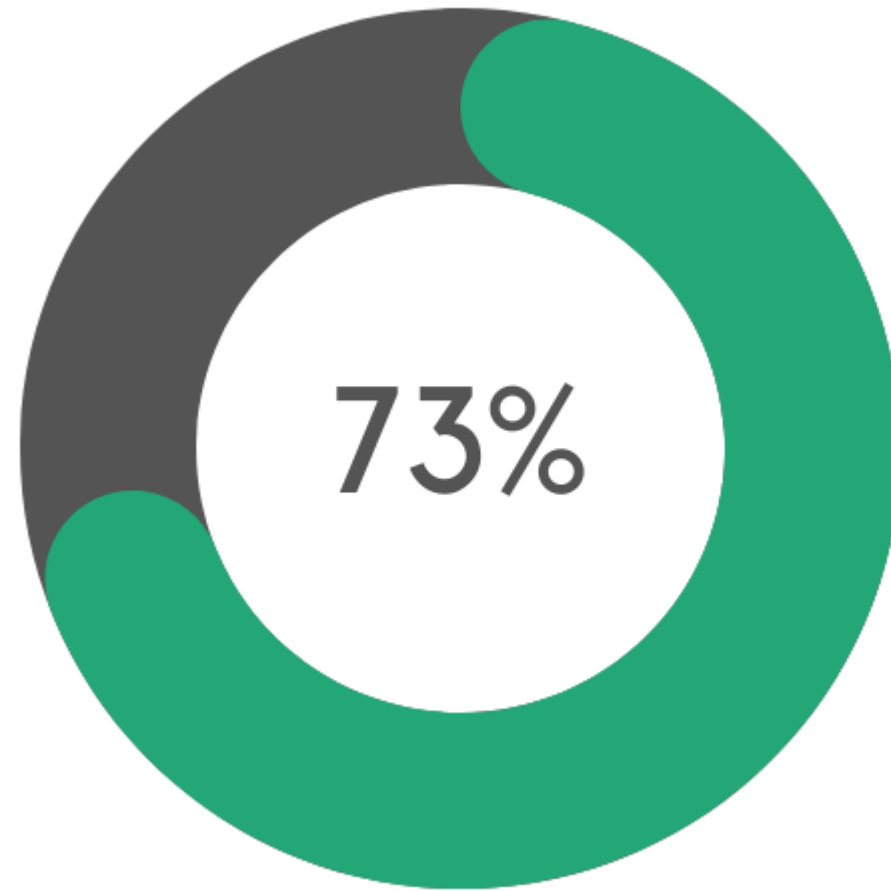
2023



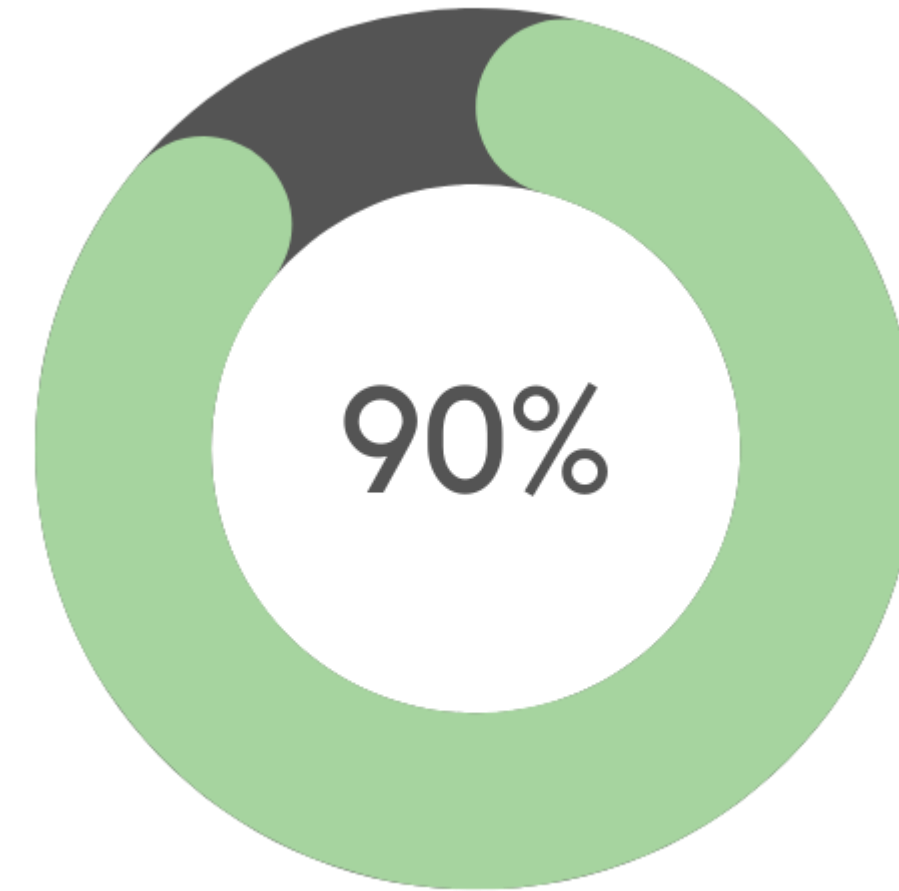
SPONSORED BY: Boots on the Ground Fund Initiative

# 288 DIRECTORY DOWNLOADS

# COMMUNITY REACH



**BIPOC COMMUNITY MEMBERS**



**SHARED WITH OTHERS**

# ACCESS BY NEIGHBORHOOD



**27 OUT OF 52 NEIGHBORHOODS**

# ACCESS BY NEIGHBORHOOD

Avondale

Bond Hill

California

Camp Washington

Carthage

Clifton

College Hill

Corryville

CUF

Downtown

East End Area

East Price Hill

East Walnut Hills

Evanston

Hartwell

Hyde Park

Kennedy Heights

Madisonville

Millvale

Mt. Adams

Mt. Airy

Mt. Auburn

Mt. Washington

North Avondale

North Fairmount

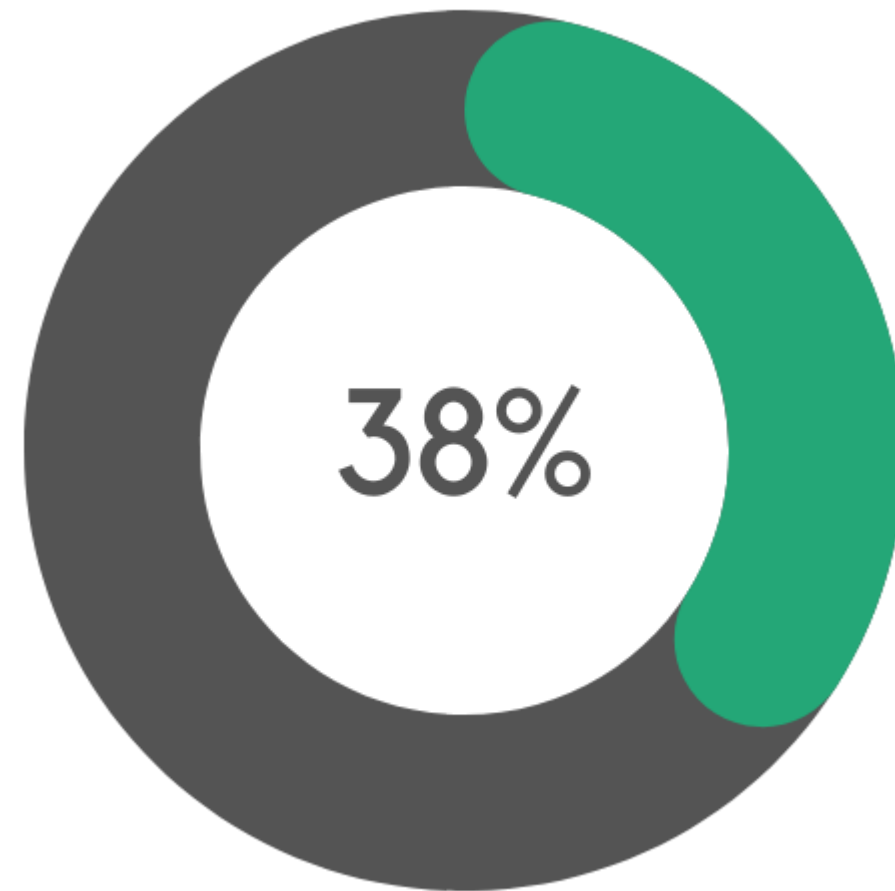
Norhtside

Oakely

# ACCESS BY NEIGHBORHOOD AND CINCINNATI'S 10 POOREST NEIGHBORHOODS



# OTHER COMMUNITIES



**OTHER COMMUNITIES**

**49**

**# OF OTHER COMMUNITIES**




# TWO COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH National Underground Railroad FREEDOM CENTER

**Community Mental Health Fair  
May 21st**



**Panel Discussion  
July 30th**

# UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT



Community  
Engagement  
Collective

## Healing During the Holidays: Community Mental Health Mixer Event

Free Event

Meet Providers from Cincinnati's  
BIPOC Mental and Behavioral  
Health Provider Directory

Free Event

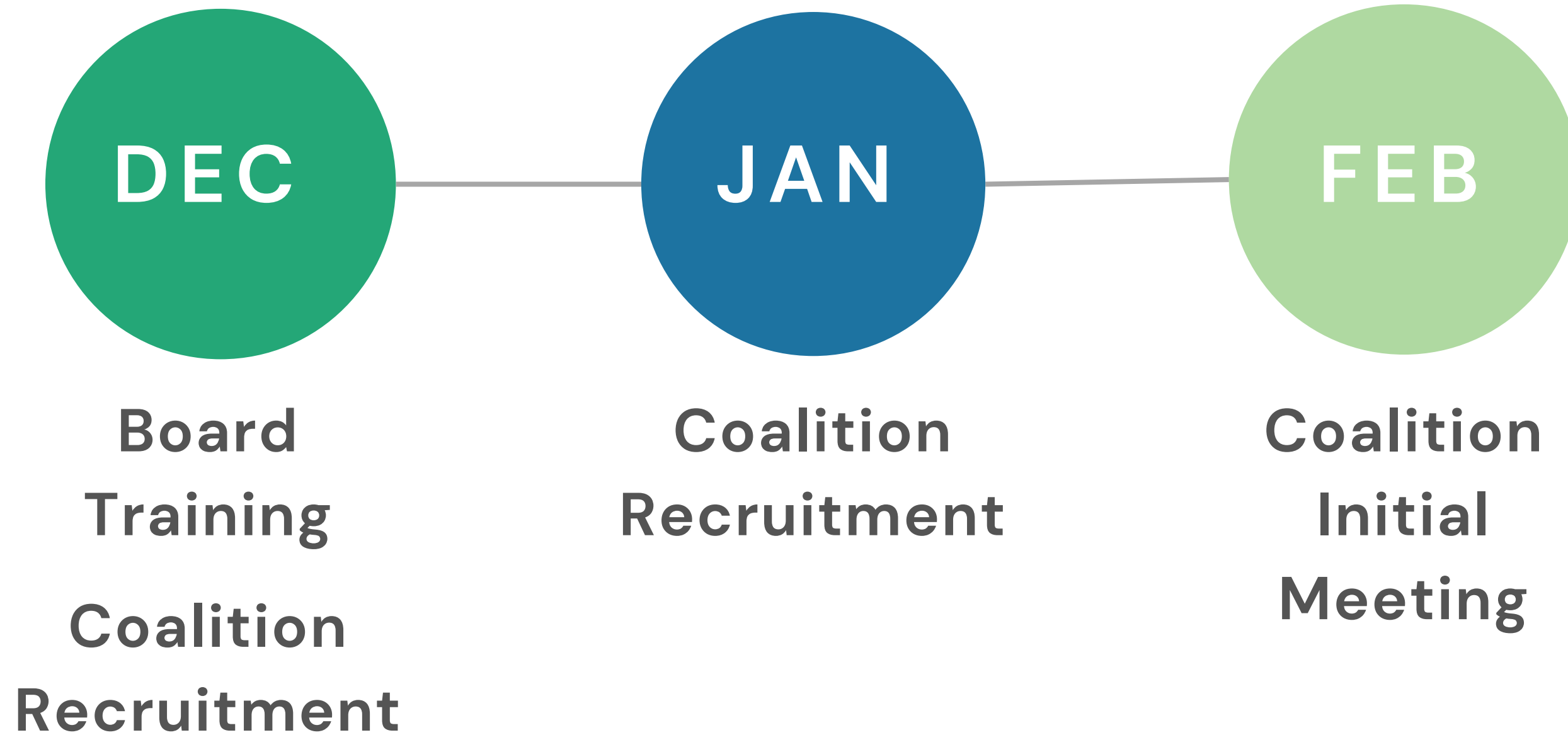
**December 15th | 6-8PM**

Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
720 E. Pete Rose Way,  
Suite 120  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

SPONSORED BY  
INTERACT  
FOR HEALTH

INTERACT  
FOR HEALTH

# COALITION DEVELOPMENT



# RECOMMENDATIONS

Sustainable Funding to Support BIPOC Mental and Behavioral Health Provider Directory (including ongoing update)



Funds for BIPOC Community Members to Access BIPOC Mental and Behavioral Health Providers That Do Not Accept Insurance



Community  
Engagement  
Collective

# THANK YOU

Dr. Amber E. Kelly, PhD, MHS, MS  
Community Engagement Collective  
[akelly@cec-cincy.org](mailto:akelly@cec-cincy.org)



# Healthy Neighborhoods Boots on the Ground

December 12, 2023

Cornerstone Renter Equity





# You helped us make a difference

- Reached more individuals and families
- Enhanced our program quality
- Supported more families through earned dollars
- Increased family sustainability



# Building Futures

## Values

Empowerment

Collaboration

Growth

Equity

Integrity

- **Our Mission:** We are a community oriented partner providing a customized, family centered approach to asset building and personal growth.
- **Our Vision:** We will be the leading model for enabling communities to thrive through empowerment, goal setting, and equitable opportunities.





# Financial and Personal Empowerment

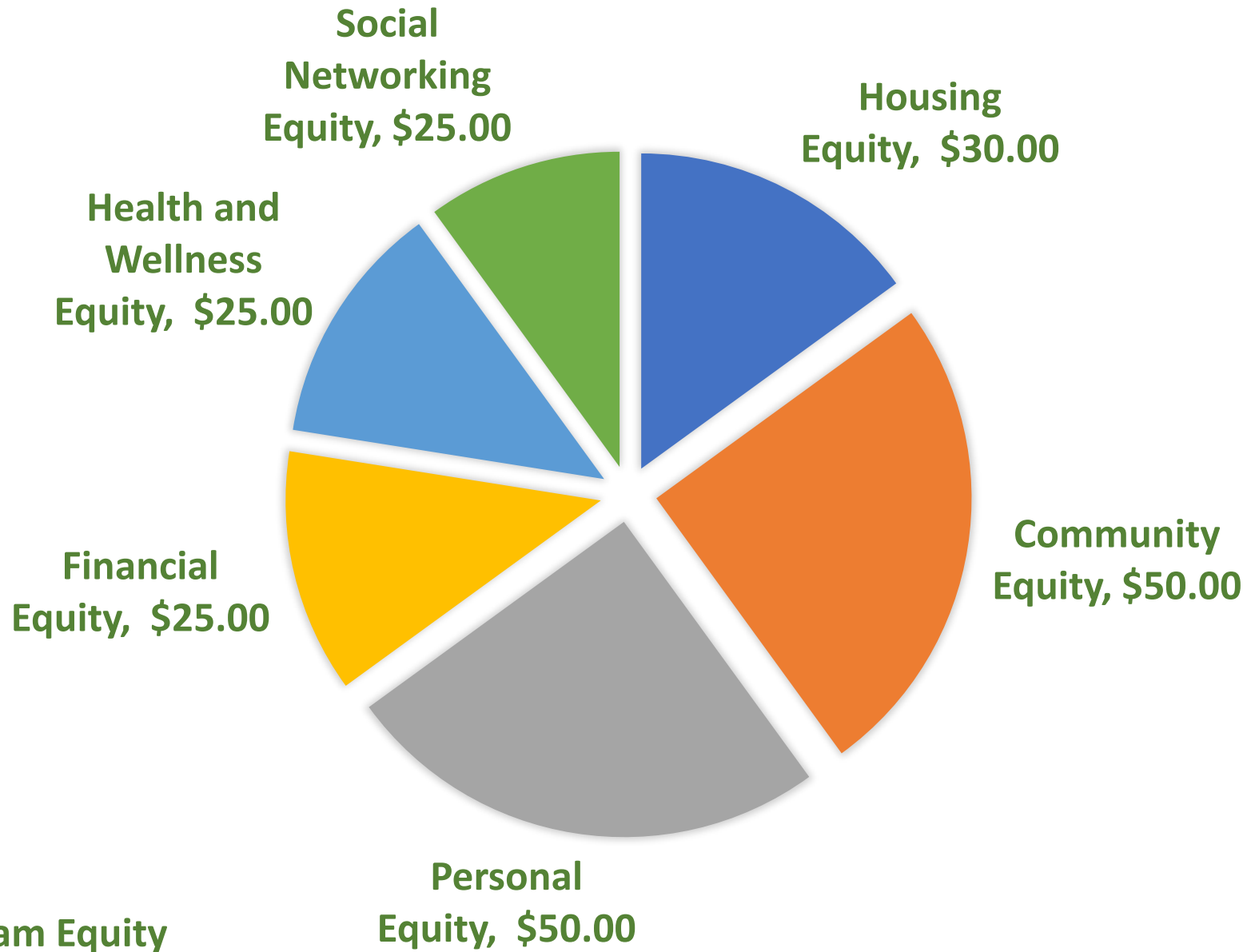
- Placed based organization in Over the Rhine
- Operate affordable housing units that are safe and affordable – but we do much more than that
- We know if someone can't afford housing, there is much more they can't afford. They need more.
- We help fill an income inequality gap by providing opportunities for families to build non-traditional savings and assets.
- It's a unique and special program we operate called The Renter Equity Club.
- We have other programs to help individuals and families become self-sufficient, to take ownership of their lives.



# Renter Equity Club- Earn by Engaging

- Renters with income at or below 80% of the AMI.
- Coaches that assist members in working toward self- sufficiency.
- Opportunity to build a non-traditional savings account
  - Earn \$2000/year
  - Beneficiary
  - Unlimited
  - Renew membership annually
- 3 year vesting period
- Personal choice





+ \$140 *annually* for Program Equity



# Committed Community

- Empowering members to have a voice in their community
  - Over the Rhine Community Council
  - Monthly member meetings
  - Public meetings
- Encouraging members to be active in their community
  - Volunteering
  - Community Event Organizing
  - Block Clean up
  - Gardening





# Personal Investment and Growth

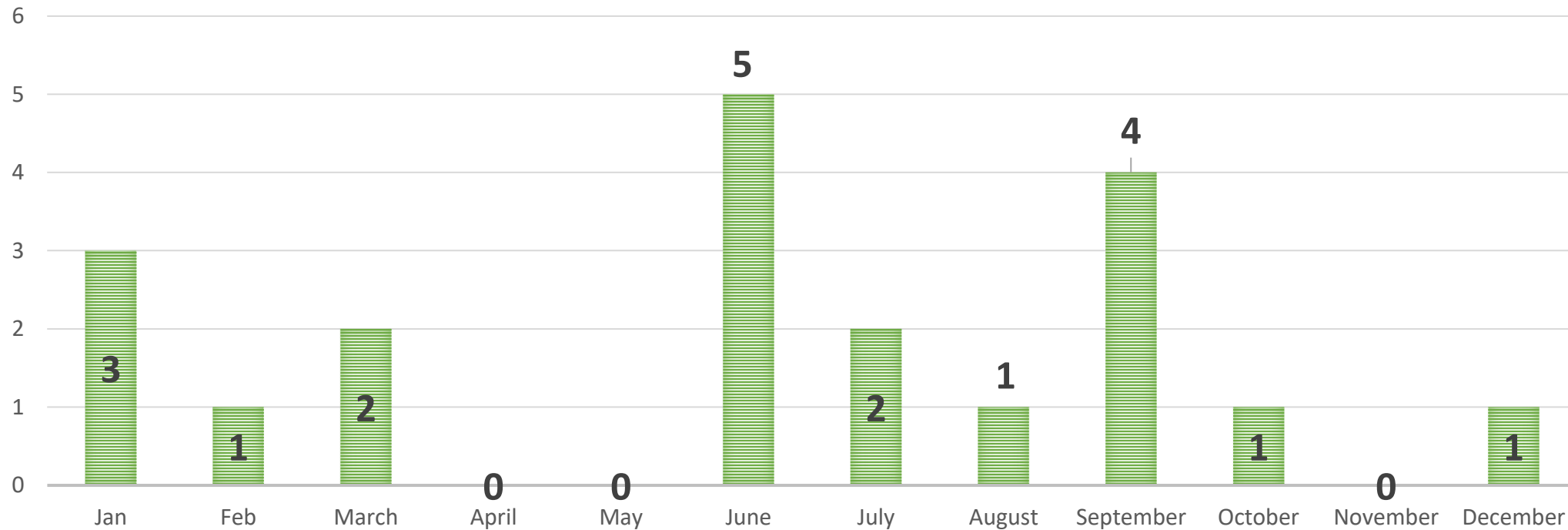
- Coaching
  - Personal goal setting
  - Maximize equity earnings
- Financial Empowerment
  - Financial Literacy classes
  - Credit building classes
  - Bank partnerships
- Health and Wellness
  - Incentive for doctor appointments, treatment, support groups, etc.
  - Incentive for exercise, healthily living, gardening, etc.
  - CRC membership





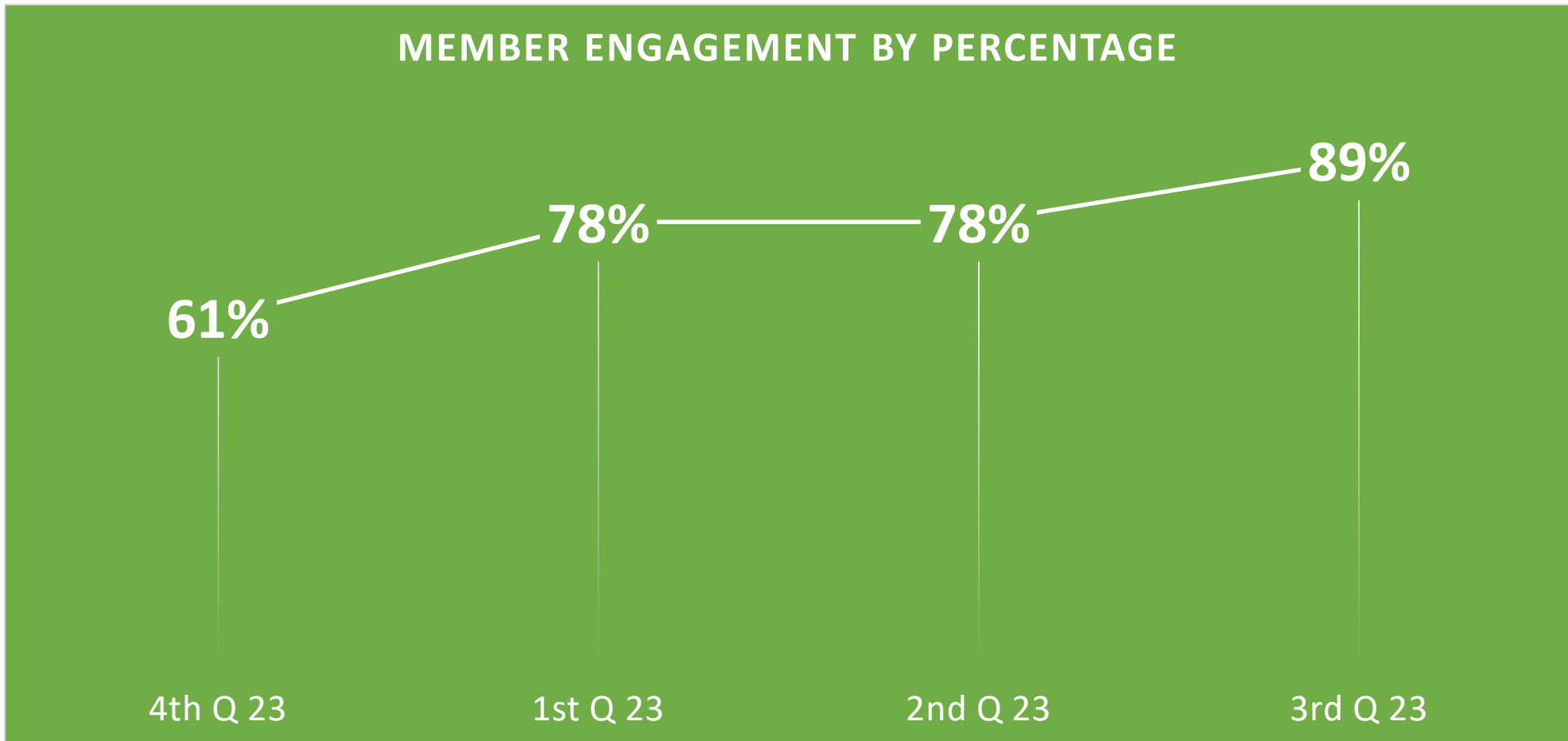
# Goal 1: Increased membership in the Renter Equity Program with 20 new members

NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED MONTHLY





# Goal 2: Increased member engagement by 28 percent





# Our Engagement Results

- Total Collective Savings of Members: \$92,114
- Average Savings per member: \$1,047
- 69% reduction in member unemployment
- 8 Members currently in school
- 1 Member purchasing a house in 2023
- 12 members opening new savings/checking accounts





## Our plans for 2024

1. Enroll more members, engage more in our programs
2. Increase earning potential for more families by growing The Equity Club.
3. Diversify funding – but we still need your support.
4. Working with Social Venture Partners to increase organization capacity.



# Q&A

Alisa Berry

[aberry@csequity.org](mailto:aberry@csequity.org)

513-369-0114 x600