

From Action to Impact: Improving Breast Cancer Care in NC Through Navigation and Collaborative Partnerships



Project Summary

Komen Charlotte & Komen NC Triangle to the Coast in partnership with SECU Foundations, North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), and the University of North Carolina propose to develop and execute a transformational program to reduce breast cancer mortality in three regions of North Carolina by decreasing the barriers related to breast cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment.

The overarching long-term goal of the program is to reduce breast cancer mortality throughout the state, by addressing disparities and health inequities in underserved communities, reducing barriers to care, increasing access to quality and timely care, and improving outcomes through breast health resource navigation.

Phase One of this project will:

1. Determine the most critical breast health needs in three high-need regions of NC (Charlotte AHEC Region, Area L Region & Northwest Region); and
2. Develop recommendations for strategically targeted and high impact interventions that will improve mortality rates in each of the three regions.

The NC State Employees Credit Union Foundation (SECU) is an early investor. SECU has committed \$150,000 and has challenged our communities to invest an additional \$100,000 to support the project.

Phase Two of this project will:

1. Develop specific recommendations for the most effective breast health interventions based on the information gathered in Phase one from “big data”, along with key stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and surveys. Recommendations to be completed by the end of Year 2, Phase one.
2. Develop a pilot program to test the recommended interventions in four regions of the state.

Phase One, Year 1 Summary

Year one will assess community-level breast cancer care delivery gaps and opportunities in three high-need regions of North Carolina. North Carolina data resources including the Carolina Mammography Registry, the Carolina Breast Cancer Study database, and the Carolina Informatics and Population Health Resource will be reviewed and analyzed.

This assessment will provide important information regarding:

- **where** and **when** delays/gaps in care occur, from detection of cancer to completion of initial treatment;
- **who** are the patients, groups, and communities most likely to experience these delays;
- **why** specific delays or gaps occur in particular communities, and
- **what** interventions will be most feasible and effective at the local level.

Phase One, Year 2 Summary

Year two will focus on assessing the patient-level, system-level, and community-level barriers to diagnostic resolution and initiation of treatment in the Charlotte, Area L and Northwest AHEC regions by interviewing breast health providers, patients, caregivers, and community resource providers. In addition, we will also host community focus groups and conduct community surveys to ascertain the most appropriate targeted interventions for each region.

The Impact

Our long-term vision is to build a diverse coalition of community, academic, and business partners with a common goal to ensure the best breast health care reaches every woman in North Carolina. We will accomplish this vision by making efficient and effective investments of time and funds informed by the best evidence available; building a strong and flexible intervention infrastructure in communities that can be re-directed as available resources and needs change over time, and; systematically monitoring outcomes so we can learn from each success and failure.