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Nspire Partners with KORE to Address Health Disparities, Engage Underserved Communities

*Initiative Supports Community-Based Organizations to
Empower Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in the Opioid Response*

Louisville, Ky.— Nspire, A Park Community Initiative, Inc. and the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) are partnering to raise awareness and decrease stigma associated with substance use within Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities with a new grant program.

In efforts to expand equitable access to prevention, treatment and recovery supports, including Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, the **Empowering BIPOC communities in the Opioid Response** grant program aims to engage and empower community organizations around Kentucky to develop and implement outreach activities that increase community understanding, reduce stigma, and provide information on how services can be accessed.

BIPOC communities are often disproportionately impacted by substance use and criminalization resulting in less access to treatment, and increased negative perceptions or stigma associated with the use of opioids (e.g. heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl) and stimulants (e.g. cocaine, methamphetamine). With the support of KORE, Nspire will award grants to organizations to engage with BIPOC communities and address barriers related to service access.

“As a KORE partner, Nspire wants to send a message of hope- that help is available within BIPOC communities to address Opioid Use Disorder. This is a health issue, and it is treatable,” said Nspire’s Executive Director Keisha Deonarine.

In Kentucky and throughout the U.S., statistics indicate significant racial and ethnic disparities related to substance use disorder (SUD), including disproportionately high rates of overdose and incarceration; and disproportionately lower rates of access to SUD treatment programs. Notably, according to the 2019 Kentucky Overdose Fatality Report, from 2018 to 2019, overdose deaths increased by 5 percent overall and 3 percent among White Kentuckians, but overdose deaths increased by 36 percent among Black Kentuckians.

“Every Kentuckian has a right to equitable, accessible, and compassionate care, but many individuals have little to no access to evidence-based treatment. This gap in treatment services is further exacerbated within BIPOC communities,” said Dr. Brittney Allen, Ph.D. State Opioid Response Coordinator and Deputy Project Director for KORE. “Partnering with Nspire provides

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the opportunity to work with organizations that value health equity and aim to address the impacts of substance use within the communities they serve.”

Partners who may apply for the ***Empowering BIPOC Communities in The Opioid Response*** grant opportunity include, but are not limited to, community organizations, recovery support organizations, and social service providers invested in and reflective of impacted communities of color. Selected organizations will be required to establish and adhere to a clearly outlined approach to increase outreach, awareness, education and/or stigma reduction within communities of color.

Applications will be accepted from July 12, 2021 to Aug. 6, 2021 at [Nspirechange](#) website. Funds will be awarded later this summer.

This project is supported by the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) through a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant TI-83-283.

About Nspire

Nspire – A Park Community Initiative, Inc. is more than a traditional philanthropic organization. Its role is to build relationships and innovative philanthropy solutions to support community. Nspire’s vision is to promote neighborhood empowerment by building a culture of health with a goal of improving population health, well-being and equity policy action.

Nspire is sister philanthropic arm to Park Community Credit Union, a 55-year strong low-income designated Credit Union that serves Kentucky and Southern Indiana. Park Community believes that everyone deserves access to fair and affordable products and services no matter their location or socio-economic status. That type of dedication landed Park Community a Certified Development Financial Institution (CDFI) designation as a community partner across Kentucky.

About KORE

The Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE, which is housed in the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities) seeks to expand and sustain a comprehensive, equitable recovery-oriented system of care to end the opioid epidemic that has reached into every community in Kentucky.

KORE has helped lead an unprecedented expansion in opioid response services at the community level.

Through federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), KORE supports the implementation of evidence-based prevention, treatment and recovery supports to effect change at the state, community, family, and individual levels. For more information, visit the [KORE website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

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