

Morgan State University Center for Urban Health Equity (CUHE)

Established July 1, 2021

Funding and Faculty Lines

State Funding

\$3 million

Faculty Lines

(2) Full Research
Professor*

(3) Associate
Research Professor

(3) Assistant
Research Professor

Visiting Professors

* Does not include the Endowed Chair; faculty are from a variety of disciplines and can covert to tenure track

Mission Statement

To positively impact the root causes of urban health **inequities** through asset-based community-driven research and practice.

Center Strategic Goals

1. Enhance capability of communities to address urban health disparities and increase health equity through supported community-based scholarship
2. Build knowledge and skills regarding health equity within the University and beyond
3. Educate and disseminate new knowledge from urban health equity research
4. Foster and facilitate coordination and collaboration of health equity efforts across the state
5. Identify strengths and illuminate structural inequities to inform decision-making through data driven approaches

Values

The Center is built upon ...



Action-oriented scholarship

CUHE research should be empirically based, relevant, timely, and practical



Community-based strengths

CUHE acknowledges that every person, neighborhood, and organization have contributions to bring to the table in this work.



Meaningful relationships

Our engagements are intended to be mutually beneficial, respectful, and collaborative



Diversity

CUHE views diversity as moving beyond a seat at the table, asserts that myriad cultural perspectives and influences are valued and respected, understands that diversity cannot be defined by narrow singular categories



Honest communication and transparency

CUHE asserts that in our engagements, all parties should be open about their needs, constraints, and capabilities to prevent misunderstanding, breach of trust, and unmet expectations

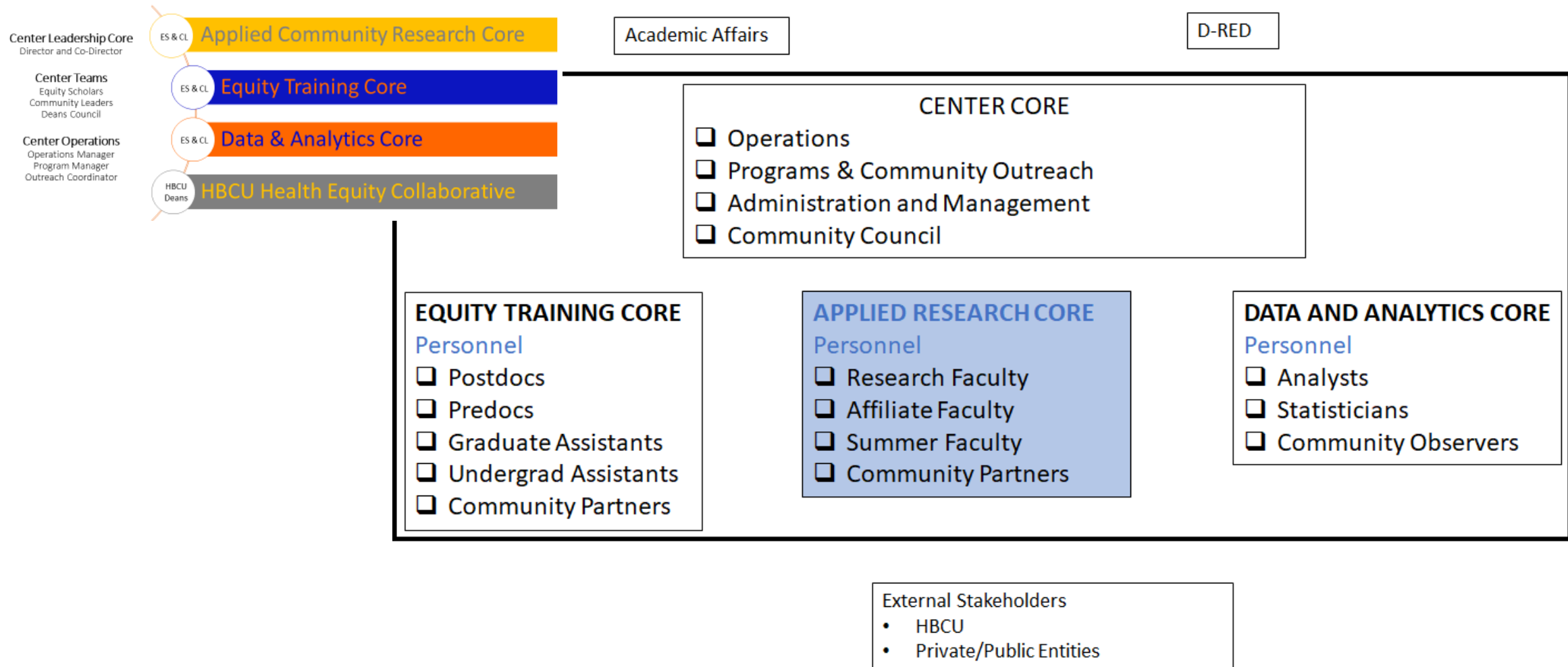
Vision



Consistent with our values the vision statement will be jointly developed with our community partners

Center Structure

Center Structure



Center Activities at Maturity

- **Equity Training Core** that includes
 - Training Programs integrating faculty, students, community, and staff
 - Provision of expertise to external organizations
- **Applied Research Core** that is community centered and focused on
 - Socioeconomic well-being
 - Policies and practices (medical and non-medical settings)
 - Neighborhood social and environmental conditions
- **Data and Analytic Core** that includes
 - Interoperable data system (quantitative and qualitative multi-source/multi-level)
 - Dissemination of useful/actionable knowledge (via reports briefs, forums, etc) to multiple stakeholder groups

Start-up Activities

3 Year Objectives

Objective 1: Establish infrastructure to support implementation of the Center's strategic goals and objectives

Objective 2: Establish and implement a research strategy and plan in alignment with strategic goals and center commitment to community engagement and data innovation

Objective 3: Constitute and implement a community engagement plan in alignment with the Center mission and values and principles

Objective 4: Assure and provide access to knowledge and skills transfer opportunities to support the advancement of community of health equity research and practice

Objective 5: Create and implement plans for accountability in all areas of operation

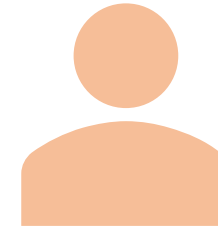
Accomplishments to Date

Infrastructure



Faculty Hires

- Full Research Professor (1)
- Associate Research Professor (1)
- Assistant Research Professor (1)
- Visiting Professor (1)
- Community Research Scientist (1)



Staff

- Operations Manager (1)
- Programs Manager (1)
- Community Coordinator (1)

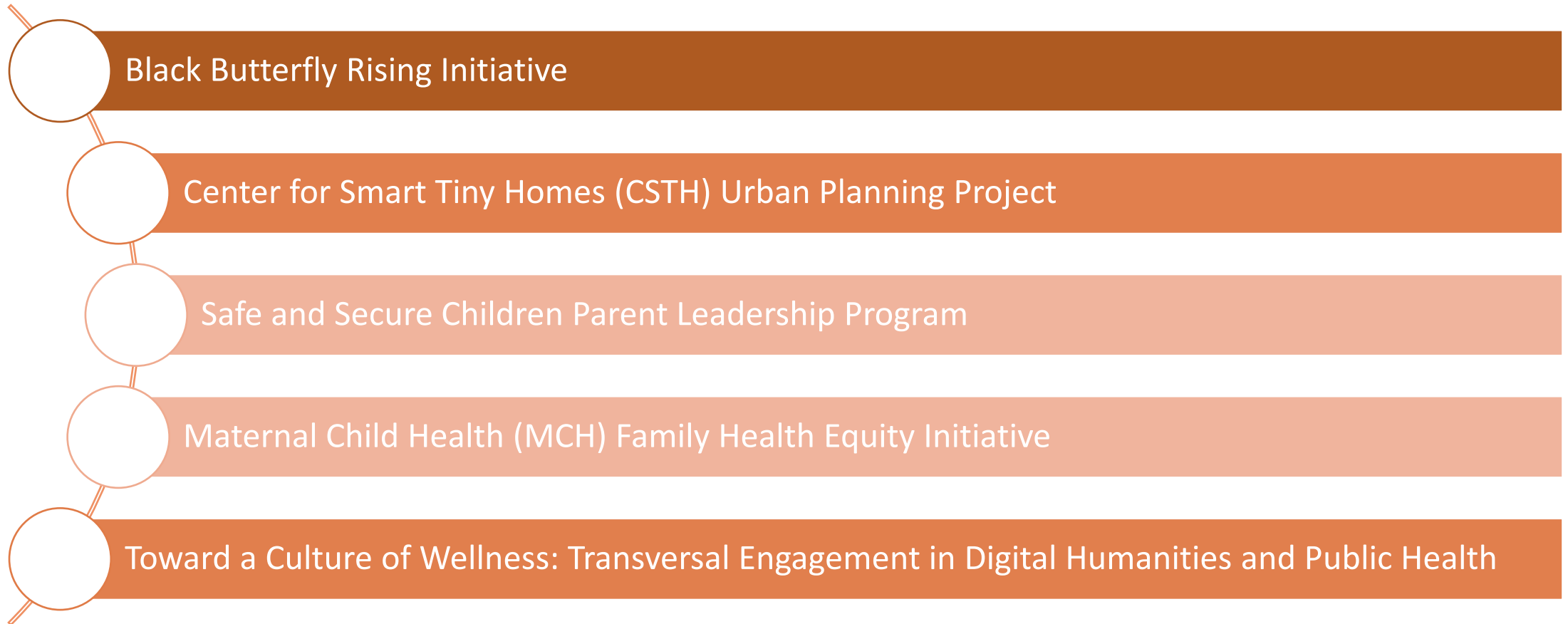
Infrastructure

- Center strategic and related implementation plans
- Operations manual
- Key software acquisitions (project and fiscal management) to include university wide licenses
 - Policy Map
 - ArcMap GIS
- Center branding and communications platform ([website](#), social media)
- Reconfiguration of office space in Portage

Research

- Internal and external grant funding and management plan
- Interdisciplinary faculty funded research projects
 - School of Architecture and Planning
 - School of Community Health and Policy
 - College of Liberal Arts
 - School of Education and Urban Studies
 - School of Business & Management
 - School of Engineering

Research Portfolio



Research Portfolio Cont.



8:46 Project: Developing an Original Forensic Nursing Model of Care for Victims of Law Enforcement Violence

Graduate Built Environment Studies Department, School of Architecture and Planning; Assessing and Quantifying Health Disparities in the City of Baltimore

Elevating Community Health Equity in Baltimore City

Research

- External grant submissions (Maternal Child Health Bureau, Mellon Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)
- External grants and contracts funded
 - Baltimore City Health Department (\$450k)
 - Howard County Library System (\$45k and growing)
 - Kaiser Community Health (\$100k)
 - NIH AIM-AHEAD (sub award in CUHE submitted in collaboration with Engineering) (\$204k)

Community Partnered Projects

■ Highlighted Projects

- **Hopkins, Morgan and BUILD** (Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development) to understand food access/insecurity and community leadership development (capacity building)
- **Black Butterfly Rising** expands on place-based research and historical structural racism that influences health outcomes in BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color)
- **Adaptive Village Small Grants** funded through the MacKenzie Scott seed funds that builds on partnership with the Family League of Baltimore (\$100k)

Challenges & Issues

- Recruitment (Faculty and Staff)
 - Availability in a competitive market
 - Release time/faculty workload
 - Time to manage processes
- Internal Systems and Policies
 - Procurement (consistency and clarity on policy and processes)
 - Finance & Administration
 - moving documents through the system
 - policies that can accommodate the shifting research/contract environment and involvement with community
 - Emerging Center model with overlapping accountability



Closing Comments

- Exciting and opportunistic time
- Learning as we go in some spaces
- Actively re-engaging with the larger community in very meaningful ways
- More to come
- Learn more about us

Thanks to the CUHE Team!

Dr. Anita Hawkins (Co-Director)

Dr. Sabriya Sturdavant (Coordinating Research Faculty)

Ms. Kiaron Bailey (Operations Manager)

Mr. Julian Walker (Programs Manager)

Dr. Marvin Perry (Community Coordinator/MCM Director)