

# Transforming Trauma to Achieve Radical Health

## Detroit Life is Valuable Every Day Success Story

2023 Michigan Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant

### Challenge

Detroit Life Is Valuable Every day (DLIVE) is an intentional response to the long ignored public health crisis of community violence (CV) decimating Detroit's young adult population with premature death and disability. In Detroit, CV is the leading cause of death for African Americans ages 15-34 years old. The inspiration that fueled the creation of DLIVE was to advance health equity, which has eluded Detroit's Black residents as they become ill or die at disproportionate rates from preventable disease. Regrettably, health centers often unwittingly serve as vehicles for structural violence – structures that are not designed to truly heal and deal with the racial injustice that is at the root of the many preventable illnesses.

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### Approach

DLIVE's ability to meet these challenges would not be possible without funding from the PHHS Block Grant. With a trauma-informed approach, DLIVE ascertained the complex upstream psychosocial health drivers and needs of young adults/families emerging from the crippling cycle of CV. DLIVE's multidisciplinary team, anchored by intensive case management specialist support, tirelessly designed and delivered targeted social determinants of health (SDOH) solutions that advanced the health of DLIVE participants and their families.

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### Results

With an emphasis on social drivers of health such as economic mobility, education, transportation, substance abuse, legal advocacy, and employment, combined with its culturally responsive efforts to address mental health, DLIVE's work has led to notable outcomes. DLIVE participants have completed certification/training programs, obtained driver's licenses & vehicles, achieved housing security, overcome addiction, and benefitted from efforts to address mental health. DLIVE's impact extended beyond its individual participants as it worked closely with families and other critical persons in that participant's social network. In fiscal year 2023, DLIVE was able to provide these transformative services to over 50 young people in Detroit.