

2025 Alliance Annual Meeting

A Roadmap for Dissemination + Sustainability

OVERVIEW

As the Alliance enters its fourth year, grantees' focus is shifting from launching programs to ensuring their initiatives' sustainability and impact. At the third annual meeting held in March 2025, more than 50 attendees from all eight grantee sites and their community partner organizations convened in Richmond, VA, to discuss institutional goals and the path forward. Attendees heard firsthand from health disparities experts and panels comprising physicians, patient navigators and community partners, helping inform planning efforts for the remaining two years of the Alliance initiative.

GRANTEE MILESTONES

- Fast-Track to ED policy deployed, resulting in an **85% increase in referrals** from the ED to oncology
- Patients spared more than **\$15K+** in associated social services costs and more than **\$100K** in travel costs
- Systematic screening of social needs introduced with an initial **screening rate of 65%**
- Time from diagnosis to treatment reduced by **84%**
- **Patient app launched**, providing virtual navigation
- **Resource guide developed** for patients without authorized immigration status
- **New navigators** hired through institutional support
- Two new measures added to the **Health Equity Report Card**

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Creating Sustainable Programs and Driving Dissemination

- Value proposition is key to long standing programs. To be successful, initiatives must show impact, through new policies, improved service models or changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviors.
- Sustainability doesn't necessarily mean activities continue in the same form. Evolution over time reflects adaptability, and the ability to adjust to changing levels of support and evolving community needs.
- Targeted communications plans can inform and educate key demographics; programs should align messaging with institutional goals to ensure continued support and long-term.



Optimizing Data for Policy Change and Community Impact

- Statistics tell the story — but community holds the truth. Numbers need context and community validation: data supplemented by strong community partnerships can lead to lasting impact.
- Organizational policy is the “small p,” the rules that govern behavior and practice with organizations. Public policy is the “big p,” interventions that create systemic change on a societal level. Successful “small p” initiatives can serve as models for broader change, often leading to larger policy shifts.
- Policy without people is just paper. The key to implementing effective policy is finding out what people really need and taking action to create initiatives that serve those needs.

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Focus Area	Strategy
Navigator Support	Provide navigators with supportive leadership, create strong partnerships with community-based organizations and offer educational opportunities for continued learning.
PIN Billing	Work with your IT team to determine which tools and technology are best for your organization. Don't be afraid to take the first step.
Community Engagement	Leverage non-traditional partnerships and explore new ways of sharing information with key audiences.

BY THE NUMBERS*

169

cancer navigators coordinating care for 2,367 people living with cancer

217

new community partnerships connecting patients to resources close to home

300

unique staff members trained in delivering culturally sensitive patient-centered care

Alliance for Equity in Cancer Care
an initiative funded by Merck Foundation

*These metrics reflect data across all grantees since the beginning of the Alliance