

# **NBCI Launched its Comprehensive COVID-19 Plan to Vaccinate over 100 Million African Americans and Latinos**

My name is Reverend Anthony Evans and I am the President and CEO of the National Black Church Initiative (NBCI). We are very excited to share with you NBCI's Comprehensive COVID-19 Plan to vaccinate over 100 Million African Americans and Latinos in the nation. We congratulate and thank all of our front-line workers who have proven their dedication and heart again and again through this devastating pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated and continues to negatively impact the African American church. The Black church has lost tens of thousands of our church members, active pastors, and has experienced increasing death tolls in our smaller to medium-sized churches. We want to work with the CDC very closely to determine the real data of the pandemic's impact on our church community.

Our organization has developed this comprehensive COVID-19 plan because we wanted to assist our 37 denomination leaders in getting our congregants back to the church building their church communities. We believe that getting our members back in the church is a critical step to strengthening our civil societies and ultimately, the country. We want the Biden Administration to provide NBCI adequate monetary funding and appropriate material resources, such as sufficient numbers of PPEs, to fully implement our COVID-19 plan. This funding has already been passed by Congress and NBCI requests their full support of \$100 million to ensure the 42 million African Americans and the 60 million Latinos in this country get the education, resources, and support they need to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Our plan constitutes only \$1 per person to protect the African American and Latino communities

This plan was thoughtful of approved state vaccine plans that CDC requested each state's governors to submit over a year ago. Now that we are in the height of the pandemic with increased mortality and morbidity rates, we recognize that the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines and its distribution has not been delivered well or fairly. There is a gaping disparity between Whites and minorities who are given first access to these medicines. We have seen all too many instances of racial injustices in the past four years, especially in our social and political realms, starting with the murder and death of George Floyd. NBCI will not stand for health inequality when it comes to the COVID-19 vaccine distribution and any other medicines our communities need to live happy and healthy lives. We are confident that the coalition we have created between our churches, pharmaceutical companies, the African American and Latino communities, Black and Latino Media, the National Medical Association, the Hispanic Medical Association, and other civil and human rights organizations is the best-organized coalition to solve this problem.

Our comprehensive COVID-19 plan calls for the mobilization of over 100 Million African Americans and Latinos to get vaccinated against COVID-19. This plan will be implemented over the next 5 years as we recognize that COVID-19 will be in our environment for a long time. The first phase of our plan is getting everyone educated and vaccinated. Our implementation focuses on the vaccination of every single individual within a 5-mile radius of each of our churches. This is critically important to achieve herd immunity across our churches and surrounding areas and to ensure that individuals coming in and out of our churches are healthy, protected from being infected by others, and ultimately, taking the first steps to immunity.

Our plan cannot work or be implemented well without monetary resources. We are calling on the Biden administration to provide NBCI with adequate funding and material resources so we can continue to implement our plan successfully. This plan provides governors around this country to receive up to 25,000 volunteers to work in every major city to educate and motivate its citizens to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Our actions are also coordinated through our pharmaceutical partners: BIO, Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson and Johnson.

NBCI has also prepared an aggressive media campaign ran by African American and Latino media professionals. We are working with the National Medical Association, the National Black Nurses Association, the NAACP, the National Urban League, the National Action Network, and every major organization in the Black community. NBCI has members of these organizations who are part of the 150,000 churches under its leadership. Our organization is the most equipped to lead our communities out of this crisis as we know what is best for the African American and Latino communities.