

## Community Engagement



### Selection of Communities

In October 2022, a strategy session was held with the Center Leadership Team (UF Health Jacksonville, 904WARD, Hispanic Federation, and Florida Health Justice Project) and the Center's Advisory Committee to discuss the overall community engagement strategy to be undertaken. At the strategy meeting, participants reviewed data from the Florida Department of Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and other sources to determine possible focus areas for the community engagement process. In particular, there was a focus on underserved communities with a high social vulnerability index. The Center identified social vulnerability via the CDC Social Vulnerability Index, which includes 16 U.S. census variables in socioeconomic status, household characteristics, racial and ethnic minority status, and housing type & transportation to identify potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. The Center's and advisory committee members' experience and knowledge of underserved communities and the strength of existing relationships in several counties were also taken into consideration.

A Community Engagement Team was formed and was led by two of the Center's partners, 904WARD and Hispanic Federation. Through a series of strategy meetings with the Community Engagement Team and Center leadership, 9 counties were identified as the initial focus areas.