County Selection Process ▶▶

The selection of these counties was based on the following criteria: ▶▶

Strength of existing relationships with counties nearest to partner headquarters. The Center values the efforts required to build trusting partnerships within the community. In order to launch an effective and responsive plan of listening, learning and unlearning, the Center partners started where their collective presence was the strongest.

Knowledge of existing data and/or needs assessments the Center could leverage. Avoiding redundant and extractive approaches in communities already burdened was crucial. The Center's staff emphasized the importance of being invited into communities. The Center staff and partners had the opportunity to meet with numerous organizations involved in addressing health and social inequities to glean insights, share data, and understand historic successes and failures in their communities.

Existing financial investments to communities that could influence the momentum and impact of the Center's work, most importantly, sustainability. In the early stages of community engagement, establishing enduring and sustainable change requires the strategic and thoughtful linkage of resources.

The counties intentionally included a mixture of rural and urban areas with diverse populations in North, Central and South Florida. They include **Alachua, Bradford, Duval, Gadsden, Leon, and Putnam Counties** in North Florida, **Orange and Hillsborough Counties** in Central Florida, and **Miami-Dade County** in South Florida. See Figure 1 for a map of the selected counties. Three additional counties were added, Desoto, Osceola and Palm Beach. Within these communities, *additional sub-populations of interest include people with disabilities, pregnant women, people who have been incarcerated, immigrants, those experiencing homelessness or those with unstable housing, individuals who identify as LGBTQ+, youth, and racial and ethnic minority groups.*

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