

## THE ALPHA FOUNDATION OF HOWARD COUNTY, INC.

P.O. Box 2694 Columbia, Maryland 21045

## **Alpha Foundation Receives Howard County Innovation Grant**

4/20/2020

(Ellicott City, Maryland) **The Alpha Foundation of Howard County (AFHC)** is excited to announce it is the recipient of a Howard County Innovation Fund Grant. "This is a game changer," said AFHC Chairman Dennis Kemp, Sr. The grant will create a "Youth/Teen - Find - A - Doc - Howard!" application to assist those going through mental stress.

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Vaughn Bradley Director of Educational Activities Kappa Phi Lambda The proposal was submitted by the AFHC, a 501(c3) organization, which partnered with Dr. Chesahna Kindred and physicians from the Onyx Medical Society. The goal is to create a website that provides Howard County African Americans and other students of color with a list of mental healthcare options.

Howard County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball, created the **Innovation Fund Grant in 2020.** The goal, improve the county as we look forward to the future. Applicants were asked to create projects that foster innovation for the public good.

The proposal submitted in 2021 was created under the direction of Vaughn M. Bradley, Jr., Director of Educational Activities, at Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Phi Lambda Chapter, Howard County, MD.

"We used a ground up approach. We engaged members of the Alpha Achievers (a high school enrichment program) to learn the challenges facing young people who are going through mental stress and other factors causing disruption in daily life. We then talked to professionals at the Onyx Medical Society who have a unique expertise. The medical society knows the how, why and how to fix lives. We now know the need and we can address it."

During a presentation at the Howard County Miller Branch Library in Ellicott City, County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball presented a check to AFHC Chairman, Dennis Kemp, Sr. for \$36,904.

The Alpha Foundation of Howard County is a 501(c3) organization and is the main fundraising arm of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Phi Lambda Chapter. The Kappa Phi Lambda Chapter provides multiple educational activities for young people in Howard County.

"Our return on investment has proven time and time again we are changing the direction of young people and improving outcomes for all of Howard County," according to AFHC Chairman Kemp.

In the fall, there will be a Kickoff event for the Alpha Achievers and Howard County African American youth of color and their parents to introduce the "Youth/Teen - Find - A - Doc - Howard!" Application.

Brandon Barrett, a member of the Education Committee, has been tasked to build the site. Barrett says, "beta testing this spring/summer for rollout in the fall."

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