

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

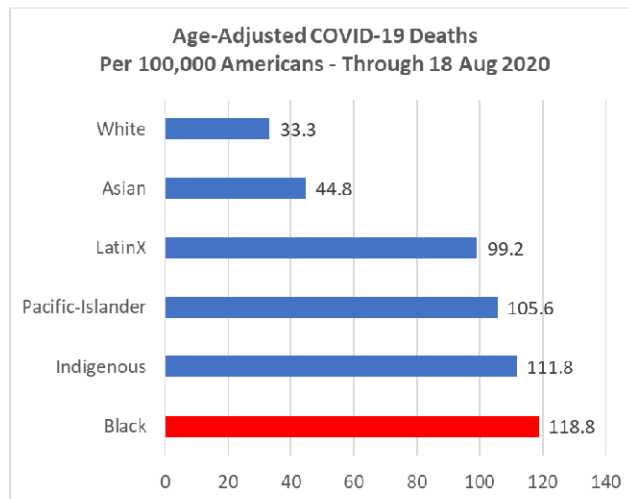
**Jacqueline L. Burton, President**  
**Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC)**  
**676 Beckwith St. SW**  
**Atlanta, GA. 30314**  
**678.576.4277 (mobile)**

## **Black Faith Leaders Awarded \$1.56 Million Grant to Ensure Equitable Distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccinations**

(Atlanta, Georgia | April 13, 2021) – According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and independently validated by others, people of color are disproportionately affected by the ongoing pandemic and African Americans are 3.6+ times more likely to die from COVID-19-related complications than their White counterparts. The ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic has caused more than 460,000 deaths and resulted in over 27 million cases of illness – and the numbers continue to rise. Similar studies reveal that people of color are also less likely to trust healthcare workers, trials, vaccinations, and healthcare delivery systems that could save their lives.

### **An Overwhelming Problem**

African Americans are 3.6+ times more likely to die from COVID-19-related complications than their white counterparts.



### **A Solution**

The Conference of National Black Churches has initiated the (CNBC) COVID-19 Action Plan: Mobilizing Black Churches in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic - Trusted Voices, Trusted Content, Trusted Spaces. The program addresses the harsh impact of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic by leveraging credible, fact-based data to develop and distribute culturally and linguistically appropriate materials and information about vaccine efficacy and safety to our communities by partnering with denominational leaders to implement programming through churches and church-connected colleges and universities.

To accomplish the goals of this program, the CNBC has been awarded funding in the amount of \$1.56 million dollars for 2021 through a Federal award with the CDC entitled *Partnering with National Organizations to Increase*

*Vaccination Coverage Across Different Racial and Ethnic Adult Populations Currently Experiencing Disparities.* The program will partner with vaccine providers to deliver vaccinations within its communities at local faith-based facilities, community centers, colleges, or other trusted locations.

“This grant is very important because it links the tremendous resources of the African American churches across the country with the need to sensitize, educate, and build confidence in the new vaccines to the African American community. This grant will make it possible to educate more than 3,000 pastors making them certified in understanding the history of vaccines in the African American community, the science behind vaccines, and understanding the challenges facing our community as it relates to the overall mistreatment and lack of confidence in healthcare in this country,” Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, Chairman of the CNBC Board of Trustees, explained. He continued, “In addition, the program will equip pastors to go back to their congregations with materials that we are going to develop to enhance the knowledge of our communities, therefore, eliminating some of the stigmas that exist and prevent people from taking vaccines. This project is very important because pastors are trusted voices and influencers in the African American community and are intimately involved with people on the ground level. So, it is a wonderful opportunity for a partnership with the CDC and the African American church community and we welcome it. I am excited about it and I look forward to the implementation of it immediately.”

“Historically, the Black church has been one of the strongest and most consistent influencers in the Black community. Members look to denominational leaders for guidance, clarity and perspective and churches are considered safe and familiar places for our constituents. It is fitting then, that the Black church leads this effort to educate, encourage, and mobilize the African American community to embrace vaccinations and protect our health,” said Jacqueline Burton, President of The Conference of National Black Churches. The program will play a pivotal role in reaching African Americans within the church and the community at large. We are excited to partner with the CDC and look forward to working together to increase trust of vaccines within our communities.”

## **ABOUT THE CNBC**

[The Conference of National Black Churches \(CNBC\)](#) is comprised of the national leadership of the seven largest historically Black denominations in America. The organization represents more than 80% of African American Christians across this nation and has a combined membership of over 20 million people and 30,000 congregations. Our mission is to speak with a unified voice of Black religious bodies that seeks to improve the quality of life for African Americans as they seek to reach their full potential in American society.

### **Our Leadership**

The Conference of National Black Churches is led by Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Jacqueline L. Burton, President, and the CNBC Board of Directors. The national leaders of our seven member denominations serve as members of the CNBC Board of Directors. The member denominations include African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME), Church of God In Christ (COGIC), National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., International (NBCA), National Baptist Convention, U. S. A. Inc. (NBC USA), and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC).

###

For further information, visit [www.thecnbc.net](http://www.thecnbc.net) or contact Jacqueline L. Burton, President of the Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC) at 678.576.4277 (mobile), or [jburton@icamonline.org](mailto:jburton@icamonline.org).