

## **Fulton County Interfaith Coalition and the Collaborate for Health Weight.**

With obesity levels in the United States at all-time highs, Fulton County healthcare leaders are working together to make local improvements through “Collaborate for Healthy Weight,” a national effort to reverse the epidemic through innovative local partnerships between primary care providers, public health professionals, and leaders of community-based organizations.

“Collaborate for Healthy Weight” is a two-phased project supported through the Prevention and Public Health Fund under the Affordable Care Act led by the National Initiative for Children’s Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) with a cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Fulton County is one of 50 locations across the country participating in this groundbreaking program that will bring solutions to the local community and share strategies on a broader scale. The team is being led by Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness and includes representatives from:

- GA Department of Public Health, Cardiovascular Health Initiative
- Bethel United Methodist Church
- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
- Hindu Temple of Atlanta
- Concerned Black Clergy
- Compassionate Nurses (representing Muslim Community)
- Robert’s Guide (representing Bahai community)
- University of GA Risk Management & Communications
- Project Open Hand
- Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta
- The Georgia Association for Primary Health Care
- Atlanta Soto Zen Center (representing the Buddhist community)
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Family Connection Partnership, Inc.

The team is working under the mantra " Faith Communities United for Health: Your Body is a Temple" and combining their respective strengths and various ties in the community in order to enact policy, system, and environmental changes in order to create sustainable improvement in the weight and overall health status of families across Fulton County. Currently, the team, while still in its early stages, has begun the process of conducting needs assessment in their respective communities and creating a uniform identity.

The Fulton County team is the beginning of the County’s Interfaith Coalition, which aims to use these formed partnerships as a channel to address the multiple of health issues and disparities affecting various population within the county. All of these efforts are a part of the goal to make Fulton County the healthiest county in the state, which will be a great achievement seeing as though it currently ranks 26 out of 159.

For more information about this initiative, visit [www.collaborateforhealthyweight.org](http://www.collaborateforhealthyweight.org).

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