

Opportunities for Improving the Lives of Women in Montgomery County

	CHALLENGE	OPPORTUNITY
EXPAND CAREER OPPORTUNITES	Women are underrepresented in the fields of STEM, which are often high-income occupations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the availability and accessibility of STEM-related courses and after-school programs in middle schools in Montgomery County. • Collaborate with Montgomery County school districts to identify opportunities that encourage girls to participate in STEM.
SUPPORT WORKING MOTHERS	There is an unmet preschool need in Montgomery County (75.4%) as compared to PA (64%).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify ways in which pre-school education is more readily available and affordable in Montgomery County.

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FIGHT CANCER	Black Women have higher cancer death rates than other racial groups in the United States, Pennsylvania, and Montgomery County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support research and identify ways to reduce health disparities and cancer rates in Montgomery County. • Expand education and outreach for preventive care and early detection, especially among women of color.
SUPPORT RECOVERY	Nationally, women’s rate of death from prescription opioid overdose has more than quadrupled from 1999-2005. Of the prescription opioid overdose incidents among women in Montgomery County, the vast majority occurred among White women (62.5%).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with physician groups, hospitals and health systems in Montgomery County on health education, outreach and recovery programs, especially for opioid addiction.



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IMPROVE PRENATAL AND INFANT CARE	<p>Low birth weight rates were more common among Black women than other racial groups in Montgomery County.</p> <p>In Montgomery County, the infant mortality rate among Black women is higher than other racial groups and higher than national and state averages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct more research studies to examine causes of low birth weight and infant mortality among Black women who give birth in Montgomery County.• Expand access to prenatal services for women in Montgomery County.• Create a county-wide committee to examine current policies and identify best practices in prenatal and infant care.
CREATE SAFE ENVIRONMENTS	<p>Between 2014-16, there were 89 reported incidents of rape at colleges and universities within or on the border of Montgomery County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborate with Colleges and Universities in Montgomery County to address violence on campus and create action plans to reduce the number of assaults.



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SUPPORT VETERANS	5% of veterans in Montgomery County were women (2016).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather detailed data on and create programs to support women veterans in Montgomery County.
INNOVATE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS	While there are many private and public transit options, access to transportation varies by income and zip code in Montgomery County. Affordable and reliable transportation is essential for expanding employment opportunities and accessing health and preventive care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine innovative transportation options, considering the use of smart phones, apps, and real-time GPS as tools to improve and expand access to transit.