



INDIANA COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MALES News Release



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The Annual Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative



The 8th Annual Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative

Indianapolis – The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) will be coordinating the Annual Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative for the eighth year. The initiative will take place on multiple Saturdays in April, 2018. This event will be held in conjunction with local commissions and community partners, providing health screenings and education at local barbershops from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in fourteen cities. Each participating barbershop will offer all customers free health screenings and informational handouts during the statewide initiative. The ICSSBM, along with hundreds of volunteers, seeks to enlighten African American men to better understand cardiovascular diseases through screening and education.

Participating cities include: Bloomington, East Chicago, Elkhart, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Hammond, Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, Kokomo, Merrillville, Michigan City, New Albany, and South Bend. The **Kickoff event will be held on April 6, 2018, at Cuttime 41st, 4191 Cleveland Street, Gary, Indiana 46408** and will include free health screenings and health information from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CST.

This is the eighth year for the annual initiative, and from the first year with six cities the initiative has more than doubled to 14 cities. 2016 was a hallmark year as the initiative expanded from one Saturday in April to utilizing all Saturdays in April.

Chairman Kenneth Allen stated,.... “Our eating habits and lack of trust in the medical industry has caused us to dig our graves with knives and forks. Heart disease, stroke and hypertension are the leading cause of death for black men. The Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative allows especially black men, to get checked out early increasing longevity while saving lives. The ICSSBM is truly thankful for all our partners, sponsors, and participating barbershops across Indiana”.

This year's statewide initiative partners and sponsors include **Telamon Corporation, the Indiana State Department of Health, the Indiana Minority Health Coalition, Metro PCS, 1-800 Quit Now, Managed Health Services (MHS), American Lung Association, and Anthem**. For more information, including a list of participating barbershops, visit www.in.gov/icssbm.

The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males was legislatively established in 1993, to identify and recommend public and legislative remedies to improve the economic, educational, health, criminal justice, and social status of Black males in Indiana. The mission of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males is to study the social conditions of the state's Black male population, seek to develop strategies to remedy or assist in remedying serious adversities, and make recommendations to improve the educational, social, economic, employment, and other circumstances for Hoosiers.

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