



CRISP 2025 Patty Brown Award

The Patty Brown Innovation Award acknowledges individuals or teams making significant strides in Maryland's healthcare landscape. Winners showcase innovation in their engagement and collaboration with various stakeholders throughout the healthcare spectrum. They exhibit strategic thinking, guiding others in implementing practical solutions using health information technology. Most importantly, their endeavors are rooted in a mission to enhance health outcomes for patients and communities.

This year's award goes to: GBMC Healthcare CHRC Pathways to Health Equity Team

The GBMC Healthcare CHRC Pathways to Health Equity Team has demonstrated a bold, data-driven approach to improving health outcomes for underserved communities in Baltimore. Led by Co-Directors Cathy Hamel and Erlene Washington, with Karen Thompkins as Project Manager and key contributors in reporting, evaluation, and community engagement, the team's efforts reflect a deep commitment to reducing disparities and transforming care.

Funded through a \$1.5 million grant from the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC), the two-year Pathways to Health Equity program launched in May 2022 and focused on reaching predominantly Black, Hispanic, and homebound senior populations. The program provided primary care through the Jonestown and Gilchrist Geriatric Care practices while addressing social drivers of health (SDOH) through collaborations with trusted community partners.

The team's strategic use of health information technology played a vital role in its success. They utilized Epic's electronic medical record system, developed customized dashboards to monitor clinical outcomes, and implemented the Epic Compass Rose module to assess and address SDOH. A bi-directional interface with FindHelp allowed seamless coordination with community-based resources—enabling partners to close the loop on referrals and ensuring patients received the support they needed.

Through careful evaluation using CRISP data, the team demonstrated a remarkable \$10.5 million in healthcare cost savings over the grant period, largely due to reduced inpatient and emergency department utilization. As a result of these outcomes, GBMC was awarded an additional \$3.5 million in funding to expand the program over the next five years, aiming to reach more than 3,000 patients and 20,000 community members.

The GBMC Pathways to Health Equity initiative exemplifies the spirit of the Patty Brown Innovation Award. By blending clinical care, community partnerships, and technology, the team has created a replicable model for equitable, sustainable healthcare transformation.

We extend our sincere congratulations to GBMC Healthcare and the Pathways to Health Equity Team for their outstanding contributions. We also thank all nominees this year—it's inspiring to see the commitment to innovation and equity across the CRISP community.