



Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC)

ANNUAL REPORT



HAPC Core Associations

- Haitian Lawyers Association (HLA)
- Haitian American Nurses Association of Florida (HANA)
- Association of Haitian Educators of Dade (AHED)
- Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (HACCOF)
- Family Action Network Movement (FANM)
- National Haitian American Elected Officials Network (NHAEON)
- Haitian American Voter Engagement Coalition (HAVE)
- Avanse Ansanm
- Rebati Sante Mentale
- Ayiti Community Trust (ACT)
- U-Turn Youth Consulting, Inc.
- Haitian American Pharmacists Association (HAPA)
- Haitian American Faith-Based Network (HAFBN)

Mission Statement

Our mission is to mobilize and link professionals of diverse occupations to effectively address issues relevant to the community and provide opportunities for growth and development. HAPC promotes community connectedness, civic participation, capacity building, and infrastructure development. We foster relationships between the community, diverse service providers, and socioeconomically influential individuals through active interprofessional collaboration and effective partnerships.

Objectives

HAPC's primary activities focus on developing and implementing effective interventions that address health, legal, academic, and socio-economic issues affecting Haitian Americans in the United States and Haitians in Haiti.

- **Strategize:** Implement culturally competent interventions addressing infrastructure and socio-economic concerns.
- **Research:** Identify community gaps and advocate for policies ensuring Haitian access to essential services.
- **Promote:** Enhance community connectedness and civic participation.
- **Plan & Develop:** Design community and humanitarian projects while strengthening organizational partnerships.



CHAIRWOMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Members, Partners, and Supporters,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I reflect on HAPC's journey over the past year. As Chairwoman, I have witnessed the unwavering dedication of our members and partners as we work collectively to uplift and empower the Haitian community. Our efforts in fostering collaboration, strengthening advocacy, and expanding research-based initiatives have significantly impacted the lives of Haitian professionals and the broader community.

The success of our initiatives, including the Haitian Health & Resource Fair, research contributions, and youth engagement programs, highlights our commitment to sustainable growth. Through the Social Network Analysis project, we have reinforced our ability to build strategic partnerships that strengthen our collective impact.

Looking ahead, HAPC remains steadfast in its mission to advocate, educate, and connect. We recognize the importance of unity and strategic action in overcoming challenges, and we are more determined than ever to drive positive change. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to every individual and organization that has contributed to our progress. Together, we are shaping a stronger, more connected Haitian professional community.

With gratitude and commitment,

Dr. Guerda Nicolas

Chairwoman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Members,

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, it is with great pride and gratitude that I write this letter as the Executive Director of Haitian American Professionals Coalition, Inc. (HAPC). The journey of advancing the mission of HAPC has been a collective effort, and it is because of your continued support, dedication, and passion that we have made significant strides in fostering the professional and personal growth of Haitian Americans across the country.

This past year has been a testament to the resilience and determination of our community. In the face of ongoing challenges that have yet to leave room for pause, HAPC has continued to create opportunities for collaboration amongst our members and partners while providing invaluable resources to Haitian American professionals through networking and advocacy. Additionally, we have made great strides in advocating for policies that support the Haitian American community. By working closely with policymakers and community organizations, HAPC has ensured that the voices of Haitian Americans are amplified on issues such as immigration, mental health, and economic opportunity. Through our efforts, we have seen an increase in representation, as well as greater recognition of the unique challenges and contributions of our people across the globe. We are fueled by our challenges and continue to push the envelope to demand change!

As we look to the future, HAPC is committed to continuing its work in empowering Haitian American in the most meaningful times. There is still much work to be done, and with your continued partnership, we will continue to move toward our vision of a stronger, more united community.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our board members, core associations, volunteers, partners, and every individual who has supported HAPC in our mission for the last 23 years. Together, we will continue building a legacy of excellence and opportunity for Haitian Americans, and I am excited about the work that lies ahead.

Warmest regards,
Marline Monestime
Executive Director



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC)** has had a transformative year, marked by **strategic initiatives, impactful advocacy, and strengthened professional networks**. As we reflect on our accomplishments, we recognize the dedication of our members, partners, and supporters who continue to advance our mission of **empowering Haitian professionals and fostering sustainable community development**.

Key Highlights & Achievements

- **Major Initiatives & Events:** HAPC Members (add members) expanded its reach through key programs such as the Haitian Health & Resource Fair, Community Conversations, and **Nou La Pi Red Summit 2024**, fostering collaboration among professionals and community organizations.
- **Research & Advocacy:** Our research initiatives made strides with **multiple publications, conference presentations, and funded grants** that amplify Haitian voices in areas such as **mental health, health equity, and social policy**.
- **Strategic Collaborations:** Partnering with **Ayiti Community Trust and CFLeads**, we conducted a **Social Network Analysis (SNA) of 20 Haitian Professional Organizations**, identifying key clusters in **Health, Research, and Youth**, leading to **data-driven decision-making and stronger partnerships**.
- **Community Impact:** Through our **legal aid services, workforce development programs, and youth mentorship initiatives**, we directly supported **Haitian professionals, immigrants, and students**, fostering growth and opportunity.
- **Fundraising & Grants:** HAPC secured funding through sources such as the **University of Miami Dean's Diversity Grant and Florida Department of Health**, while continuing to advocate for expanded financial support to sustain our initiatives.

Looking Ahead to 2025

As we move forward, HAPC remains committed to:

- **Expanding professional development opportunities** for Haitian professionals and youth.
- **Strengthening research and advocacy efforts** to address community challenges.
- **Enhancing partnerships** to drive **policy change and economic growth**.
- **Building a more unified network** that leverages the collective strength of Haitian-led organizations.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our **members, partners, and supporters** who have contributed to our progress. With your continued engagement, **we will build an even stronger, more resilient Haitian professional community**—one that drives lasting change for generations to come.

Onward to 2025—Empowered, United, and Impactful!

HAPC HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The **Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC)** continues to make a significant impact through **strategic initiatives, community engagement, and professional development**. Over the past year, HAPC has spearheaded key programs that strengthen health access, foster professional connections, and support research efforts within the Haitian-American community.

From hosting the **Haitian Health & Resource Fair** in collaboration with esteemed partners like **Ross University, AMHE, HANA, and Avanse Ansanm**, to receiving the **Little Haiti Revitalization Trust Community Grant** in support of this vital initiative, HAPC remains committed to **enhancing community well-being**. Additionally, its **Community Conversations** initiative has served as a **strategic platform for dialogue**, while the **Summer Mixer** has provided opportunities for **networking and professional engagement**.

Through its partnership in **Nou La Pi Red Summit 2024** with **Avanse Ansanm**, HAPC continues to elevate leadership and innovation among Haitian professionals. Furthermore, the organization's commitment to advancing research has been recognized with the receipt of **Research Team Sub-Grants**, further supporting knowledge-driven initiatives.

These accomplishments reflect HAPC's ongoing mission to **empower, connect, and advocate for Haitian professionals**, ensuring that their contributions are recognized and that they have the resources to thrive in their respective fields.

CORE MEMBER ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

- **Haitian-American Pharmacists Association** continued its efforts in supporting healthcare initiatives and professional development.
- **Workforce Readiness Advancement & Placement Inc.** conducted **workforce development and job placement recruitment sessions** in **Miami Gardens and Little Haiti**, helping job seekers find employment opportunities.
- **Haitian Lawyers Association** provided **free legal assistance** through a **TPS and Work Authorization Clinic**, supporting the Haitian immigrant community.
- **Legba Translations** contributed to language accessibility and cultural adaptation services.
- **A Reflection of Me** collaborated with the **North Miami Beach Multicultural Committee** to host **Haiti: Rhythm of Our Heartbeat**, celebrating Haitian culture through music and storytelling.
- **The Robert Philippeaux Epilepsy Organization** participated in the Annual Walk the Talk for Epilepsy Marathon, advocating for epilepsy awareness and support.
- **National Haitian American Elected Officials Network** hosted its **15th Annual Leadership Retreat**, bringing together Haitian-American leaders to discuss policy and governance.
- **Rebati Sante Mentale** organized **Libere Tèt Nou 2024, a Two-Day Conference** focused on **breaking the stigma around mental health** in the Haitian community.
- **Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida** hosted its **4th Annual Sunday Brunch**, fostering networking and business growth among Haitian professionals.

This list of activities showcases a strong focus on **legal assistance, workforce development, cultural celebration, healthcare advocacy, political leadership, and mental health awareness** within the Haitian-American community.

The **Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC)** remains at the forefront of **research and advocacy**, driving meaningful contributions in public health, mental health, and culturally responsive methodologies. Through **publications, grants, presentations, and ongoing research projects**, HAPC continues to amplify Haitian voices and address key issues affecting the Haitian-American community.

HAPC has actively contributed to **academic discourse and policy development** through impactful publications such as the **Thrive 305 Paper**, the **Bon Bagay Project**, and manuscripts on **COVID-19 vaccine uptake, self-agency, and community partnerships**. Additionally, the book proposal “Beyond Quantitative Research Methods” seeks to introduce **innovative research approaches tailored for Indigenous and Caribbean communities**.

In the realm of **grants and funding**, HAPC has pursued major opportunities, including applications for **NIH, NSF, and the Florida Department of Health** to support projects on **cultural adaptation, mental health, and health equity**. Securing funding such as the **University of Miami Dean’s Diversity Grant** underscores the coalition’s commitment to **inclusive research initiatives**.

HAPC has also taken center stage at **prestigious conferences and summits**, delivering presentations at the Haitian Mental Health Summit, the **Haitian Heritage Month Research Symposium**, and the **Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology**. These engagements have shed light on **critical topics such as mental health, acculturation, and the well-being of Haitian immigrants**.

Additionally, HAPC remains dedicated to **ongoing research projects** that examine **Haitian immigrant health, HIV and AIDS research, and the cultural adaptation of neurological assessments**. These efforts not only **inform policy and practice but also strengthen community-based interventions** tailored to Haitian populations.

Through **rigorous research, advocacy, and funding pursuits**, HAPC continues to **advance knowledge, empower communities, and shape a future where evidence-based solutions drive positive change** for Haitians in the U.S. and beyond.





Publications:

- Thrive 305 Paper (Revised for new submission)
- Bon Bagay (Paper submitted for first aim)
- COVID-19 Intention and Uptake Manuscript
- Self-Agency Paper
- Community Partnership Paper (Submitted)
- Book Proposal: Beyond Quantitative Research Methods: Innovative Approaches for Indigenous and Caribbean Communities

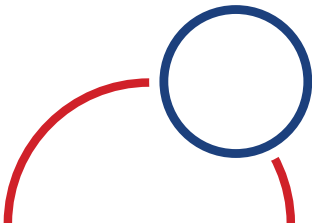
Grants & Funding:

- NIH Grant (Applied, not funded)
- University of Miami Dean's Diversity Grant
- NSF Grant (Culturally Competent Virtual Humans for Health Equity)
- NIH-ROI Grant (Culturally Responsive Virtual Health Agents for Depression in Black South Floridians)
- Florida Department of Health (MoCA FLDOH)

Presentations:

- Haitian Mental Health Summit (Factors Impacting Haitian Mental Wellness)
- Research Symposium during Haitian Heritage Month
- Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology Proposal
- Acculturation & Mental Health among Haitian Immigrants

Ongoing Research Projects:

- Bon Bagay Project
 - Center for AIDS Research Grant
 - Center for HIV Research and Mental Health Grant
 - Recent Haitian Immigrants Health Study (94 participants enrolled)
 - Cultural Adaptation of Neurological Assessment
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FROM MAPPING TO ACTION: STRENGTHENING HAITIAN PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

Recognizing the power of **collaboration and data-driven decision-making**, the **Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC)** partnered with **Ayiti Community Trust (ACT)** and **CFLeads Connecting Communities** to conduct a **Social Network Analysis (SNA)** of **20 Haitian Professional Organizations (HPOs)** in **South Florida**. This initiative aimed to **identify collaborative opportunities, strengthen organizational relationships, and enhance collective impact**.

Through the mapping process, **three core clusters emerged—Health, Research, and Youth**—each playing a critical role in advancing Haitian professional engagement:

- **Health Cluster:** Focused on **organizing health fairs** and improving community health initiatives.
- **Research Cluster:** Supported **academic research, publication efforts, and scientific conferences** to drive knowledge-sharing.
- **Youth Cluster:** Strengthened **youth engagement** through mentorship, collaboration, and leadership development.

The findings from this analysis are now shaping the **next steps**, including:

- **Annual SNA evaluations** to monitor progress and optimize effectiveness.
- **Strategic resource allocation** based on each cluster's unique needs, such as **health fairs, research grants, and youth mentorship programs**.
- **Leadership training programs** to strengthen the **capacity and sustainability** of Haitian professional networks.
- Engaging key influencers as advocates to sustain long-term collaborations and **amplify Haitian voices in policy reform**.

HAPC is **moving from mapping to action through this initiative**, ensuring that **Haitian professional organizations are empowered, well-connected, and equipped to drive meaningful change** in South Florida and beyond.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW & DONATIONS

HAPC relies on the generous contributions of members, donors, and partner organizations. To support our mission, consider making a donation at www.hapcoalition.org.

Future Goals:

- Expand membership and coalition partnerships
- Strengthen research and policy advocacy efforts
- Enhance professional development opportunities
- Increase funding for community-driven initiatives

CLOSING REMARKS: LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

As we transition into **2025**, the **Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC)** reaffirms its **commitment to advocacy, professional development, and community empowerment**. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in **health initiatives, research, policy engagement, and professional networking**, all aimed at strengthening the Haitian-American community and expanding opportunities for the next generation of leaders.

Moving forward, HAPC will continue to **amplify Haitian voices, foster meaningful collaborations, and advocate for policies that uplift our community**. Our initiatives, from **workforce development and legal aid to mental health awareness and youth engagement**, will remain at the forefront of our mission. We will also deepen our **commitment to research, data-driven decision-making, and leadership training**, ensuring that our professional networks are **not only well-connected but also strategically positioned to effect long-term change**.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our **partners, donors, volunteers, and community members** who have played an integral role in advancing our collective vision. Your unwavering support fuels our efforts and strengthens our resolve to build a **more inclusive, empowered, and unified** Haitian professional network.

As we embark on another year of impact and progress, we invite you to join us in **shaping the future, breaking barriers, and creating lasting opportunities** for Haitian professionals. Together, we will continue to build a **stronger, more resilient community—one that thrives through collaboration, innovation, and unwavering dedication to excellence**.

Onward to 2025—Stronger Together!





Ahedflorida - 2024 Ms. Chantel Osborne Principal of the year



Ayiti Community Trust
Ayiti Visionaries Event Honorees

Supporting Ayiti's Future and Highlighting Leaders in the Haitian Community. 7 Inspiring Leaders paving the way for future generations through entrepreneurship and small business ownership.



Goute Peyi'M Boston (Taste my country To Support grassroots organizations in Haiti, Sustainable development in rural communities, Spread awareness about Haitian culture, cuisine and trailblazers in the community.



Goute Peyi'M New Jersey Fundraiser Branch \$200,000 Goal to support organizations in Haiti and spread awareness about Haitian culture and cuisine.



Avanse Ansam - 5th Annual Nou La Pi Red Summit : A speakers panel to discuss with our community's very own politicians, attorneys, therapists, health care providers, journalists, techies, and cultural workers. About racist and xenophobic rhetoric making national headlines, opening up old wounds, and putting our people in harm's way.



Haitian Health and Resource Fair : Avanse Ansam Listening campaign and Surveying our people to build community and identify our communities concerns and priorities.



Game night: The Haitian Edition - Celebrate culture through Games, trivia & goodies. Featured by traditional Haitian games , rhythmic sounds and savory bites.



Participated in The Children's Trust



FANM Radio 1320AM - Advocacy on Immigration



An Evening of Reverence and Remembrance : Honoring the legacy of Father Gerard Jean-Juste A towering figure in the Haitian-American community, Father Jean-Juste dedicated his life to championing justice, equality, and human rights.



Haitian American Chamber of Commerce - 4th Annual Sunday Brunch : Dina Hescarmant awarded and recognized as a HACCOF Trustee Member. An event hosted at Indoor Playground was honored to sponsor kids station at this amazing event, celebrating the achievements of members, business owners, and awardees who continue to uplift our community with their contributions and commitment.



9th Annual Top 20 Under 40 - a celebration of the next generation remarkable individuals of leaders making waves in their fields.



Collaboration meeting with Congresswoman Frederica Wilson and the U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, the honorable Dennis Hankins (3): Explored avenues for collaborative support aimed at fostering Haiti's stability and prosperity. By the challenges and prospects within U.S.-Haiti relations amid Haiti's ongoing tumultuous changes. This gathering underscored the commitment to meaningful dialogue and actionable solutions for the Haitian community.



Haitian American Emerging Business and Healthcare Innovation Summit Mixer (4)



Mental Health Awareness Symposium - HANA in collaboration with Pearls of Life Women Foundation held in North Miami Beach



Health Resource Fair Education Committee - Showing up for the community.



40th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala - 2024 President's Choice Awards



NSU Swearing-In Ceremony - President, Deborah Saint-Vil and Treasurer, Emmanuella Telfort extending a warm welcome to newly sworn-in attorneys at Nova Southeastern University School of Law.



FIU Law's New Attorney Swearing-In Ceremony
- Past President, Altanese Phelenus and Member Freddie Menard attended to celebrate and welcome the newly sworn-in attorneys



13th Annual Women of Color Empowerment Conference -
The Haitian Lawyers Association (HLA) proudly participated in an event filled with inspiring speakers, meaningful connections, and powerful moments.



Free Immigration Assistance Event - Haitian Lawyers Association partnered with American Immigrant Justice, Florida Immigrant Coalition, and Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law to provide free immigration assistance. Our members helped complete citizenship applications and conducted legal reviews for the community. Becoming a U.S. citizen is incredibly important, and at HLA, we are committed to assisting the hundreds of thousands of individuals eligible to naturalize.



Haitian Ladies Weekend (1): Women Empowerment Summit HAITIAN WOMEN LEADING



Stand on Washington : U. S Rep Ayanna Pressley calls on the Biden- Harris administration to halt deportation to Haiti and redesignate Temporary Protected Status



NHAHEON Leadership summit 2024



Framing Workshop - Attending #NHAEON members experienced an informative and productive weekend at the Framing Workshop in Boston



RSM Haitian Mental Health Summit 2024



Give Miami day - Haitian Mental Health Summit



RSM Haitian Mental Health Summit



Youth Police Relations - "Believing in second chances" Working with one of our most vulnerable populations of young people.



3rd Annual Gun Violence Prevention Summit - This past weekend we partnered added our voices to the Global Innovation Foundation



End Gun Violence - Team U-turn united in orange for a cause that affects us all. Stand up, speak out, and wear orange.



For More Information:

Visit: www.hapcoalition.org

Email: info@hapcoalition.org

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Haitian American Professionals Coalition

Together, we make a difference!

