

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Ashley Valentine
Phone: 630-532-0669
Email: avalentine@sickcells.org

**SICKLE CELL ORGS PARTNER WITH TECHNOLOGY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
TO ADDRESS DISPARITIES IN COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT**

(CHICAGO, IL. March 25, 2021) [Sick Cells](#) has partnered with [Dimagi, Inc.](#) to pilot a sickle cell disease-specific COVID-19 Vaccine Community Health App. [Dimagi](#) is creating a prototype application (app) focused on vaccine education called the “Community Hub.” Understanding the urgency of a solution to help the sickle cell disease (SCD) community to get vaccinated, Dimagi offered to build the prototype app pro bono while vaccine rollout is underway.

COVID-19 has been devastating for many communities of color; the sickle cell disease community has been no exception. As vaccines bring new hope to the end of the pandemic, underserved communities are in need of immediate resources to address disparities in vaccine rollout rates and availability. **The Community Hub will be used by sickle cell disease community-based organizations (CBOs), nonprofits, community health workers (CHWs) and other healthcare providers** as they work with patient networks and clients to address concerns surrounding the COVID-19 vaccines, answer questions, and provide educational resources to their communities.

The Community Hub will include:

- **Client Registration** - A portal to input client/patient information for easy follow-up
- **Realtime updates** on COVID-19 and vaccines
- **Vetted Scripts** and SMS/email templates to facilitate efficient and accurate communication with *individual patients and clients* or in *group discussions*.
- **Shareable Resources** on COVID-19 and vaccines with the option of searching for resources in a region or state

Sick Cells is working with:

- Axis Advocacy
- Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois (SCDAI)
- Sickle Cell Thalassaemia Patients Network (SCTPN)
- Supporters of Families with Sickle Cell Disease
- Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter

to develop and test the pilot intervention. **The goal is to test if the prototype will reduce vaccine hesitancy in their local communities with the intention of expanding the project upon completion of the test phase.**

If you are interested in funding this project, please contact info@sickcells.org or donate directly at <https://sickcells.org/donate/>

If you would like to learn more about the project, please follow our progress at <https://sickcells.org/covid-19/>