



Allegheny End-of-Life Care Project Overview

Organization Overview

The International End-of-Life Doula Association ([INELDA](#)), founded in 2015, is headquartered in New Jersey and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to encourage the presence of end-of-life doulas by normalizing death, dying, and grief through conscientious education, and stewardship, and by fostering community and advocacy. INELDA has trained more than 10,000 end-of-life doulas across every U.S. state and territory and in 56 countries worldwide. Additionally, INELDA offers a certified doula training program based on 50-hours of direct care and provides educational support and technical assistance to their membership of over 2,500 trained end-of-life doulas. INELDA seeks to build a world where all individuals have accessible, equitable, and compassionate care that holistically affirms one's humanity and supports end-of-life choices.

INELDA's Work in Pittsburgh in Allegheny County, PA

INELDA's 2025 project [End-of-Life Doula Support for the Unhoused Population](#) offered a free end-of-life doula training to 34 individuals delivering support to the unhoused population in Pittsburgh. Supported by a grant from the [McElhattan Foundation](#) and delivered in partnership with regional nonprofit [Bridge to the Mountains](#), this training allowed those who support the unhoused community of Pittsburgh to respond more effectively to individuals planning for death, diagnosed with a terminal illness, or facing imminent death, and for those who have experienced a sudden death. Following the success of the 2025 project, INELDA and the McElhattan Foundation have continued collaboration on an expanded initiative to advance system-integrated end-of-life care for vulnerable populations in Allegheny County. INELDA, in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, will design a community-led program to meet resident's needs at the end-of-life, building a sustainable model for implementation county-wide.

Allegheny End-of-Life Care Project Summary

The Allegheny End-of-Life Care Project is a regional initiative bringing community members together to share their perspective on end-of-life care in Allegheny County. A workgroup composed of community members with various experiences and insights will review information collected to guide the design of a new program to meet the end-of-life needs of residents. The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work is working with INELDA and local partners to guide the development of the new program, ensuring that community voice is honored, documented, and authentically leads the work.

What are the activities of the Allegheny End-of-Life Care Project?

1. **Community Listening Sessions:** Review data on end-of-life and hear from residents, professionals, and community leaders about their experiences—what is working well, what is not working, what opportunities exist to improve the experiences of residents.
2. **Community Design Sessions:** A subset of community members will be invited to review data from Community Listening Session and walk through a structured process to design a new program that addresses the priorities identified by community members.
3. **The Allegheny End-of-Life Care Project Finalized:** The final product co-designed with community members will be a plan that organizes the needs of community residents into a cohesive strategy ready to be tested and implemented on a small scale.
4. **Community Share-Out Sessions:** After each Step 1, 2, and 3, project leadership will provide an update to the community and gather additional feedback to ensure the work honors and aligns with community needs and priorities.

Who do I contact for more information?

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