KEY MESSAGES AND TALKING POINTS

Shine the Light on Sickle Cell is a community initiative to bring attention to Sickle Cell Disease and to celebrate World Sickle Cell Awareness Day on June 19.

In 2008, The General Assembly of the United Nations passed a regulation designating June 19 as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day to be held annually starting in 2009.

The first Shine the Light on Sickle Cell was held in 2019, and the number and range of activities has grown each year.

Shine the Light on Sickle Cell is an opportunity for people around the country and around the world to stand up and speak out for a universal cure.

In the United States, Sickle Cell Disease affects approximately 100,000 people, and Sickle Cell Trait affects an estimated 2 million people. Sickle Cell Disease and Trait affect millions of people worldwide.

Sickle Cell Disease and Trait affect a diverse group of people, including those of African, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, Indian and Asian descent.

People, organizations and communities can show their support for sickle cell awareness in a variety of ways that showcase their unique perspectives and creativity.

There is no cost to participate in Shine the Light on Sickle Cell.

Shine the Light on Sickle Cell supports Juneteenth and other initiatives that celebrate and call attention to the needs of diverse people and to health equity.

Shine the Light on Sickle Cell is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as part of the Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Demonstration Project. For more information visit HRSA.gov.