



Strength in Unity

9/1/2021 – 6/30/2022

Project Overview

The lower Eastern Shore of Maryland region has been particularly hard hit by COVID-19 as many of the migrant and immigrant community members work in poultry processing and in agriculture, industries deemed essential during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This project will employ evidence-based strategies including the Community Health Worker model. Haitian members of the community will promote health education about COVID-19 prevention and vaccines. A coalition was formed to address the needs of the Haitian community.





Partnership

The coalition brings together four nonprofit community organizations and the Wicomico County Health Department. The organizations include two Haitian groups – the Haitian Development Center of Delmarva (HDCD) and Rebirth Inc. These organizations are run and directed by Haitian members of the target community. Two additional organizations are part of the coalition, Tri Community Mediation (TCM) and Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN).



Partnership

Partnership

- Tri Community Mediation (TCM) – TCM will serve as the administrative lead for this project and will facilitate workshops for the Community Health Workers.
- Haitian Development Center of Delmarva (HDCD) – HDCD will hire and oversee the community health workers (CHWs) who will be part of this project. CHWs will promote health education about COVID-19 prevention and vaccines.
- Rebirth, Inc. – Rebirth will hire and oversee the community health worker hired as part of this project. CHWs will promote health education about COVID-19 prevention and vaccines.
- Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN) – MCN will offer the training and technical assistance to the CHWs and partner organizations.
- Wicomico County Health Department - They will serve as a key partner in continued provision of COVID-19 vaccines and testing.



Intervention

Intervention

The project will employ two focused prevention activities (Tier 1 and Tier 2) to reach the Haitian community with COVID-19 education and vaccines.

- ❖ Tier 1 activities will focus on health communications.
- ❖ Tier 2 activities will focus on partnering with the Wicomico County Health Department to arrange mobile clinics and to assist community members with setting up and attending COVID-19 vaccine appointments.



Project Goals & Expectations

The overarching goal is to reduce inequities in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality in Wicomico County on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Project Goals

- Improve COVID-19 prevention and mitigation among RIM populations.
- Reduce inequities in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality in funded jurisdictions.
- Identify models and best practices for prevention of COVID-19 that are sustainable and potentially adaptable for other health issues among RIM populations.
- Identify sustainable approaches for strengthening partnerships between LHDs and RIM populations and adapting public health strategies for RIM populations.

Project Expectations

- Respond to community needs assessment findings
- Foster sustainable community engagement structures
- Participate in project-wide monitoring and evaluation activities
- Generate best and promising practices for replication and scale-up



Participation

Vulnerable Population Task Force– Community Engagement Laboratory Partner groups in at least one site to further/build on/ support community mobilization process or other activities with the goal of creating linkages between the vulnerable communities and local and state health departments and identifying model approaches that could be shared nationally. To address COVID-19’s impact on the community, and to better meet the needs of the vulnerable populations who disproportionately suffer from COVID-19. TCM facilitates the Lower Shore Vulnerable Populations Task Force serving as the hub for its’ activities. Members of the Coalition especially CHWs should participate in these weekly sessions.

Health Care Workgroup - Healthcare Work Group comprised of representatives from all the health care delivery sites. Staff and volunteers from each attend the weekly Task Force meeting and the weekly healthcare subcommittee meeting. This frequent engagement allows for facilitated and bidirectional dialogue between the groups where information and updates about COVID-19 are shared, challenges are noted, and solutions discussed. This group meets bi-weekly and CHWs should participate.

Weekly Administrative Conference– An admin personnel from each organization should present to a weekly virtual conference call to provide project updates.

CHW Training and Learning Collaborative – All CHWs should participate in all the bi-weekly learning collaboratives. A schedule of the topics and dates will be sent out.

Administrative



TCM will:

- Work with partners on contracts, invoices, and grant related needs
- Assist with development of project work plan and sustainability plan
- Represent project on NACCHO webinars and activities
- Submit project reports and required documentation to NACCHO
- Support Strength In Unity connection to Vulnerable Populations Task Force
- Attend and participate in partner's outreach to the Haitian Community
- Provide training for partners on topics that support conversations within the community (identifying values, dealing with conflict and intensity, etc.)

MCN Technical Assistance

MCN will provide in-depth technical assistance to HDCD and Rebirth on

- Training and support CHW
- Updates on COVID-19
- Resources on emerging information
- *Vaccination Is... implementation toolkits*
 - Social media
 - Printing materials
 - Tools to implementation
- Mobile Clinics
 - 12 mobile clinics with Wicomico County Health Department for Haitian community.
 - Assist Haitian members of the community in making and attending appointments.
 - One Stop Shop outreach events, that are held 3-4 days each month both in and around Wicomico County. These are facilitated by TCM and offer various resources



Common Resources

- [FAQ: The COVID-19 Vaccine and Migrant, Immigrant, and Food & Farm Worker Patients](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness Campaign Resources](#)[COVID-19 Vaccine Education Materials: Print](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Education Materials: Print](#)
- [Vaccines, Masks, and the Delta Variant - Handout + Template](#)
- [Pregnancy and the COVID-19 Vaccine – Handout](#)
- [Children and the COVID-19 Vaccine – Handout](#)

CHW Training and Learning Collaborative

Using a COVID-19 curriculum developed as part of MCN's work with the National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants, MCN will train the community health workers associated with the project. MCN will organize and facilitate a Learning Collaborative with CHWs from this project and other NACCHO grantees to

- a) Offer information regarding existing and new, evidence-based vaccine-related content
- b) Share best practices and strategies to reach immigrant and migrant communities
- c) Identify approaches to foster and strengthen collaborations with health departments and other health care delivery sites offering vaccinations– community health centers, pharmacies and hospitals
- d) Troubleshoot challenges.





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Evaluation

This project will develop a robust evaluation plan that includes various types of evaluation and systematic collection of content. MCN will oversee the evaluation component and has extensive expertise regarding evaluation and successfully implementing evaluation plans particularly with community groups. We do not anticipate a need for technical assistance for this component due to our experience, but we are open to input and collaboration to foster improvement.