

BUILDING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Promoting stronger collaborations between academic medicine, public health departments, social services agencies, and community-based organizations



Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at Washington State University was selected by The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) to promote confidence in COVID-19 and routine pediatric vaccines and increase vaccinations. Located in Spokane, Washington, the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine is a community-based medical school where students gain clinical experiences in hospitals and health care settings across the state. The contents of this brief focus on the second year of grant activities (October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023).

WHAT STRATEGIES HAS WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY IMPLEMENTED?

The COVER (Community-Oriented Vaccine Engagement and Relationship) Spokane program collaborated with two clinical partners, a campus community collaboration and multiple community partners. Their initial efforts focused on hosting conversations with partners to understand current needs and concerns regarding COVID-19 and routine pediatric vaccines and share tailored information to meet the needs and concerns of the community. They worked with partners to expand opportunities to access vaccines by providing services in community settings where people feel comfortable and providing care to everyone regardless of insurance or immigration status.

WHO DID WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY SERVE OR ENGAGE?

The COVER Spokane program team has cultivated trusted relationships with multiple clinical partners and community organizations. A primary partner, Latinos En Spokane is a non-profit organization centered on supporting citizen participation, culturally-led community development, and empowerment of the Latino and immigrant population in Spokane County. The partnership with Latinos En Spokane resulted in vaccine clinics being included during El Mercadito, an outdoor cultural market that offers free fresh foods, activities, and medical services through CHAS Health street clinic.

WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES?

- Vaccinated 195 people at El Mercadito events
- Vaccinated 89 people at other CHAS events
- Provided 13 clinical appointments
- Connected approximately 20 residents with a primary care provider



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WHO DID WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY PARTNER WITH IN THE COMMUNITY?

Clinical partners included CHAS Health, the largest community health center in the region, the Spokane Regional Health District, and the Health Equity Racial Organizing (HERO) Initiative, a campus community collaboration made up of representatives from five partner organizations. COVER Spokane program leveraged existing relationships with community leaders and grew new partnerships with organizations serving Latino, Black, Asian, and immigrant communities. COVER Spokane program engaged the CHAS Health community health workers in conversations to deepen understanding of the local needs and determine how to better conduct outreach to underserved and rural communities. Two new partnerships strengthened connections to these communities. The first is Beloved Kijiji, which is a clinic that is focused on culturally responsive care for the Black community in Spokane. The second is Asians for Collective Liberation (formerly APIC Spokane), whose mission is to center the power of Asians and Asian Americans to build a just, healthy, and thriving community for all.



PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

COVER Spokane program focuses on building relationships and trust with community partners and prioritizes meeting their needs. They routinely met with leaders from community organizations to check in on priorities and plan and co-create programs. They worked with Latinos En Spokane to determine how to best use their monthly El Mercado event to connect the community to health care services and access vaccines.



PARTNER BENEFITS

Through the partnerships with community organizations, the COVER Spokane program was able to directly support the work of community partners.



PARTNER CHALLENGES

The biggest challenge was having the staffing and time to keep regular communication of activities and priorities and to grow relationships.

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