

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

RIM Monthly Newsletter

Updates and resources for SCALING UP COVID-19 PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES WITH REFUGEE, IMMIGRANT, AND MIGRANT (RIM) COMMUNITIES

December 31, 2022

COVID-19 CDC Data Updates

US COVID-19 data: Number of Confirmed Cases in the past 7 days: 521,616

US Monkey Pox data: Total confirmed monkeypox/orthopoxviral cases: 28,004

Highlights of the Month

International Rescue Committee

Superheroes do exist and you'll never guess where we found them: The International Rescue Committee. NACCHO had the opportunity to sit down with Lizbeth Gonzalez, Senior Health Program Manager for the Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona International Rescue Committee (IRC) branch. The IRC's dedication to the refugee, immigrant, and migrant (RIM) community is truly heroic.

"We are a resettlement agency," said Gonzalez. "We assist United Nation Refugees find their home, help with the employment services and all resettlements needs, but then of course we also have the health program."

The IRC created and convened a RIM Health Advisory Board through the NACCHO grant.

This advisory board gathered several community leaders with the hopes of "understand[ing] community needs, the strengths, and the barriers towards accessing COVID assistance and vaccination, prevention and education," said Gonzalez.

The IRC has been involved in the RIM community for nearly 20 years. Gonzalez noted that they must be quick on their feet as information evolves and circumstances and resources in the community change. Through this grant, the IRC was able to connect refugees, immigrants, and migrants with resources they wouldn't otherwise know they had- like vaccine clinics and COVID-19 educational resources. Gonzalez explained, "we're already connected with the community because we serve immigrants, refugees and migrants, and specifically through this grant, we did a lot of outreach with communities in the middle east and Asia as well as with African Refugees."

Lizbeth attributed most of their success to their community health workers (CHWs). “I think that they’re the ones that made this program successful because of the trust that they had prior within their community but also [the trust that they] initiated by providing supportive services,” said Gonzalez. They leveraged their CHWs to try and dispel COVID-19 myths amongst the RIM communities in Arizona.

IRC conducted Key Informant Interviews (KII) with RIM leadership as part of their NACCHO Grant. This information informed their programming and made them more responsive to community needs. The initial data from the KIIs showed there was a gap in knowledge about pediatric vaccines among RIM communities, therefore, IRC organized a Superhero back-to-school community/vaccination event. They promoted the event with the help of our RIM Health Advisory Board. 250 people attended the event, and 54 vaccines (Including 40 pediatric vaccines) were administered!

**ICYAMAMARE CY URUKINGO
RWA COVID-19 KURI 3355 N.
FONTANA AVE. TUCSON 85705**

**Itariki ya 22 z ukwa 7
11:00AM-2:00PM**

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Logos: RESCUE, ELFA, PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, REFUGEE MINISTRY, ICNARelief, TUCSON UNITED



Funding Opportunity: Strengthening Local Public Health among Afghan Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant (RIM) Communities

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is excited to announce a new funding opportunity. This funding opportunity will build capacity of local health departments (LHDs) to effectively collaborate with Afghan refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities and community-based organizations for improved Afghan community public health.

This opportunity aims to build and sustain Afghan community engagement and community health planning structures, support Afghan community health assessment processes, focusing on community needs for sustainable approaches to address priority public health needs, including vaccine hesitancy, and health education, and support development of referral and linkage systems to Afghan friendly community health education, and health and social services.

This project also seeks to build capacity of LHDs to effectively collaborate with Afghan refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities and community-based organizations for improved Afghan community public health.

NACCHO will issue contracts of up to \$140,000 to up to five sites Under Tier One that have existing collaborations between LHDs and RIM serving community-based organizations, including Afghan- refugee serving community- based organization(s) developed to address emerging infectious disease, including COVID-19, and up to \$200,000 per site to up to four LHDs under Tier Two to implement activities to support jurisdictions with large or growing populations of Afghan refugees.

Applications must be submitted by February 10, 2023, at 11:59 PM ET to RIM@naccho.org and selections will occur on or around February 24, 2023. All necessary information regarding the project and application process is outlined in the [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) attached below.

Funding Opportunity: Strengthening COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Strategies among Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant (RIM) Communities

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is excited to announce a new funding opportunity. To ensure the success of COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies and to address inequities in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality experienced by RIM communities, local health departments (LHDs) need strong and sustained community partnerships, experienced human resources, cross-program infrastructure to support logistics for testing and vaccine delivery at scale, and planning, evaluation, and financial management capacity. This funding opportunity will support LHDs to strengthen partnerships with RIM communities in their jurisdictions and to collaboratively design, implement, and evaluate innovative and sustainable approaches to prevention of COVID 19 and other vaccine preventable diseases.

The goals of this project are to improve COVID-19 prevention, contact tracing and mitigation among RIM populations, reduce inequities in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality in funded jurisdictions, implement and disseminate models and best practices for prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 that are sustainable and have potential to address other communicable diseases among RIM populations in the future, and implement sustainable approaches for community engagement and strengthening partnerships between LHDs and RIM populations and adapting public health strategies for RIM populations.

NACCHO will issue contracts of up to \$140,000 to 18 LHD and CBO sites that have existing collaborations between LHDs and RIM serving organizations developed to address COVID 19.

Applications must be submitted by February 10, 2023, at 11:59 PM ET to RIM@naccho.org and selections will occur on or around February 24, 2023. The project period will last 12 months upon execution of the contract. All necessary information regarding the project and application process is outlined in the [Request for Applications \(RFA\) attached below.](#)

Using Community-Engagement and Geographic information Systems to Address COVID-19 Vaccination Disparities

The CDC has shared a new health equity resource entitled “Using Community-Engagement and Geographic information Systems to Address COVID-19 Vaccination Disparities.” Check out the description from CDC below:

Building upon existing partnerships with academic and community-based organizations, the Center for Health Disparities Innovations and Studies (CHDIS) at Eastern Michigan University established community-led mobile and pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinics to reach people who are medically underserved in their communities. Using GIS to visualize where priority populations live and by overlaying data such as vaccine completion rate, computer accessibility, health insurance coverage, and CDC social vulnerability index; CHDIS was able to identify pockets where people might have higher needs. These visualizations helped to prioritize planning locations for mobile clinics. CHDIS also worked with commercial pharmacies to reserve appointments for people with LEP and deployed trusted messengers to deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate COVID-19 vaccine messages.

Successful Communication with RIM Communities Guide

For many refugee, immigrant, and migrant (RIM) community members, navigating the complex U.S. healthcare system is challenging, even in normal times. During the COVID-19 pandemic, existing inequities in health and access to health care have been compounded by inadequate or insufficient COVID-19 information in languages other than English. To keep RIM communities safe, it is vitally important to convey information about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines that is not only timely, accurate and accessible, but also culturally and linguistically relevant.

NRC-RIM has created a guide to successful communication with RIM communities. [Check it out here.](#)

Webinars and Trainings

Tuesday, January 17 2023 | 2 p.m. ET

As one of the largest destination states for United for Ukraine arrivals, Washington Department of Health (WA DOH) has implemented programs and community outreach strategies during the COVID-19 response aimed at engaging Russian and Ukrainian speaking communities.

For these communities, barriers to healthcare access have extended beyond the scope of COVID-19; addressing these barriers is critical to the larger public health response to the current war in Ukraine and refugee crisis. Join this webinar to learn how WA DOH developed several strategies for addressing public health needs in partnership with their local Ukrainian community that apply to COVID-19 and beyond.

By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Articulate the value of hiring people from Ukrainian communities
- Replicate successful community capacity building practices
- Establish and cultivate community partnerships
- Apply COVID-19 response strategies to other public health needs in Ukrainian communities

Virtual Communities Info

Join our Virtual Communities!

How to Sign Up for Virtual Communities (VC)

- Email membership@naccho.org requesting an account
- Once membership has created you an account, email RIM@naccho.org to be added to the group
- You will then be added to the VC page and sent instructions on using the page
- It takes 24-72 hours to enroll in the VC after membership creates an account for you



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.