

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

November 2023

Site Spotlight

ICNA Relief

This November, NACCHO had the opportunity to sit down with Fazal Wahab Mumtaz from ICNA Relief to hear a little bit about the work they do utilizing NACCHO funding. ICNA Relief “seeks to alleviate human suffering by providing caring and compassionate service to victims of adversities and survivors of disasters. They “strive to build healthy communities, strengthen families and create opportunities for those in despair while maintaining their dignity.”

Mumtaz, National Project Manager for ICNA Relief, walked us through their program and the things they have done to support refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities.’

“With NACCHO, I’m implementing this project in Virginia specifically,” said Mumtaz. “We help clients with their behavioral health, health literacy, hunger prevention, mobile clinics, seminars and workshops, and of course transportation services.” Mumtaz also mentioned that ICNA Relief helps with employment, as well. Mumtaz brings lived experience to his organization being an immigrant himself, which creates an environment of trust and safety for his community.

He noted that through this funding, ICNA Relief has been able to help 300 families a month in different capacities. ICNA Relief was able to hire several employees focused solely on RIM community work through the NACCHO funding.

Another notable accomplishment is ICNA’s routine gathering of organizations and community leaders with expertise in several different areas. Together, they find resources, divide up responsibilities, and help RIM populations flourish within their community.

To learn more about ICNA’s work, check out their website [here](#).



Health Equity Resources and News

Advocating for Language Equity: A Community-Public Health Partnership: A Community Case Study

This community case study conducted with KCCEB and the Refugee Immigrant Collaborative for Empowerment (RICE) describes a three-part advocacy-focused intervention that RICE undertook from September 2021 to October 2022. It included (1) a community needs survey, (2) a landscape assessment of the Alameda County Health Department's (ACPHD) communication materials and online platforms, and (3) relationship building with the ACPHD. Data disaggregation, language equity-based advocacy, and cross-sector collaboration were critical ingredients in RICE's intervention.

New Respiratory Illnesses Collection is Translated, Customizable, and Ready for Afghan Communities

The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants (NRC-RIM) last week released translated and customizable health education materials addressing respiratory illnesses that are more common during the colder months, including the common cold, influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. Print, social media, audio, and video resources are currently available for distribution to Afghan newcomers in English, Dari and Pashto. NRC-RIM and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are collaborating on additional languages, which will be available soon.

The Respiratory Illness collection is the latest in a number of health education topics that NRC-RIM has worked on, including mental health and stress, wildfire smoke, Medicaid, lead poisoning, and more.

NRC-RIM is working to finalize a new tool for organizations to support Afghan women's health. In collaboration with IRC, new videos in English, Dari and Pashto will soon be available that explain women's wellness visits. The videos will include customizable slide templates and scripts so other organizations and community health workers can lead their own information sessions.

Organizations interested in women's health may also benefit from NRC-RIM's [other resources on sexual and reproductive health](#): a culturally-validated glossary created by NRC-RIM and IRC, as well as a contraceptive choices chart created by the Reproductive Health National Training Center (RHNTC) and translated into Dari and Pashto.

A new article published in *Frontiers in Public Health* highlights the work of the Korean Community Center of the East Bay (KCCEB). Members of the NRC-RIM team partnered with KCCEB to develop a [case study](#) on KCCEB's work to lead a multilingual coalition of community-based organizations. This coalition filled service and information gaps, advocated on behalf of communities with limited English proficiency, and built a linguistically and culturally responsive public health safety network during the pandemic. Their work may serve as a useful model for others well beyond COVID-19.

For more information, visit [their website](#), sign up for [their newsletter](#), and follow them on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

Bringing Stories to Life with Customizable Tools

[Honest conversations](#) is a modular toolkit that allows community based organizations to create a communications campaign that addresses health related concerns amongst refugees, immigrants and migrants. This toolkit is designed to focus on seasonal health topics and concerns, and can evolve as the needs for the community changes.

Honest Conversations campaign supports organizations in connecting communities to health guidelines and resources in a timely, relevant, and compelling way, focusing on re-engaging people and rebuilding trust.

Partnering to meet community needs

Canal Alliance is a trusted voice with the Latino immigrant community in the San Francisco Bay Area, providing services, programs, and resources to help Latino immigrants overcome barriers. Voces Del Canal is a coalition of resident leaders and Latino immigrants who are considered local experts in their community. They joined forces during the pandemic as COVID-19 raised issues affecting their community.

One barrier this duo noticed was booster numbers were not as high as initial vaccine numbers. Canal Alliance partnered with Voces de Canal to not only build an Honest Conversations campaign, but use it to encourage their communities to get up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines.

The foundation for their campaign was to keep the Latino community safe by:

- Figuring out how to engage the community to receive their boosters
- Identifying the best times to engage the community.
- Disproving the myths and misinformation regarding COVID-19

Launching a campaign with a community event

Canal Alliance held a community fair as part of their Honest Conversations campaign to bring information and resources about COVID-19 to the community. Canal Alliance not only administered vaccines, boosters and information about COVID-19 in both Spanish and English, but there was also music, food, a piñata designed as a coronavirus, and many activities to gather and engage the community while providing health services.

In addition to community events, organizations can facilitate their Honest Conversation campaign via:

- WhatsApp
- Social media
- Traditional media

Honest Conversations can help encourage people to make informed decisions regarding their health and increase awareness. While designed for COVID-19, this campaign can be altered to support organizations in their public response for other health conditions, like Mpox, childhood vaccines, and more.

Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) Position Openings

The Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) is looking to fill multiple positions.

- Youth Program Manager
- Youth and Family Coach (bilingual) - two vacancies
- Consortium Coordinator (Youth and Family Coach Program)
- Youth Career and Education Coach (bilingual Karen/English)
- Resettlement Employment Navigator

To learn more and apply, visit [KOM job openings](#).

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Funding Request For Proposal (RFP) for Greater Minnesota (Apply by Dec. 8)

Increasing Access to Syringe Services Programs for People Experiencing Homelessness (Apply by Dec. 15).

The purpose of the RFPs is to announce availability of HIV prevention grant funds. The Minnesota Department of Health is seeking organizations to apply for funding to design, develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate an innovative and comprehensive HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) program to curb the burden of HIV among rural communities at greatest risk of infection.

Utilizing Navigators to Support Linkage to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Care and Harm Reduction Services (Apply by Dec. 22)

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is soliciting proposals from syringe services programs and community-based organizations to provide navigation services to people at risk of overdose. Navigators will meet people where they are, identify and collaborate with community resources, enable connection to treatment, improve accessibility to recovery support services, provide access to harm reduction services, and increase community-supported intervention points.

This Request for Proposal (RFP) will fund projects in two categories. Responders may only submit a proposal for one of the two categories. The categories and the anticipated funding and number of awards are as follows:

Category A: Harm Reduction Navigators

Eligible applicants are limited to nonprofit or tribal syringe services programs (SSPs) operating in Minnesota. SSPs are community-based prevention programs that can provide a range of services, including linkage to substance use disorder treatment; access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment; and vaccination, testing, and linkage to care and treatment for infectious diseases.

*For the purposes of this grant, only organizations that distribute no-cost syringes can apply.

Category B: Community-Based Linkage to SUD Care Navigators

Eligible applicants are limited to nonprofit community-based organizations. A community-based organization, for the purpose of this RFP, is an organization aimed at making desired improvements to a community's social health, well-being, and overall functioning. Communities may be geographically, psychosocially, culturally, and/or spiritually bounded. In addition, a community-based organization is one that is driven by the community, in all aspects of its existence. Examples of this may include:

- The majority of the governing body and staff consists of individuals bound by location, experience or culture.
- The main operating offices are in the communities they intend to serve.
- Priority issue areas are identified and defined by members of the community.
- Solutions to address priority issues are developed with the community.
- Program design, implementation, and evaluation components have the community intimately involved, in leadership positions.

To learn more, please visit [substance use disorder and harm reduction page](#).

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted by email to:
health.preventionrfp@state.mn.us.

Apply and learn more at the [open grant opportunities](#).

Webinars and Trainings

Dementia and the Holidays

The holidays are upon us and they can be hectic times – particularly for those with dementia. Join the virtual, no-cost presentation on making the holidays less stressful for people with Alzheimer’s or dementia, as well as their caregivers. You’ll get practical tips for travel and planning gatherings as well as ideas for holiday gifts for those with dementia. There will be plenty of time for discussion.

Date: Dec. 6, 2023.

Time: 11:30 a.m.

To register, call 1-800-272-3900 or [register online](#).

Partnering with Refugees: Skills for Researchers

This webinar series will provide researchers with skills, tools, and strategies for engaging people with lived experiences as refugees as research partners. The next webinar, "Navigating multilingual research partnerships," will take place on December 15th, 2023 at 2 pm ET.

Register for the series [here](#)!

Virtual Communities Info

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



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.