

# RIM Monthly Newsletter

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

## October 2023

### **Site Spotlight: Centro de los Derechos del Migrante**

This October, NACCHO had the opportunity to sit down with Katie Miller and Francisco Díaz Pinelo from Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (CDM) to learn a little bit about their incredible work. CDM “supports Mexico-based migrant workers to defend and protect their rights as they move between their home communities in Mexico and their workplaces in the United States.”

CDM has offices in Baltimore, Mexico City, and Juchitán, Oaxaca.

Katie Miller, Project Manager and Public Liaison of the Baltimore office, and Francisco Díaz Pinelo, Communications Lead in Mexico City, walked us through the work CDM is doing to improve the lives of their refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities.

CDM serves a wide range of RIM communities across several locations. “We do a lot of digital communications because of the fact that a lot of the populations we work with move a lot and are often in really isolated locations without a lot of transportation,” said Miller. She noted that some people live hours away from the nearest health department, and there is a huge lack of public transportation.

“During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, we started to develop relationships with local and state health departments. We saw a lot of resources concentrated there, and we also saw a gap between what we were hearing from workers and the access that local health departments and state health departments and other health entities were offering,” continued Miller.

Miller and Díaz Pinelo attribute a lot of their success to the relationships they’ve built throughout this project.

CDM founded a work group under a different project that gave health departments the opportunity to come and discuss strategies to better serve and reach RIM communities.

“When we saw the NACCHO funding opportunity come up, we realized we could really enhance and build on that workgroup, and so what the NACCHO funding has allowed us to do is bring in professional facilitators for that work group,” said Miller.

“We hold [the workgroup] normally once a month and what we do is if we have some communication projects or strategies that we would like to implement, we work through them through a set of questions. It’s similar to a focus group but there’s also a lot of dialogue going on.” This ensures that they are leading their communication efforts with RIM populations in mind. These facilitators bring lots of customizable resources and vaccination materials. Miller noted that 100% of participants in these sessions found the information and resources to be extremely helpful.

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

## **News and Announcements**

### **Request for Proposals: Learning Collaboratives to Enhance Local Health Capacity to Serve Afghan Refugee, Immigrant, Migrant Communities**

In partnership with the University of Minnesota National Resource Center for Refugee, Immigrants, and Migrants ([NRC-RIM](#)), NACCHO is pleased to offer a funding opportunity to LHDs and community-based organizations to collaborate to strengthen public health services targeting Afghan refugees, immigrants, and migrants.

Check out the Request for Proposals [here](#).

### **Enhancing Local Health Capacity to Serve Afghan Refugee, Immigrant, Migrant Communities Consultant**

*Note: The deadline has been extended to Friday, December 1 at 5 pm ET.*

In partnership with the University of Minnesota National Resource Center for Refugee, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM), NACCHO is pleased to offer a funding opportunity to a consultant to provide training and technical assistance to build capacity of LHDs and CBOs to effectively collaborate with Afghan refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities for improved Afghan community public health.

NACCHO will award up to \$75,000 to a consultant or firm to support funded LHDs and CBOs to conduct resource and network mapping, community, and partner engagement, and develop a subsequent implementation plan to expand, tailor and adapt their services and resources to effectively reach current and future Afghan populations in their communities. As well as to identify successes, challenges, and lessons learned in these mapping and planning processes and disseminate to other jurisdictions.

For more information, check out the Request for Proposals [here](#).

## **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. Read more [here](#).

## **RFP: Strengthening ACEs and Substance Use Prevention Programming with HOPE (SASPP) Project**

With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is pleased to offer a [funding opportunity](#) to help local health departments and their communities support high-risk families that are affected by substance use and overdose by sustaining and expanding existing evidence-based adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) prevention programming. Sites will receive training and individualized technical assistance (TA) to help them infuse the [HOPE framework](#) into their current ACEs prevention program's policies and practices. The HOPE framework builds on existing knowledge about ACEs and, using a strengths-based lens, promotes improving access to the building blocks of positive childhood experiences (PCEs) that support healthy development. Sites will take steps to implement changes at the programmatic level that align with the HOPE framework, bolstering the program's potential to not only prevent and reduce the harms of ACEs, substance use, and overdose, but also to enhance and develop key PCEs in the community and to broaden the program's reach and impact.

NACCHO invites interested applicants to participate in an informational webinar on Monday, November 6th, 2023 from 2:00pm-3:00pm EST. Participants are encouraged to come with any questions they may have regarding this opportunity. This webinar will be recorded and will be posted on NACCHO's Overdose, Injury, and Violence Prevention [webpage](#). Register for the informational webinar [here](#).

For full details about the funding opportunity, please review the [Request for Proposals](#). Applications must be submitted using NACCHO's [online portal](#) no later than Friday, December 1st, 2023 at 5:00pm EST. Submissions after this deadline will not be considered. Applicants may pose individual questions to NACCHO at any point during the application process by emailing the Injury and Violence Prevention Team at [IVP@nachco.org](mailto:IVP@nachco.org).

## Fall 2023 Stakeholder Update from Omar Carrera, CEO of Canal Alliance

It's been a busy summer for Canal Alliance! CEO Omar Carrera took time to acknowledge 1) Canal Alliance's new and permanent headquarters, 2) progress toward their 2028 Vision and their five-year programmatic growth framework, and 3) two recent awards they were honored to receive. Check out the full update [here](#).

## From the Field: Research, Policy, and Project Updates

### OASH Postpartum Depression Campaign

Postpartum depression (PPD) is a serious mental illness and public health problem with an estimated 13.4% of U.S. women reporting PPD symptoms in the 12 months after childbirth.

To address this public health issue, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Women's Health (OWH) launched the Talking Postpartum Depression campaign.

The goal of the Talking Postpartum Depression campaign is to encourage women to seek help for PPD by destigmatizing PPD through increased:

- Awareness of PPD symptoms
- Visibility of reliable resources
- Understanding of ways to access care

The campaign highlights personal stories of women who have experienced PPD as well as tailored resources for women, friends, family members, and healthcare professionals.

What Does the Campaign Include?

- Videos featuring women who share their personal PPD journeys. The campaign features women from diverse backgrounds and shows their unique paths to treatment and healing.
- Photo Gallery highlighting additional PPD healing journeys. Explore more stories from women who reached out for PPD support.
- Campaign Toolkit for organizations and supporters to spread the campaign message and reduce the stigma around PPD.

Access the campaign at: <https://www.womenshealth.gov/TalkingPPD> All material contained on the web pages are free of copyright restrictions and maybe copied, reproduced, or duplicated without permission of the Office on Women's Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Citation of the source is appreciated.

## Upcoming Opportunities

### Oct. 27: Karen Culture Presentation

Are you interested in learning more about Karen culture? Join Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) for their Karen Culture Presentation online. During the presentation, participants will learn about the Karen history, culture, and resettlement in the U.S. They will explore the history of the Karen and how they became refugees, and discuss how the Karen have adapted to life in the U.S. They will also give a brief overview of Karen culture, covering everything from food, to clothing, to family, to communication styles, and more. Come with open ears and any questions.

Date and time: Oct. 27 11 a.m to 12:30 p.m.

\*Suggested donation of \$5. [Donate to support KOM.](#)

RSVP [on Eventbrite](#), where they will send you details about participating in the online event.

### Oct. 31: School Mental Health Training Initiative: Kognito

Attend a free training from MDH suicide prevention coordinator, Stephanie Downey on Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to noon CST.

Schools and districts across Minnesota have access to a suite of online mental health trainings for staff and students called Kognito ([Kognito Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Trainings for Schools - MN Dept. of Health](#)).

The Kognito Friend2Friend student training suite provides game-based simulations that improve school climate by helping middle and high school students learn to have conversations and build skills to navigate difficult real-life situations. This leads to positive outcomes both in and out of the classroom.

The initiative began in May of 2020 and provides free, unlimited access to implementation tools, discussion guides, and technical support to roll out within a school or district. The Kognito trainings were created in collaboration with school and mental health experts and educators. They are research-proven online simulations providing hands-on, interactive, and personalized practice-based learning through use of role-play conversations with virtual students and virtual parents/guardians. Participants learn to recognize signs of psychological distress and connect students to support services. The staff trainings meet educator suicide prevention training requirements in Minnesota statute.

To register for the [mental health event](#).

For any questions, please contact Anna Lynn at [anna.lynn@state.mn.us](mailto:anna.lynn@state.mn.us) or 651-201-3627.

## **Nov 6: Guidelines on Maternal Lead Screening for Immigrants and Refugees Webinar**

The Minnesota Center of Excellence in Newcomer Health will host this webinar and include specific considerations for Afghan newcomers who are pregnant and/or lactating.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify who is at risk for elevated lead.
- Understand the effects of lead on pregnant women and the fetus.
- Understand American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) guidelines for prenatal lead screening.
- Understand best practices for ordering and obtaining lead samples.
- Know how to care for a pregnant or lactating patient with an elevated blood lead level.

**Date and time: Nov. 6 at 11:00 a.m. CST**

To register for [Guidelines on Maternal Lead Screening for Immigrant and Refugees](#).

## **Upcoming Testing & Vaccination Events**

### **COVID-19 Community Testing**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) works in partnership with communities to provide safe and free on-site COVID-19 testing in areas with outbreaks, increasing cases, or other barriers to access existing test sites.

- [COVID-19 Testing](#)
- How Minnesotans can get a COVID-19 test
- Walk in or schedule an appointment for a test at free community testing sites across Minnesota.
- [COVID-19 Community Testing Sites](#)
- Order a test through the state's free at-home rapid COVID-19 testing program.
- [Order your free at-home rapid tests](#)
- [Testing Events:](#)

### **Testing Events:**

#### **African Immigrants Community Services (AICS)**

- Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 1433 East Franklin Avenue, Unit 13B, Minneapolis
- Saliva tests available
- Pre-registration steps:
  - Go to [shieldt3portal.pointnclick.com](https://shieldt3portal.pointnclick.com)
  - Click "Sign Up for Account"
  - Input Agency Code: MDHCT
  - Input all information, check "I Agree" to give consent, then click "Submit."
  - Input registration code that was sent via text and email.
- For assistance or questions, please call 612-443-8806 or 612-443-8941.

### **Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization**

- Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 3333 West Division Street, Suite 122A, St. Cloud
- Saliva tests available
- Appointments and walk-in appointments available
- For more information, call 320-281-3232

### **Phyllis Wheatley Community Center (PWCC)**

- Mondays: 2 - 5 p.m.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 3 - 7 p.m.
- 1301 North 10th Avenue, Minneapolis
- Saliva and rapid tests available
- Pre-registration steps:
- Go to [shieldt3portal.pointnclick.com](https://shieldt3portal.pointnclick.com)
- Click "Sign Up for Account"
- Input Agency Code: MDHCT
- Input all information, check "I Agree" to give consent, then click "Submit."
- Input registration code that was sent via text and email.
- Proceed to check-in area once you arrive at PWCC

### **Somali Community Resettlement Services**

- Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Gale Mansion Event Center
- 2115 Stevens Ave, Minneapolis
- PCR and rapid tests available

### **COVID-19 Community Vaccines**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) works in partnership with communities to provide safe and free on-site COVID-19 vaccines.

COVID-19 vaccines continue to be very good at preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death. Make sure you and your family are up to date on any COVID-19 vaccine doses you are recommended to get to have the best protection against COVID-19.

- How to get a vaccine
- Check for vaccine appointments using [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) (you can search for appointments by vaccine type: Pfizer vaccine, Moderna vaccine, Novavax vaccine)
- [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), [Find a COVID-19 vaccine near you](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- Contact your primary health care provider or a local pharmacy.
- To locate a community vaccination event near you, call the MDH COVID-19 public hotline at 1-833-431-2053 Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday, Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.



## Vaccination Events:

### Comunidades Organizado el Poder y la Acción Latina

- COVID-19 Vaccination Event
- Saturday, October 14, 2023
- 12 - 4 p.m.
- Centro de Trabajadores Primero de Mayo
- 3521 East Lake Street, Minneapolis

### Somali Community Resettlement Services

- COVID-19 Vaccination Event
- Saturday, October 14, 2023
- 12 - 4 p.m.
- Somali Community Resettlement Services
- 2115 Stevens Avenue, Minneapolis

### East African Integration Center

- COVID-19 Vaccination Event
- Saturday, October 14, 2023
- 1 - 5 p.m.
- 1909 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis

## Virtual Communities Info

### How to Sign Up for Virtual Communities (VC)

- Email [membership@naccho.org](mailto:membership@naccho.org) requesting an account
- Once membership has created you an account, email [RIM@naccho.org](mailto: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.*