

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING FOR HEALTH EQUITY: BUILDING RELATIONAL CROSS-SECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS DURING COVID-19

Industrial Areas Foundation Northwest

PROJECT SUMMARY



This project seeks to understand how relational community organizing techniques in health care delivery settings can contribute to building, resilient cross-sector alignment. A series of interviews will gather data from three health systems-based community organizing programs in Washington, Montana, and Oregon participating in the Industrial Areas Foundation-Northwest

Health Equity Initiative. The three programs have spent two years building shared governance structures and organizing approaches, with all utilizing community organizers embedded within the health sector. These projects have fostered coordinated, cocreated responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including ensuring community participation in reopening strategies, working to address social isolation exacerbated by physical distancing measures, and developing a COVID-19 monitoring program to distribute pulse oximeters and resource lists to community members testing positive. Responses will inform a better understanding of the role community organizing can play in supporting elements of cross-sector alignment and raise the voice of community need.

A grantee of

ALIGNING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH

Health Care + Public Health + Social Services

Areas of the Theory of Change



Purpose



Governance



Community role and engagement

Stakeholders Involved

Community patient participants



Health care



Public health



Social service organizations