

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

A COMMUNITY-CENTERED APPROACH TO DATA



34
ORGANIZATIONS

2,860
VOICES

40
COMMUNITIES

PRESENTED BY



Center for **MultiCultural** Health
Promoting Health and Well-Being in Diverse Communities



THE NEED FOR AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To effectively improve health and eliminate health disparities, our work must be data-informed and equity-focused. This requires a community-centered process for data collection, and analysis that prioritizes authentic community engagement.

HealthierHere strives to proactively engage with, listen to, and respond to requests and feedback from community partners. One way we have done this is through the Community Grants Program, which was designed

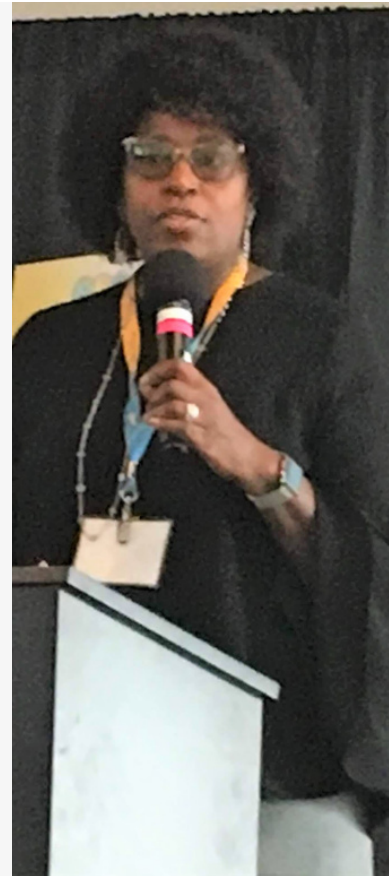
to gather input from community members in a way that centered authentic community engagement.

When we set out to design and implement a community-centered data collection and ownership process, we did so in an iterative manner, co-creating alongside the Community and Consumer Voice committee (CCV), Indigenous Nations Committee (INC), and Community Grants Alumni (organizations that participated in the Community Grants Program).

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

HealthierHere is committed to the principle and practice of equity and authentic community engagement. This means that our efforts to transform the health system must center the voices of people with lived experience and people experiencing health disparities.

The CCV and INC are Governing Board committees that are led by and made up of community-based organizations, Medicaid beneficiaries, community members and tribal communities. While input from the CCV and INC provides expansive perspectives and broad reach, committee members acknowledge the need to incorporate multiple voices and experiences in our efforts to improve health outcomes and address health disparities in King County, WA. From this recognition, the Community Grants program was born.



COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

TO INCORPORATE MULTIPLE VOICES AND EXPERIENCES IN OUR EFFORTS
TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES AND ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES



The Community Grants program started in 2018, led by a close partnership between HealthierHere and the Center for MultiCultural Health. A core value of this project was to include a community-centered process for data collection, analysis and ownership.

Historically, data collection has been an extractive process, in which communities are surveyed or studied and then never see the data nor influence how it is used or analyzed. This extractive approach does not center equity, which is why the Community Grants Program's process of data collection and data sharing has been community-centered throughout.

**A COMMUNITY-
CENTERED
PROCESS FOR
DATA
COLLECTION,
ANALYSIS AND
OWNERSHIP**

Special thanks to the organizations that accomplished this valuable work

Abundance of Hope
African American Health Board
API Coalition Advancing Together for Health
Association of Zambians BEST
Center for Human Services
Chinese Information and Referral Services
Civil Survival
Congoese Integration Network
Consejo Counseling and Referral Service
Downtown Emergency Services Center
Falis Community Services
Gay City
Interim-CDA
Khmer Health Board
Latino Community Fund
Living Well Kent
Lutheran Community Services
Mother Africa
NAKANI Native Program
New Traditions
Pacific Islander Health Board
Pamaja Christian Church
Peer Seattle
Sisters in Common
SOAR
Somali Health Board
TI-Plus
Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska – Washington Chapter
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
UNKITAWA
Vietnamese Health Board
Washington State Coalition of African Community Leaders
ZACUSA

PARTNERING FOR RESULTS

RESOURCING TRUSTED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO LEAD THE WAY

Over the course of 2018 and 2019, the Community Grants Alumni (listed to the left) collectively engaged with and gathered survey responses from 2,860 individuals, from over 40 different communities in King County.

With a primary focus on Medicaid beneficiaries, HealthierHere wanted to learn more about how people experience the healthcare system and the barriers they face when accessing care.

To accomplish this, HealthierHere partnered with organizations that

had longstanding community relationships and were seen as trusted advisors in their communities. Partners received resources to engage with community members about HealthierHere's work and to ask them questions about their experiences with healthcare.

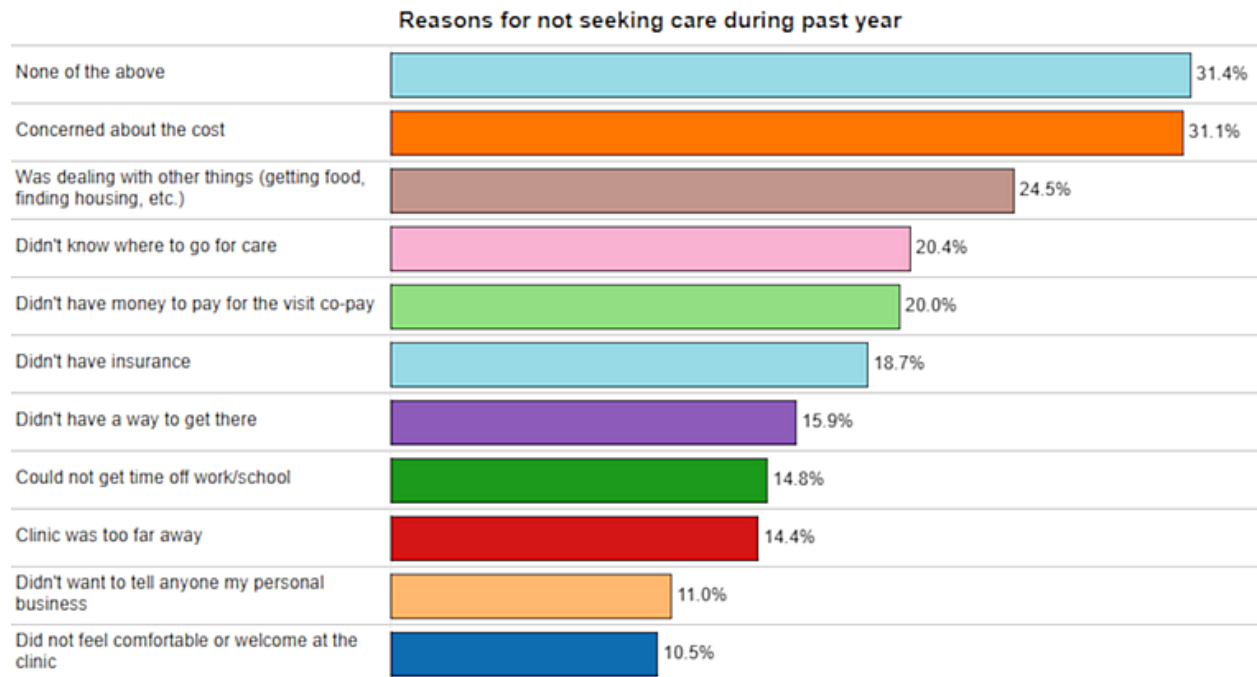
During the survey development process, organizations were also resourced to edit and approve survey translations into 15 languages so that community members would not experience language barriers.



Above: excerpt from an early data results poster in Arabic. Poster is available in multiple languages at healthierhere.org/listen

A NEW APPROACH TO DATA

CO-CREATING AN APPROACH WITH COMMUNITY



After the data was collected, our partners at Public Health - Seattle & King County quickly uploaded the raw data and made it available in a dashboard on our website. This was to ensure that Community Grants Alumni and their community members had access to the data as soon as HealthierHere did.

However, we knew that just posting the numbers on a public website would not be enough to proactively put the data back into the hands of the community. We also needed to ground-truth the quantitative data with qualitative data to better understand the stories behind the raw numbers.

The Community Grants Program was designed to include programming that extended far beyond the initial data collection. Programming supported organizations to both engage with the data as Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and be able to share the data with their own community members in ways that were reflective of their values.

SHARING DATA BACK TO COMMUNITY

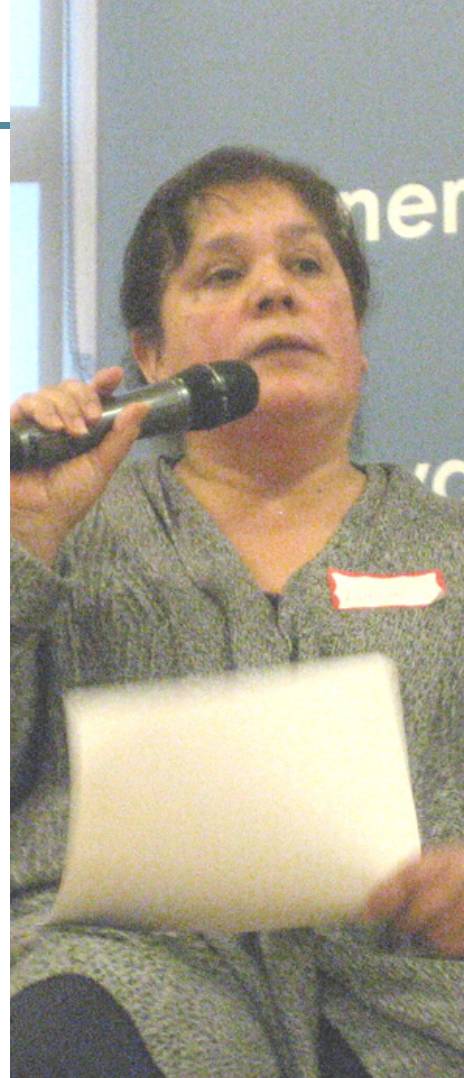
AND MAKING SPACE TO LISTEN

The next step in our process was to engage with the Community Grants Alumni to better understand the narrative behind the data and the implications for HealthierHere's healthcare system transformation work.

In late March 2020, at the height of the Coronavirus pandemic, we heard from committee members that it was difficult to focus on broad data questions due to the urgency of COVID-19 response. We honored the requests of committee members by offering more time to sit with the data, and then created space to come back together for discussion at a later date.

On July 22nd, HealthierHere and the Center for MultiCultural Health hosted a Community Grants Data Report-Back with Community Grants Alumni, CCV, and INC. The approach to this event focused on themes from the data that were most relevant and useful during this time.

*Photos taken from 2019
Community Grants Data
report-back event.
The 2020 event was held
virtually due to COVID-19.*



MAXIMIZING IMPACT

WORKING TOGETHER TO TAKE DATA-INFORMED ACTION

More than 70 Community Grants participants gathered for a virtual event to explore the data on July 22, 2020.

Attendees discussed the following themes that were reflected in the data:

Theme	Survey topics	Comparisons
Access to care among adults	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reasons for not seeking care2. Reasons for not taking medication3. Modes of transportation used	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All adults2. Adults with mental health needs3. Adults with diabetes
Use of traditional and tribal medicine services	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Feels listened to by provider2. Recommends provider	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. American Indian/Alaska Native adults2. American Indian/Alaska Native adults with youth dependents*
Ways to improve experience of health care	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Things that would make health care better or easier	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All adults2. All adults with youth dependents*

Slide provided by our partners at Public Health - Seattle & King County

Upon learning about the data associated with each theme, community members expressed the desire to use this data to help tell their communities' stories, support them in navigating the healthcare system, and advocate for necessary changes.

Highlights from the event include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Community members wanted to know how COVID-19 impacts the way people access healthcare and what can be done to support them.

(2) The critical importance of having culturally competent care from providers who reflect your community was a consistent takeaway.

(3) Culturally competent care related to increasing access to traditional medicines and Indian health services was further highlighted in the 492 survey respondents identifying as American Indian, Alaska Native, Native, Indigenous, and/or tribally affiliated.

(4) As next steps, participants expressed a desire to see the data shared with community members and decision-makers.



IT'S AN ONGOING PROCESS

**TO HELP ENSURE THAT EFFORTS TO ADVANCE CHANGE
ARE GUIDED BY COMMUNITY**

In service to HealthierHere's values of equity, community, and partnerships, our next steps will include continued engagement with Community Grants Alumni to ensure that the data informs HealthierHere's collaborative work. This engagement includes supporting Community Grants Alumni in sharing the results of the data with their communities and learning from them what stories the data should tell in a summary report.

As a result of this ongoing process, HealthierHere's efforts to advance systemic change within the healthcare system and social determinants of health services will continue to be guided by voices from communities impacted by health disparities.

**SUSTAINABLE,
COMMUNITY-CENTERED
DECISION-MAKING**

In a time when racism is being publicly declared a public health crisis, and communities continue to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, we hope that this process of data collection, analysis, and ownership can serve as a model for sustainable, community-centered decision-making that results in improved health outcomes for all.

LEARN MORE

Visit healthierhere.org/listen for access to:

- Data dashboards
- Data posters in multiple languages
- Additional information and updates

CONTACT

Written by Myani Guetta-Gilbert, Community and Tribal Engagement Manager at HealthierHere.

Questions? Contact Myani at mguetta@healthierhere.org

WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you to the many partners and community members who helped make this work possible.

In addition to the Community Grants Alumni organizations listed on page 3, we'd like to express special thanks to the Center for MultiCultural Health, HealthierHere Governing Board and HealthierHere Equity & Engagement Team for their leadership.

