HEALTHY BEGINNINGS+HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PROFILES OF ORGANIZING GRANT COMMUNITIES

The following communities have each received $30,000 to organize for 5-year Community-Based Partnerships with Northwest Health Foundation. If you have questions, please contact Jen Matheson at jen@northwesthealth.org or Michael Reyes at michael@northwesthealth.org.

African Maternal and Child Health
Africa House – Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) represents African immigrants and refugees in Oregon (predominantly the Portland metro) and Southwest Washington. They propose to identify new African community leaders, convene stakeholders around maternal health and identify data needs. Their partners include smaller African-led community based organizations, Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Office of Equity and Inclusion, Portland State University and Health Share.

Newcomers - Healthy Beginnings
Asian Family Center – IRCO represents Asian immigrants and refugees in the Portland metro. This effort will work with new and emerging Asian immigrant populations to the region including Karin, Burmese, Zomi, Nepalese and Bhutanese. They propose to work with groups representing these emerging Asian immigrant/refugee groups to review data trends, develop culturally responsive indicators and develop an early life task force in order to build leadership among these emerging populations. Their partners include the Bhutanese Association, Zomi group, Multnomah County, Oregon Educational Investment Board, Oregon Health and Sciences University and the Coalition for Communities of Color.

Healthy Beginnings, Health Communities API Statewide Organizing
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) represents Asian Pacific Islander
communities across Oregon and seeks to connect with and build capacity for these communities outside of the Portland metro and build a statewide network of rural API leaders. They propose to identify leaders and organize new API communities in rural Oregon and Southwest Washington. Their partners include smaller API communities such as the Micronesian communities in the Salem region. They have also identified future partnerships with the Coalition of Communities of Color, Oregon Health Equity Alliance, United Way and elected officials in rural Oregon.

**Safer Futures**

**Battered Persons’ Advocacy** serves families impacted or at risk for family violence and sexual assault in Douglas County, Oregon. Many of these survivors also have Adverse Childhood Experiences, which can impact their health. More vulnerable populations are impacted as well, including Latinos, Native Americans and people experiencing disabilities. They propose to host focus groups with their consumers, provide education on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and interview community leaders. Their partners include Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe, Douglas County Partners for Student Success, Douglas Educational Service District/Early Life Hub, Family Development Center, Futures without Violence and the Umpqua Health Alliance.

**Be Your Best Cottage Grove**

**Be Your Best** is a cross-sector coalition of community partners based in Cottage Grove, Oregon, a rural town in south Lane County. The coalition emerged in response to the Lane County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The coalition will use a collective impact approach to improve family and community health. **Be Your Best** will engage marginalized and disenfranchised communities to inform and guide their efforts. Partners include: United Way of Lane County, South Lane School District, PeaceHealth, Lane County Public Health, South Lane Mental Health, The Child Center, Family Relief Nursery, Sustainable Cottage Grove and other businesses, civic partners and faith-based organizations.

**Siletz Healthy Beginnings**

**Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians** based in Lincoln County serves Siletz tribal members across Oregon. Building on the success of their Healthy Traditions Community Steering Committee, they propose to organize community members, leaders and elders to assess needs and assets related to children’s health and educational outcomes and to build a common vision
related to parenting, literacy and health. They will work in partnership with Siletz Head Start and Home Visiting Program, Community Health Clinic, Siletz Valley School and with elders, tribal members and community members.

**Healthy Living Collaborative Connections**

**Healthy Living Collaborative (HLC)** of Southwest Washington represents four counties: Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum. Their community consists of those experiencing the poorest health outcomes: Latinos, Russian Immigrants, the Cowlitz Tribe and those experiencing significant behavioral health challenges. They propose to connect their network of local community health workers (CHW) to HLC’s systems and policy work. This will help build the CHWs’ leadership, training and infrastructure, as well as ensuring that the work of the HLC is informed by the communities it serves. Their partners include Educational Service District 112, Vancouver School District Family Resource Centers, Vancouver Housing Authority, Wahkiakum School District, Clark County Public Health, Cowlitz County Public Health and Wahkiakum County Public Health. Future partners include culturally specific organizations such as the Latino Community Resource Group and alignment with the Washington Accountable Community of Health (Washington version of a Coordinated Care Organization).

**Successful Transitions: Integrated Care for Children, Youth, and their Families**

**Jefferson Regional Health Alliance** and Southern Oregon Success are multi sector coalitions that represent stakeholders in education and health transformation from across Josephine and Jackson Counties. They propose to strengthen their governance and partnership structure to align education and health priorities, develop shared agendas and develop measures of success, outcomes and priorities. Coalition members come from the following sectors: education, health, workforce & economic development, community access and early learning. They also seek to expand their partnerships to engage with Jackson, Curry and Douglas counties.

**Diversity Coalition Healthy Beginnings Initiative**

**Let’s Talk Diversity Coalition** is a cross-sector and cross-cultural coalition based in Jefferson County, with members including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Vocational Rehabilitation and Healthy and Human Services Department, Latino Community Association, Madras High School, Communidad Latina en Accion and over 20 other partners from health care,
faith based, public health and other sectors. They propose to meet with coalition partners to discuss community assessments related to children’s health and education outcomes and create collective impact goals. They also seek to train coalition members on advocacy and community engagement with a focus on priority communities.

**Early Learning Family/Community Engagement Planning Initiative**

The Linn Benton Lincoln Early Learning Hub (ELH), coordinated by Linn-Benton Community College, brings partners together with the goal of creating an easily accessible and collaborative system of support and care for families that help children to grow up safe, nurtured, healthy and ready for school and life. Working through their partner organizations, the ELH seeks to develop the capacity and infrastructure for meaningful engagement of the parents and families most impacted by educational and health inequities in their communities. Partners include: (Benton County) Casa Latinos Unidos de Benton County and Organización Latinas Unidas, Corvallis Multi-Cultural Literacy Center, Old Mill Center, Iglesia Emanuel, St. Mary’s Catholic Church and Strengthening Rural Families; (Linn County) Greater Albany Public School District’s Welcome Center/Centro de Bienvenida, Oregon State University-Extension’s Poder Comunitaria/Familias Activas Program, Harrisburg Actively Reaching Together Family Resource Center, St. Mary’s Catholic Church and the Family Tree Relief Nursery; and (Lincoln County) Centro de Ayuda, Coastal Families Together, Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program and Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.

**Eastern Oregon Latino Alliance for Children and Families**

**EUVALCREE** is a Latino led organization based in Ontario, Oregon (Malheur County). Latinos currently represent approximately a third of the population and 50% of the children attending area schools. EUVALCREE proposes to build the leadership capacity of the Latino community to identify issues and take action to improve health and education outcomes in Malheur County, with a focus on Latino children and families. They will train leaders to build organizational structures and develop indicators to measure the effectiveness of civic, policy and advocacy change. Key partners include Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, Catholic Hispanic Ministry, Ontario School District, Rural Development Initiatives and 15 Latino-led and/or Latino-serving organizations. They seek to build stronger partnerships with Oregon Human Development Corporation, Oregon Rural Action, Four Rivers Community School, Four Rivers Cultural Center, Hispanic Women’s Association, The Ford Family Foundation and other community stakeholders.
Highlands Grows and Shares
*Longview Highlands Neighborhood Association* is a community led revitalization effort based in Cowlitz County to improve adverse conditions including social isolation, crime and blight. They propose to convene community members and partners through a Resource Coordination Council and Community Cafes to develop learning and sharing opportunities. They also seek to build the leadership skills and capacity of their Board Members to build and sustain efforts. Partners include: City of Longview Community Development and Parks and Recreation, Habitat for Humanity, Sharp Property Management, Longview Police Department, Boy Scouts and Lower Columbia Community Action Program. They seek to build stronger partnerships with the school districts, early learning programs, faith community and others.

Healthy Beginnings + Healthy Communities
*Lower Columbia Hispanic Council* represents and advocates for the needs of Latino families and individuals in Astoria and Seaside where many families reside and are employed by or connected to the fishing industry. These Latino families, who originate from Mexico, Central and South America, used to migrate for the seasonal labor but now have established permanent roots and are raising families. They propose to identify community leaders, discuss health and education priorities, meet with institutional partners and draft a report regarding partnerships, all with the goal of uniting the leadership of their community to develop a 5-year project plan. Their partners include the Astoria School District, Seaside School District, Northwest Regional Educational Service District Migrant Education Program, Astoria Parks and Recreation and Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation (Seaside).

Eastern Oregon Community Based Services Hub
*Malheur Education Service District* and Eastern Oregon Community Services Based Services work with children and families in Baker, Wallowa and Malheur counties. These three counties identify as frontier communities with close to 20% of the population under the age of 18 with child poverty rates ranging from 27% to 35%. Malheur County particularly has a growing Latino community that currently represents 33% of their total population. They propose to recruit community leaders who participated in The Ford Institute Leadership program, hold stakeholders summits, create an analysis of health measures, provide collective impact training and work on
leadership development with their Parent and Hispanic Advisory Teams. Their partners include local Cradle to Career Partnerships, Oregon Child Development Coalition, Head Start programs, county health departments, Oregon Department of Human Services and Building Healthy Families. Future partners include Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO) and their Local Community Advisory Councils (LCACs) and emerging grass roots organizations.

**Healthy Beginnings + Healthy Communities**

As the backbone organization, the Medical Foundation of Marion and Polk Counties represents the needs of underserved and at-risk children and families in Marion and Polk Counties served by this Collaborative. In these two counties, families in poverty represent 17% and 13%, Latinos represent 25% and 11%, and children with disabilities represent 13% and 15% of their populations respectively.

The Collaborative currently includes Catholic Community Services Fostering Hope Initiative, Northwest Human Services, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, the Medical Foundation of Marion and Polk Counties, YMCA, Planned Parenthood, Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality, French Prairie Community Progress Team, Polk County Service Integration, Boys and Girls Club, Mano a Mano Family Center, Marion County Health Department, Salem-Keizer Education Foundation, Family Building Blocks, Marion County Early Learning Hub, Coalition for Children with Special Needs and The Center for Intercultural Innovation. They propose to convene partners to formulate a common agenda, develop a community assessment and invite new leaders from the community to join the partnership and collaboratively address health outcomes and Family Protective Factors for children in poverty. They will reach out and convene with the following community partners: Salem Health, Santiam Hospital, Silverton Health, Kaiser Permanente and Salud Medical Center, Creating Opportunities, area pediatric clinics, County Developmental Disabilities Services, Maternal And Child Health Nursing programs, Children’s Behavioral Health Services, Willamette Valley Community Health Inc. (Marion-Polk CCO), Oregon Center for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs Community Connections Clinic (through OHSU), Willamette SD, Polk Partners for Young Children, Marion-Polk Food Share, Community Action Agency (Head Start/Early Head Start), faith based organizations, neighborhood associations, the Mid Valley Literacy Center, Oregon School for the Deaf, all area school districts, area Head Start organizations, Center 50+ and the Oregon Child Development Coalition (Migrant/Seasonal Head Start and Early Head Start).
Our Bodies, Our Health: A Youth-Led Gender, LGBTQ, Sexual and Reproductive Health & Justice Organizing & Advocacy Project

**Momentum Alliance** is a four-county (Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Clark), youth-led collaboration of emerging young leaders who are undocumented, immigrant, indigenous, LGBTQ, HIV positive, gang-affected and low-income youth, youth of color, youth living with disabilities, youth transitioning from foster care, homelessness and incarceration, youth who have experienced war, domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse, teen parents and allies. They propose to build leaders, identify potential partners and inventory policy and systems opportunities to improve child, youth and family health outcomes with a focus on gender, LGBTQ and sexual and reproductive health and justice. Partners include the We are BRAVE collaborative, local area high schools and coordinated care organizations.

Addressing Persistent Historical Trauma Through Intergenerational Community Solutions

**Native American Youth and Family Center** and their coalition partners Self Enhancement Inc., Bridge Meadows and Children First for Oregon seek to advocate for intergenerational community solutions for African American and Native American youth affected by child welfare removal. Intergenerational solutions unite youth, parents and Elders in mutually supportive community. The collaborative proposes to convene leaders to develop a policy platform, a community engagement strategy and a plan for longitudinal research. The collaborative is based in Portland, but seeks to impact state-level policies. This coalition will work with the Oregon Department of Human Services, Portland Public Schools and the Portland State University Child Welfare Partnerships.

North Clackamas Healthy Communities Coalition

**North Clackamas School District** serves families in northern Clackamas County, including several cities and a large unincorporated area. Currently 30% of the children attending North Clackamas Schools are students of color and 10% are English Language Learners. Much of the community identifies as from diverse backgrounds and low-income. Additionally, the lack of coordination between non-profits, government agencies and service providers make it difficult to build social cohesion, navigate services and identify leaders in the area. Stakeholders propose to identify emerging parent leaders of color, hire a community engagement facilitator to engage families and parents of color and build their district’s Healthy Communities Coalition’s cultural competence. To start, partners include AllOne North Clackamas (a group of faith leaders), Outside
In Oregon Department of Human Services, North Clackamas Education Foundation, the Social Needs Roundtable and Momentum Alliance (who will help them in their cultural competence development and help engage organizations that represent communities of color).

**OLHC's Health Care for All Children Campaign: Oregon's First Latino-Led Health Equity Movement**

The Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC) is Oregon’s only state-wide health advocacy organization that works to inform and shape health policy and eliminate the health disparities faced by Latinos in Oregon.

OLHC will work to create Oregon’s first state-wide Latino-led Health Equity Movement. Through the Health Care for All Children Campaign, OLHC will work to engage Latino children and families across the state of Oregon. The goal of Health Care for All Children is to secure health care access for children who are categorically excluded from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and state-level health reforms.

The Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC) along with its partners will be advocating for Health Care for All Children (HCAC) during the 78th Legislative Assembly – 2015 Legislative Session. Organizing efforts will particularly focus on Southern Oregon, Central Oregon, the Mid-Willamette Valley and the Columbia Gorge. Partners include the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noreste (PCUN), Causa, Rural Organizing Project, Oregon Action, Recursos, Circulos de Amigos, Social Justice Center, Mi Voz Cuenta, Urban League, APANO, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Oregon Farmworker Ministry, Unete, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance/School-Based Health Centers, county health departments, Oregon’s 16 Coordinated Care Organizations, Oregon Health Equity Alliance, Western States Center, labor unions, Health Care for All Oregon and the Oregon Health Authority.

**Healthy CAPACES**

Pineros Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) and the Willamette Valley Law Project represent the needs of Latino farmworkers, particularly those in and around Salem and Woodburn. Farmworkers in Oregon are predominantly low-income and 98% are Mexican and Central American immigrants. They propose to introduce the HB+HC Initiative to their community leaders and members, determine barriers to health, identify community assets, recruit additional leaders
to the effort and prioritize health measures. Their partners include the organizations of the CAPACES network but particularly PCUN, Mano a Mano Family Center and the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation. Future partners include elected officials, labor unions, Oregon Child Development Corporation, Woodburn School District, Salem-Keizer School District and Central School District.

**Slavic Community Organizing for Healthy Foundations Project**

**Slavic Network – IRCO** is a community-led partnership representing the “Slavic” community, which includes Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian and Czech immigrants and refugees in Oregon and Southwest Washington. While IRCO is based in Portland, the Slavic community is represented in Portland, Vancouver and the Mid-Willamette Valley. They propose to contract with The Center to Advance Racial Equity at Portland State University to produce a more reflective assessment of health and education indicators, with disaggregated data for their community’s children and youth. They will convene leaders to understand barriers and prioritize next steps. They will also consider establishing the Slavic Network as an independent 501c3 organization. Partners include: Oregon Department of Human Services, Early Learning Hub of Multnomah County and the Coalition of Communities of Color.

**HBHC Community Organization**

**Southwest Washington Disability Alliance** (SWWADA) is a cohort of organizations facilitated by lead applicant, Autism Empowerment. Additional members currently include Amazing Moms, Clark County Developmental Disabilities Program, Clark County Parent Coalition, Clark County Disability Coalition, Northwest Down Syndrome Association, Pasitos Gigantes, Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association (SEPTSA), Southwest Washington Special Education Alliance, The Arc of Cowlitz County, The Arc of Southwest Washington and The Miracle League of Vancouver. The cohort proposes to convene organizations to assess resources, assets, needs and priority issues to improve education and health outcomes for children living with disabilities. The cohort also seeks to expand relationships with self-advocates, parents, educators and service providers as well as members of regional groups that connect with faith, mental health, recreation and overall wellness.
Reynolds School District Parent Advocacy Project

Stand for Children Oregon is a statewide organization with a chapter in East Multnomah County that is helping Latino parents build their leadership skills and advocate on behalf of low-income children, minority children and English Language Learners in the Reynolds School District. Since 2000, RSD has seen a 100% increase of students in poverty and a 150% increase of students of color. They propose to engage trained parent leaders in the upcoming Oregon legislative session, as well as train new and emerging parent leaders from Reynolds and David Douglas. Stand’s key partners in this statewide advocacy are the member organizations of the Oregon Alliance for Education Equity, which includes Reaching and Empowering All People, Coalition of Communities of Color, APANO, The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, Chalkboard Project, Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality, Adelante Mujeres and The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of Eugene and Springfield.

African & African-American/Black Community Organizing

Urban League of Portland proposes an organizing effort to build collective power between Black/African-American and Africans, Black Immigrants and Refugees. Though based in Portland, Urban League seeks to impact statewide level policies. Building on the success of the Community Health Worker and Community Education Worker efforts, they will convene community members to discuss priorities related children’s health and education outcomes. Their partners include: Kairos PDX, Healthy Birth Initiative, Oregon Public Health Institute, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives and African and African-American community members.

Creciendo Juntos

Vision Action Network will convene a network of partners in Washington County, Oregon to address health and education outcomes for Latino children, with a focus on breaking the cycle of childhood poverty. Partners include: Hillsboro School District, Forest Grove School District, Washington County Early Learning Community Hub, Community Action, Oregon Child Development Coalition, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, Adelante Mujeres, Bienestar, Centro Cultural, LifeWorks NW, Tuality Healthcare – Salud, Intel, Portland Community College, Washington County Public Health, Washington County Cooperative Library System and Washington County Administrative Office. This collaborative seeks to establish shared goals, improve trust among partners, engage community members in identifying challenges and priorities and build capacity to evaluate their collective impact.