**The Main Idea**

Use a grassroots organizing model to build leadership and power among people who have historically lacked a seat at the decision-making table in order to cultivate institutional change that promotes health equity in local health care systems. The model includes a focus on building the research skills of grassroots leaders and organizers.

**The Project**

As part of a larger organizing strategy that aims to build power among immigrants in Fort Morgan, Colorado, this campaign is partnering with researchers to implement and measure the effectiveness of health care interventions that address the social determinants of health and systemic oppression. The campaign has three phases:

1. Community-led research and prioritization process to understand the main social and/or structural barriers to accessing care and maintaining health among local immigrants.
2. Partner with, or demand that, at least two local health care systems implement upstream interventions that address the barriers prioritized by the community.
3. Measure the impact of the interventions on perceived access to and quality of care by surveying and interviewing users of the intervention.

**Impact**

This project is in the beginning phases. Grassroots leaders have collected over 30 (out of 50) key informant interviews to understand the baseline experience of immigrants around accessing health care. Interviews will be analyzed by our research partners and will inform the design of a survey. In July and August 2019, grassroots leaders will collect 375 surveys. After that, both qualitative and quantitative results will support community prioritization of desired interventions in at least two health care settings in Fort Morgan. Impact of these interventions will be measured after they are in the field for several months.

**Community Role**

The Morgan Health Connectors (MHCs), Center for Health Progress's local community organizing team, are 13 immigrant women who are working to make their community healthier through community organizing. The MHCs are the leaders of this campaign. They are collecting all of the data, prioritizing the issues, making demands on the health care system, and building community power to hold the health care system accountable to being more responsive to the needs of the immigrant population.

**More Info on Ft. Morgan Community Experience Research:**

- KUNC News Article: *Colorado Immigrant Communities Balking from Social Services in Fear of Harming Immigration Status*
- Center for American Progress Blog: *From the Community to the Capitol*

For information on community-based research projects, please see [https://www.communityvoicesforhealth.org/tools-resources](https://www.communityvoicesforhealth.org/tools-resources). These materials were created by Altarum, a nonprofit health solutions company, working in partnership with Public Agenda, and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Please send any corrections or suggestions for improvement to Sabah at Sabah.bhatnagar@altarum.org.