

WA DOH Community Collaborative Session Summary

March 20, 2024 | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

Next meeting April 17 | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm PT

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

We are working to find balance in the benefits and costs associated with translation. If you would like to share this or any part of our materials with an audience in another language, please email Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov and we will work with you to translate into the language(s) needed.

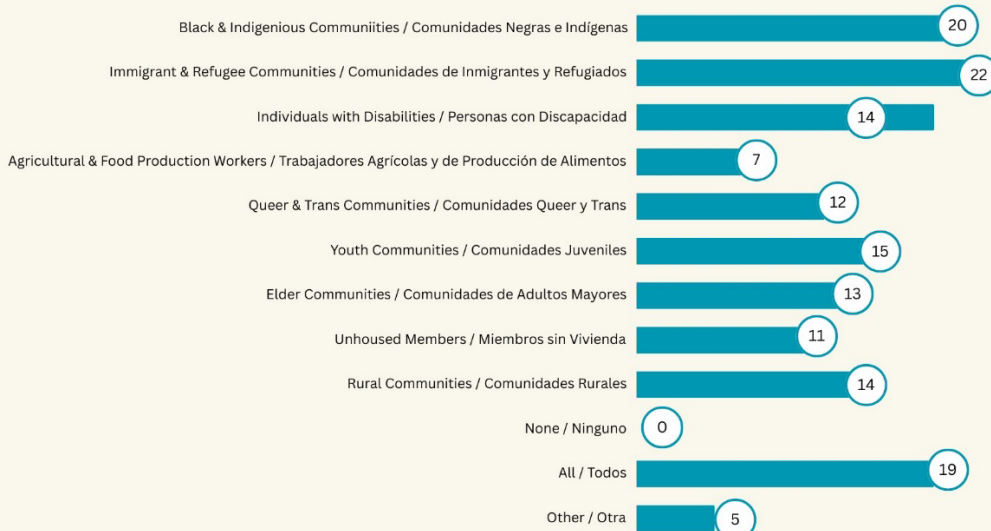
Estamos trabajando para encontrar un equilibrio entre los beneficios y costos asociados con la traducción. Si desea compartir esto o alguna parte de nuestros materiales con una audiencia en otro idioma, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov y trabajaremos con juntos con usted para traducir al idioma o idiomas necesarios.

Community Facilitator: Chauné Fitzgerald, Women of Wisdom Tri-Cities

The meeting opened with a warm welcome from our Community Facilitator, Chauné Fitzgerald. Volunteers among participants read the land and labor acknowledgment in English and Spanish.

Who Was in the Room

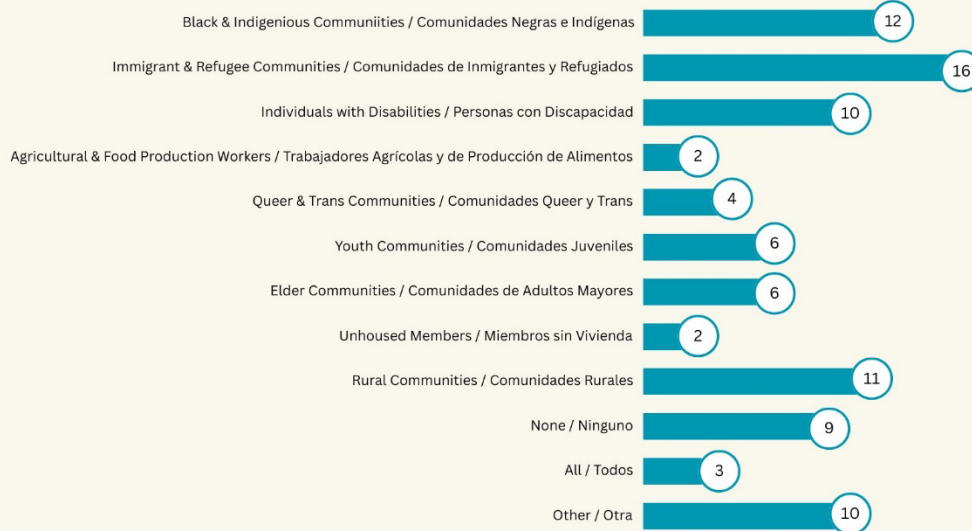
1. Which of the communities listed below does your program, initiative or organization serve? /
¿A cuál de las comunidades listadas a continuación sirve su programa, iniciativa u organización?





2. Which of the communities listed below are you a member of?

¿De cuál de las comunidades listadas a continuación es usted miembro?



Strategies for Building Trust with the Asian and Pacific Islander Community in Washington State

Moderator: Van Kuno, Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest

Panelists: Haven Nguyen, APartnership; Faaluaina Pritchard, Asia Pacific Cultural Center; Kayla Somvilay, Lao Community Service Center

- The Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community in Washington State is large and expanding rapidly. According to the 2020 census, around 1 million Washington residents are members.
- The API community is diverse and encompasses more than 47 different national, ethnic, and cultural groups. There is a need for tailored outreach and funding to support this diverse community.
- Three Community Driven Outreach Initiative grantees shared the different ways their organizations have been developing tools, resources, and programs to be responsive to different parts of this diverse community.
 - APartnership uses a data-driven approach to develop materials and tools that are linguistically and visually appropriate for different API communities. They shared some of their data and highlighted community differences around trusted messengers for health information and how materials and images need to be tailored to specific subgroups within the larger community. [See more...](#)
 - The Asia Pacific Cultural Center operates a community center providing a space for elders from various Asian and Pacific Islander communities. The team also

launched a mental health program in November, which involves hiring therapists who speak the languages of their people.

- The Lao Community Service Center focuses on community outreach through house-to-house visits, phone calls, and translation services. Kayla emphasized the need for in-person relationship building to foster trust for providing health information and other services.
- Some of the challenges raised beyond Covid-19 include misinformation regarding vaccines, mental health issues, and a rise in diabetes and hate crimes. The Pacific Islander community also faces specific challenges related to obesity, heart disease, and homelessness.

Legislative Updates

Presenter: Kelly Cooper, Director of Policy & Legislative Relations, WA DOH

Kelly provided an overview of 2024's busy legislative session. DOH was involved in about 33% of all Bills introduced—analyzing 449 distinct bills. She highlighted new legislation in the following areas:

- Access to Care
- Health Workforce
- Behavioral Health
- Climate/Environment
- Agency Request Legislation

Kelly paused throughout the presentation to give the community an opportunity to ask questions. Finally, she discussed the agency's plans for the next legislative session, emphasizing the importance of community feedback and collaboration.

Community Priorities: Building Trust

Melissa West, Equity and Social Justice Strategist; Lead, Community Collaborative

Melissa discussed some of the specific feedback that DOH had received from collaborative members around the issue of trust building. She also emphasized the need for transparency and shared a visual to underline the point that building trust with the Community Collaborative involved being transparent of what was within the Department of Health's sphere of influence and what was beyond it. She shared an update on recent funds provided for community partners, however noted that in general funds for community are declining as federal COVID dollars ramp down. Melissa emphasized her role in ensuring that the needs, priorities, and wisdom of collaborative members were reaching a broad range of stakeholders within DOH.