

# CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL HEALTH (CMCH)

## Meeting Community Needs Through Trusted Partnerships

Since 1976, the Center for MultiCultural Health (CMCH) has collaborated with individuals, groups, and organizations in Washington to promote the health and well-being of diverse communities. CMCH is partnered with the Department of Health (DOH) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) OT21-2103 COVID-19 [Health Disparities Grant](#). Through health advocacy, health promotion, disease prevention, and immigrant and refugee service programs, CMCH aims to eliminate health disparities and increase accessibility to health services and resources.

Through the Health Disparities Grant, CMCH improves equitable access, distribution, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines, health information, and prevention resources within the African Diaspora as well as the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities across King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. A key strategy they use is hosting inclusive monthly community conversations. In these spaces, partners share their obstacles and lived experiences as well as engage in learning and conversations about a variety of health topics. For CMCH, enabling inclusive spaces is an important component of addressing the social and environmental conditions that influence health.



## Partnerships

Partners include Wa Na Wari, APICAT, African Leaders Health Board, Dunia Health Clinic, National Cinemedia, Local Churches, and more.

### CMCH is implementing special activities through the Health Disparities Grant, including:

- Community education to help people understand and navigate COVID-19 information, including addressing COVID-19 vaccines hesitancy and misinformation.
- COVID-19 testing and outreach events at community centers, churches, apartment complexes and senior centers.
- Pop-up clinics that offer COVID-19 vaccinations, school immunizations and health information.
- Videos that shed light on the lived experiences of communities of color to help reach a larger audience.

## The Challenges and solutions for COVID-19 outreach

### Challenges

- **Addressing concerns and misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines.**
- **Literacy level challenges with CDC and health department materials.**
- **Lack of access to healthcare providers that understand challenges faced by people of color.**

### Solutions

- **Identifying and dispelling COVID-19 misinformation.**
- **Ensure that information is communicated in plain talk language, that is understandable to people from various cultures.**
- **Guiding healthcare providers through cultural competency.**



### Ensuring responsiveness to community needs and building community resilience is central in all efforts by CMCH including:

- Empower communities to be better prepared for future pandemics or health crises.
- Provide information and tools to improve community preparedness.
- Facilitate better understanding among providers and institutions on responding to communities of color during health emergencies.
- Improve understanding of how providers and institutions respond to communities of color during health emergencies.

CMCH is dedicated to creating a future where health disparities are eliminated, and communities of color have the knowledge and resources to navigate and respond to healthcare challenges effectively. The organization remains committed to engaging with multi-cultural communities, dispelling misinformation, and fostering partnerships to achieve its mission and vision.

Within DOH, the effort to sustain the partnership with the Center for MultiCultural Health is led by the Community Investments and Engagement (CI&E) Branch team within the Center for Community Relations and Equity (CRE). Funding from the CDC Health Disparities Grant supports partners like Center for MultiCultural Health through the Community-Driven Outreach (CDO) Initiative. The CDO Initiative aims to improve equitable access to COVID-19 information, vaccines and prevention resources among communities disproportionately impacted and to help these communities build their capacity for future emergencies.