

# COMAGINE HEALTH

## Engaging Community Health Workers to Meet Communities Where They Are

Comagine, an organization with a national footprint in the US, is working in partnership with the Washington State Department of Health to lead the provision of community-driven, culturally relevant, and linguistically accessible COVID-19 information through funding from the Health Disparities Grant.

Comagine employs the Community Health Worker (CHW) model to engage and empower African American/Black communities to make informed health decisions, access validated health resources, and achieve health equity.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed how underlying inequities in the social determinants of health caused underrepresented communities, such as American/Black communities, to bear the most harmful consequences of the disease. To address this, DOH is partnering with 10 CBOs by providing funding to promote health equity and address the social determinants of health.



## Background

The State Department of Health is committed to increasing health equity by funding community-based and community-driven organizations to lead community efforts by providing culturally relevant and linguistically accessible COVID-19 information. The emphasis is on mobilizing community partners and collaborators to promote health equity and address social determinants of health.

## Partnerships.

Comagine is also collaborating with Martin Luther King Jr. Family Center-Spokane, YMCA Seattle, and Southwest Affordable Communities of Health (SWACH) to co-design, test, implement, and evaluate their campaigns utilizing Community Healthcare Workers, community-facing events, and community media and ensuring that no one is left behind.

## SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX FOR THE BLACK/AFRICAN COMMUNITIES



Based on the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) tool, which provides a framework for identifying and understanding communities at higher risk for adverse health outcomes there are:

- Higher rates of poverty among African American/Black communities in South Seattle, areas of Federal Way, Renton, and South Tacoma
- Lack of personal transportation options in predominantly African American/Black Communities in Kent, Federal Way, and the Parkland area
- Higher unemployment in areas of Federal Way, SeaTac and Kent

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS.

### Specifically:

- Leverage CHWs as trusted messengers to help communities access COVID-19 resources and services during tabling events at markets, grocery stores, or churches
- Engage community members through the community advisory council meetings to learn about needs, feedback, and also pretest developed COVID-19 messaging
- Develop engagement plans with community partners using participatory design and co-design messaging
- Set up a comprehensive database to monitor and evaluate community health worker engagements



**We want to allow our community members to access validated COVID-19 resources and improve their health literacy.**

**- Rana Amini**



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL: [EQUITY@DOH.WA.GOV](mailto:equity@doh.wa.gov) OR VISIT [COMAGINE.ORG](http://COMAGINE.ORG)



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