



ALAMEDA COUNTY COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ★ CALIFORNIA

Office of Emergency Services
4985 Broder Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alameda County Continues Support for COVID Recovery by Awarding \$2.2M to the Final Community-Led Coalition of Organizations

Five other community-led coalitions and six single organizations continue expanding the County’s COVID-19 vaccine access and supporting community resilience.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – On March 10, 2022, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved the contract for the sixth community-led Coalition to continue expanding the County’s COVID-19 vaccine access and build upon community resiliencies towards pandemic recovery and improvement in health outcomes.

This coalition will be led by Resources for Community Development and includes Eden United Church of Christ, La Familia, the Regional Pacific Islander Task Force, and Umoja Health Partners. Their focus is on Deep East Oakland and unincorporated areas of Alameda County (Ashland/Cherryland and San Lorenzo), where vaccination gaps remain in populations hardest hit by COVID-19 including Black/African American, Latino/a/x, and Pacific Islander communities.

"Increasing vaccination rates in Deep East Oakland, Ashland and Cherryland is essential because COVID isn't disappearing and the protection vaccination and boosters provide will help keep residents out of the hospital," said Alameda County District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley. "I am proud the Board of Supervisors approved this funding and support trusted organizations to do this lifesaving work."

Rates of full vaccination in these areas of Alameda County range from 60 to 71 percent for Black/African American residents, 67 to 70 percent for Hispanic/Latino residents, and 63 to 77 percent for Pacific Islander residents. Forty-three to 64 percent of fully vaccinated residents in these areas have received a booster. Eighty-four percent of all Alameda County residents are fully vaccinated, and of those residents 63 percent have received a booster.

This coalition completes the funding awards that started in December 2021. These organizations join the existing five coalitions and six single organizations that provide County-sponsored COVID recovery. The coalition model, developed by the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency’s (ACHCSA) Public Health Department and inspired by former Supervisor Wilma Chan, prioritizes supporting communities of color and areas of Alameda County disproportionately impacted by the pandemic by expanding COVID-19 vaccine distribution and community recovery.

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“Prioritizing support for underserved communities was deeply important to the late Supervisor Wilma Chan, and I’m inspired that this work continues,” said District 3 Supervisor Dave Brown. “The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the challenges communities of color and those living in areas with high poverty rates experience every day. The coalition model extends the practice of working with organizations that know these communities best and recognizes the importance of supporting communities as they build on existing strengths and connections.”

The coalitions that received these awards serve residents living in communities where large concentrations of low-income people of color live and experience significant barriers to health care. Populations in these neighborhoods have higher rates of other communicable and chronic disease compared to the rest of the County and this pattern has continued during the pandemic where these same populations and neighborhoods have experienced the highest rates of COVID-19.

This initiative is an evolution of previous and existing County-sponsored partnerships with community organizations to provide COVID-19 testing, conduct case investigation and contact tracing, distribute isolation/quarantine kits, and reach residents with COVID-19 prevention and health information.

“These coalitions are lifelines to communities that experienced health disparities long before COVID-19. They are trusted sources for information and resource navigation, with the skills and expertise to help our communities recover from the pandemic and address other health care and social factors that lead to poor health outcomes so residents can thrive. Together, we are building toward health equity,” says Kimi Watkins-Tartt, HCSA’s Public Health Department Director.

Alameda County’s [existing coalitions](#) have nimbly worked since January of this year to support residents, and through their efforts they have outreached to 56,444 of people. Coalitions will continue to pivot their efforts with shifts in the pandemic and community needs.

The Alameda County-funded community-led coalitions and single organizations support expansion of the County’s COVID-19 vaccine access and build upon community resilience by:

- Conducting multilingual outreach, providing health education, and holding community engagement events to inform the identified geographic and demographic priority populations about COVID-19 prevention, containment, and treatment tactics.
- Promoting, supporting and/or leading vaccine uptake efforts among these populations.
- Supporting front end vaccine Points of Dispensing (POD) operations, resource tabling, and community engagement.
- Providing referrals to the Language Access Line and other health and social services.

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- Participating in community recovery and resilience initiatives, which may include community organizing/mobilization efforts, strategic planning, public awareness raising, partnership development, amplifying linkage to resources, and implementing social marketing activities designed to sustain health at the neighborhood and population levels.

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Alameda County, located in the eastern San Francisco Bay Area, is the seventh (7th) most populous county in the State of California. With a total area of more than 800 square miles and a population of more than 1.6 million residents, Alameda County encompasses urban, suburban, and rural geographic areas as well as a large unincorporated area. Alameda County is characterized by its rich ethnic diversity and is ranked as one of the most diverse counties in the country. Based on the 2018 American Community Survey, 32.1 percent of the County's population is foreign-born and there is no majority racial or ethnic group. In addition, according to the California Department of Education, 60 languages were spoken by English language learners in the K-12 public school systems in Alameda County in 2019-2020.

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