



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

December 21, 2021

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Alameda County Awards \$12.2M to Support Community-led Coalitions to Aid in COVID Recovery

As a first-ever initiative, the funding supports coalitions to expand COVID-19 vaccine access and support community resilience.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – Today, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved awards totaling \$12.2 million to 11 community-led Coalitions to expand COVID-19 vaccine access and build upon community resiliencies towards pandemic recovery. The two-year contracts will begin in January 2022 and operate through December 2023.

The coalition model reflects the tireless efforts of former Supervisor Wilma Chan to prioritize underserved communities in Alameda County. The coalition model developed by the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency’s Public Health Department builds on and extends Supervisor Chan’s work.

The eleven community awards are for The Alliance for Community Wellness (La Familia) as lead in partnership with Eden Youth and Family Center, South Hayward Parish, Glad Tidings, and Regional Pacific Islander; the Unity Council working with Street Level Health Project, La Familia, Trybe, Homies Empowerment, and East Oakland Collective; Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center as lead working with Eden United, Ruby’s Place, Kidango, and Hayward Area Recreation and Park District; Bay Area Community Health (BACH) in coalition with the Afghan Coalition, Adobe Services, and South Bay Community Church; Cal-PEP with HEPPAC, WORLD, Lifelong, and True Vine; the Black Cultural Zone; Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS); Independent Artis and Media (El Timpano); La Clinica de la Raza; Roots Community Health Center; and the Vietnamese American Community Center.

This first-of-its-kind initiative for Alameda County, prioritizes supporting communities of color and areas of Alameda County disproportionately impacted by the pandemic by expanding COVID-19 vaccine distribution and community recovery. The awards provide funding for comprehensive outreach and engagement as well as support for multiple vaccination Point of Dispensing clinics and mobile clinics. This initiative creates opportunity for small and large organizations to work together at neighborhood level to support culturally competent community-led vaccination services. It will also strengthen community resilience and lay the groundwork for pandemic recovery.

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Populations hardest hit by COVID-19 include Black/African American, Latino/a/x, Native American, and Pacific Islander communities, especially those living in East and West Oakland, the Fruitvale/San Antonio neighborhoods of Oakland, South Hayward, Unincorporated Ashland/Cherryland, and the City of Fremont.

“The past two years have been challenging, especially in our hardest hit communities. As we continue to raise awareness about the importance of getting vaccinated and boosted, we believe that this initiative will also strengthen community resilience by leveraging residents’ existing and diverse strengths. Together we can address health inequities and, out of tragedy, rise-up to be stronger than before,” said Colleen Chawla, the Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA).

This initiative is an evolution of previous and existing 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.

“Alameda County’s communities of color were experiencing health inequities well before the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Dr. George Ayala, Deputy Director of Health Care Services Agency’s Public Health Department. “These awards empower trusted, community organizations to work with the residents they serve to address these inequities in a culturally- and linguistically competent manner.”

The coalitions receiving the awards serve residents living in the prioritized zip codes 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.

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