



## **Community Health Plan of Washington Donates \$250,000 to Support Local Community Organizations Advancing Health Equity**

*2023 grants are going to community-based organizations across Washington State serving immigrant, refugee, Indigenous and Native communities*

**SEATTLE – November 2, 2023** – Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW), the not-for-profit offering Apple Health (Medicaid), Medicare Advantage, and Individual & Family Plans on the health exchange, announced the 2023 recipients of its \$250,000 Advancing Equity Fund grant to be shared among 25 community-based organizations (CBOs) directly serving immigrant, refugee, Indigenous and Native communities in Washington State. Now in its fourth year, the Advancing Equity grants are given to organizations working to address all aspects of health, including systemic social determinants of health\*, and improving the health outcomes for individuals through a broad range of services.

The 2023 fund is focused on CBOs serving the growing number of immigrants and refugees in Washington, as well as Indigenous and Native peoples who each work diligently to welcome, aid, and support these communities. The grants are provided as unrestricted funds because CHPW believes each CBO can decide how best to apply the funds to serve their clients and communities. With this year's recipients, CHPW has provided a total of \$980,000 to 68 community-based organizations across Washington state since 2020.

As a local health care plan founded by Community Health Centers across the state, CHPW works hand-in-hand with them, community resources and CBOs to ensure that all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, immigrant status, disability, age, gender orientation, or income—have an equitable opportunity to achieve their best health and well-being. The Advancing Equity grant program was established to support critical CBO partners that provide services to people from minoritized communities who often experience the greatest health disparities, and whose work meets their everyday needs like housing, food, work, and education because health care comes in many forms and often goes beyond a clinical setting.

“CHPW recognizes that advancing health equity can only be achieved when we act collectively, by partnering with community organizations to meet the diverse needs of people from different cultures and nationalities,” said Leanne Berge, CEO of Community Health Plan of Washington and its parent Community Health Network of Washington. “We are grateful to and humbled by this year’s grant recipients who provide direct, culturally-appropriate services that support the health and well-being of our communities. By working together and learning from one another, we can create opportunities for everyone to achieve their best health.” According to [a May 2023 report](#) by Washington’s Office of Financial Management, the state had a total immigrant population of 1,149,000 in 2021.

“We are beyond thrilled and honored to accept this grant. The work that Community Health Plan of Washington does to advance health equity in our community is so needed and appreciated. We are thankful for their partnership and their support of our mission of empowering multicultural communities to thrive,” said Emily Hughes, Thrive International’s Director of Development, one of this year’s grant recipients. “Their recognition that health care is more than just a doctor’s visit casts a vision for Spokane, and all of Washington, to be a more equitable and healthy place to live.”

The following CBOs are each receiving \$10,000 from Community Health Plan of Washington in 2023\*\*:



1. [Afghan Health Initiative](#) (King)
2. [Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition](#) – Together for Health (King)
3. [Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition](#) (Yakima)
4. [CAFÉ \(Community for the Advancement of Family Education\)](#) (North Central - Grant) <sup>2</sup>
5. [Community 2 Community](#) (North Sound)
6. [Congoese Integration Network \(CIN\)](#) (King)
7. [Ethnic Support Council](#) (Clark) <sup>3</sup>
8. [Global to Local](#) (King)
9. [Immigrant Resources & Immediate Support \(IRIS\)](#) (North Sound)
10. [International Rescue Committee](#) (King)
11. [Kitsap Immigration Assistance Center](#) (Salish - Kitsap) <sup>2 3</sup>
12. [La Casa Hogar](#) (Yakima) <sup>1 2 3</sup>
13. [Latino Community Fund](#) (Yakima) <sup>2</sup>
14. [Lutheran Community Services NW](#) (King, Pierce, North Sound - Snohomish, Gr. Columbia - Franklin, Southwest - Clark) <sup>1 2</sup>
15. [Northwest Immigrant Rights Project](#) (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom)
16. [Pacific Islander Health Board](#) (Statewide)
17. [Pacific Northwest Uganda American Association \(PNUAA\)](#) (Pierce, King) <sup>2 3</sup>
18. [Refugee & Immigrant Services NW](#) (North Sound - Snohomish)
19. [Thrive International](#) (Spokane)
20. [Unidos Nueva Alianza](#) (North Central - Grant)
21. [World Relief](#) (Greater Columbia/Tri-Cities - Spokane)

*\*Social determinants of health, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “are conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.” To learn more about this, visit the CDC’s [website](#).*

*\*\*A total of 25 CBOs received the grant and 21 are listed above. The additional four organizations receiving grants serve Indigenous and Native communities; out of respect for these organizations’ cultures and customs, they are not named above. CHPW recognizes the grant as an acknowledgment of their existence, their work, and an offering of support.*

<sup>1</sup> The organization was also a recipient of CHPW’s 2020 grant, which totaled \$230,000.

<sup>2</sup> The organization was also a recipient of CHPW’s 2021 grant, which totaled \$250,000.

<sup>3</sup> The organization was also a recipient of CHPW’s 2022 grant, which totaled \$250,000.

### **About CHPW**

Founded in 1992 by a network of Community and Migrant Health Centers (CHCs) in Washington State, CHPW is a community-governed, not-for-profit health plan formed to provide access to quality care and advocate for people who were not being served by traditional insurance companies. Today, CHPW offers three health plans to serve more than 300,000 members across all their stages of life: Apple Health (Medicaid), Medicare Advantage, and our Individual & Family Cascade Select offered through the Washington State Health Benefit Exchange (Marketplace) for those just above the Medicaid income level. In 2024, Community Health Plan of Washington is offering Cascade Select Plans and Apple Health (Medicaid) to individuals with undocumented status as the state opens up these programs for the first time to these individuals.

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