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Why the Warriors of Wellness (WOW) Project?

21.7% of communities of color lack health insurance vs. 14.4% of their white counterparts.
Hospitalization rates for uncontrolled diabetes are 7 times higher for African-Americans & 3 times higher for Latinos.
Hospitalization rates for congestive heart failure are 5 to 15 times higher for Native Americans.
Infant mortality & teen pregnancy disproportionately affect these groups.

Communities of color face significant health disparities. The tri-county region is the most diverse region in Oregon, with people of color representing over a quarter of the total population.
The **WOW** model:

- Leverages the strong relationships that organizations have with culturally specific communities
- Improves the **cultural competency** of health systems to reduce the **health disparities** faced by communities of color.
In one year, we have:

Helped **368** individuals

Facilitated **332** medical appointments

Organized **153** support groups, language-specific classes and health events in the community.
PATIENT STORIES

WOW helped a senior obtain a scholarship to a gym.

A CHW helped secure transportation for a community member to reach dialysis appointments.

WOW connected a participant facing homelessness with emergency rental assistance.

With the help of their CHW, one family connected to immigration services, the issue they identified as their top health concern.
WOW offers

Parenting workshop for African-American men

Spanish-speaking classes on diabetes management

Vietnamese-speaking nutrition course

Swahili-speaking workshops on health care navigation
HOW DO WE DO IT?

THROUGH COLLABORATION!

THE WOW TEAM

A program of the Oregon Community Health Workers Association (ORCHWA)
Together, we:

Identify the **social determinants** of health

**Connect** communities of color to the resources they need

Develop **best practices** for health care providers
WOW community health workers:

- Serve and empower their own communities
- Have a trauma-informed lens
- Belong to Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Meet people where they live, work, play and worship
- Develop culturally specific interventions
Get peer support

Lead a healthy lifestyle

Successfully navigate health system

Connect with primary care providers and follow-up care
DEMONSTRATION SITE

Kaiser Permanente
Mt. Scott Medical Office and Northwest Family Services (NWFS)

Improve patient health

Coordinate social services with the health care system

Increase cultural competency within the health care system
OUR VISION

CHWs become an **integral** part of health care

CHWs help health care systems address the **social determinants of health**

CHWs **bridge the gap** between providers and patients
Next Steps:

Add more demonstration sites

Identify and sponsor a new community-based organization to join WOW

Invest in WOW infrastructure, evaluation, and data collection
Thank you!

For additional questions, please contact Teresa Lavagnino at teresal@irco.org or Celia Higueras (WOW Program Manager) celia@orchwa.org