



Dedicated to improving health and equity, HealthierHere brings health and social service organizations together to identify opportunities, co-design solutions, and implement ways of delivering care that better meet our communities' needs. As the COVID-19 pandemic grew close to home in early 2020, we pivoted our work to rapidly develop and execute new strategies to support our communities through these difficult, unprecedented times.

Connections

Cross-Sector Collaboration Our partners, Governing Board and committees brought their diverse, cross-sector experience and subject matter expertise to our shared table to help guide our COVID-19 strategies and kept us informed about the emerging crisis from many perspectives.



Trust & Information Sharing The trusting relationships we've built, across our region and beyond, enabled us to team up to maximize impact. We offered virtual spaces for partners to engage and collaborate. They shared honest, actionable insights about what, where, and how support was most needed.



In response to partner input, we created a COVID-19 Resource Hub to help people and partners find information, tools and guidance. We also developed a Telehealth Resource Guide and set up additional supports for behavioral health providers and social service organizations transitioning to virtual services.

Community

Focus on Equity As an organization dedicated to advancing equity, we were aware of the pandemic's potential to amplify health disparities. Leveraging knowledge and wisdom from our Indigenous Nations Committee and our American Indian, Alaska Native and Indigenous (AI/AN/I) partners, we identified reduced access



to traditional medicine as a critical issue. To address this, we collaborated with our AI/AN/I-serving partners to support adapted approaches for providing safe access to traditional medicine, herbs, and culturally responsive care and supports during COVID-19.



Listening to Community Voices Data from our Community Voice Listening project reflected significant needs for linguistically and culturally responsive care. With the pandemic imposing additional hardships on marginalized communities, we knew this was also critical for pandemic response. We teamed up with our partners to support multilingual response teams who deliver direct services to people with limited English proficiency.

Care

Improving Access Aware that the system is fragmented and challenging to understand, we realized that system navigation and enrollment services would be crucial for communities heavily impacted by COVID-19. We reallocated funds to help our partner organizations build capacity to assist individuals and families in accessing public benefits and social services to meet their basic needs.



Supporting Whole Person Care Recognizing the strain that COVID-19 would place on the system, we established a resilience fund to help sustain partner organizations' capacity to provide critical services to those most impacted. We prioritized services in communities experiencing disparities and partnerships working to meet the needs of each whole person. We supported the provision of direct services such as health care, food distribution, recovery support, social services, wrap-around support services, care transitions, and behavioral care.

Learn more: healthierhere.org/covid-response

Visit our COVID-19 Resource Hub: healthierhere.org/covid