Environmental Health Information Partnership



2022—2023 EnHIP Outreach Awards

The University of Texas at El Paso – El Paso, TX

<u>A Mixed Methods Analysis of Food Security Outcomes During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic for a Comprehensive Food Pantry Program in El Paso, Texas</u>

The goal of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) project is to determine the effectiveness of a comprehensive food pantry program at decreasing food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Project objectives are to complete secondary analysis of existing outcome data for program participants enrolled in the program since March 2020, analyzing change in outcome indicators at baseline, recruit approximately 25–30 graduates of the program as participants to conduct individual interviews in order to learn more about their experiences in the program, to determine factors that supported sustaining their gains in food security, and to identify barriers they experienced to sustaining program gains.

This project targets health literacy and COVID-19 as focus areas, well-aligned with the EnHIP and NLM strategic plans which promote the use of data and community engagement in the dissemination of health information. The focus of this project is to reduce health disparities in the community, specifically targeting food insecurity, a social determinant of health experienced at higher rates for Hispanic individuals. Through completing this project, we will also foster the capacity of faculty and students at this Hispanic-Serving Institution to engage in community partnerships that advance data-driven practices while reducing health disparities.

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

The Invisible Environmental Health Impact on the Health of Our Community

The goals of the project are to increase knowledge of the inequities invisible environmental health factors have shown on low-income residents and people of color; enhance the use and distribution of environmental health information; provide instruction in the use of National Library of Medicine (NLM) web-based environmental health resources; and increase the awareness of NLM Online resources related to environmental, toxicological, and hazardous materials. The project objective is to create a series of training sessions for students from the King/ Drew Medical Magnet High School and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science on the Invisible Environmental Health toxins, pollutants, and metals impacting our health. The students will learn how to access and utilize these resources to inform and improve the understanding of the impact that Environmental Health has on their communities and gain an understanding of improving their health outcomes which will aid in the mitigation of health disparities.

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<u>Advancing Health Equity on the U.S.-Mexico Border: An Initiative to Address Health Misinformation through Community Outreach and Partnerships</u>

The primary goal of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) project is for 30 participants to utilize the information from the Advancing Health Equity Through Information, Resources, and Services program and disseminate their knowledge with professionals, peers, and community partners. The project objectives are to recruit 10 nursing students and 10 Community Health Workers (CHWs) to educate on the use and navigation of the EnHIP program and Healthy People 2030 program; develop materials for six modules that are culturally sensitive to the Hispanic population of the U.S.-Mexico border; and educate 30 participants on the EnHIP program and Healthy People 2030 program with guidance on how to utilize the resources in their courses, community, and affiliated agencies.

The project targets each EnHIP objective by educating and training CHWs and social work students in health literacy, which will improve research and outreach conducted in the local community by drawing upon evidence-based health resources and tailoring them in a culturally sensitive way. The project will ultimately prevent the spread of health misinformation by bringing awareness to reliable resources and tools, such as those by NLM/NIH/HHS.