

Report from the field: End AIDS WA Microgrants

Project-based 9-month grants were awarded to 12 agencies across Washington State to support innovation in meaningful community engagement efforts.

Stigma	Community Engagement	Drug User Health
Recommendation #1: Identify and reduce HIV Stigma	Recommendation #11: Include meaningful community engagement and empowerment	Recommendation #6: Improve HIV prevention and care for people who use drugs



Reducing HIV stigma requires a recognition of the interrelation of homophobia, transphobia, racism, and sexism.



Living with HIV can be challenging for many reasons. Isolation is among the most important to address.



Harm reduction is an approach to reducing the negative consequences of drug use. The primary strategy is to meet people “where they are at”.



One of the most critical anti-stigma campaigns is called “U=U”, which means “undetectable = untransmittable”



The **Pierce County AIDS Foundation** held a community engagement event for long-term survivors of HIV.



Reaching people who use drugs in rural areas of Washington State is vital to reduce health disparities and barriers to care.



Spokane Regional Health District formed a U=U/ Anti-stigma committee with the strategic aim of reaching Eastern Washington and shining a light on the stigma perpetuated by lack of education and awareness of the modern science of HIV.



The event was created by and for people affected by HIV. *“It was valuable for us to create opportunities for survivors to take ownership of the event.”*



Yakima Health District offers mobile-based syringe services. YHD remodeled their motorhome to offer clinical services on-board.



The committee purchased U=U swag to disseminate to the community along with its message. Health officer Bob Lutz [placed an editorial in the Spokesman Review](#), and the campaign was [featured on NPR](#).



The event included time to meet others who shared lived experiences and to connect in order to build new and potentially meaningful relationships.



“This renovation allows privacy, which encourages clients to engage in services without fear of compromised confidentiality.”

Spotlight: Cascade AIDS Project

CAP's Stigma Project 2.0 is the second series in a trauma informed approach to bring people living with HIV and community partners together and explore the complexities and dynamics of HIV Stigma as it intersects with other social matrices that PLWH exist in.

CAP's mission is to create safe, inclusive spaces and experiences in which participants are given the opportunity to engage, dialogue, learn, express, inform, and provide tools to address and stop the damaging impact of stigma on their lives. Participants engaged in bi-weekly psychosocial-educational and peer art therapy groups.

Stigma Project 2.0 was able to increase support to people living with HIV by going from bi-monthly events to providing bi-weekly groups, expanding support by underlying groups with social engagement and interactive community building, and creating new community partnerships, such as Clark College's Archer Gallery and Office of Diversity and Equity. By supporting this process, participants are able to access knowledge and expand vocabulary which can support informed and empowered choice.

Spotlight: Kitsap Public Health District

The West Sound Care Event was a one day conference designed for the clients of Kitsap Public Health District, many of whom identify as long-term survivors. Supper was provided the night before the event as part of the monthly Red Ribbon Supper Club, and was attended by 53 people.

The event itself had 76 attendees from all four counties served by KPHD. Hotel rooms were provided for folks traveling from longer distances, ensuring that transportation was not a barrier to attending.

The presentations and workshops received glowing reviews on conference surveys, and attendees appreciated Washington Department of Health coming to present, as well as staying to answer any and all questions they had.



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Spotlight: Clark County Public Health

In November 2018, Syringe Service Program (SSP) staff delivered a harm reduction training to 20 individuals. Feedback from the training and engagement with community partners guided program improvement, as well as in the development of best practices for CCPH's SSP and Overdose Prevention programs.

In partnership with community-based organization Share, during the spring CCPH placed a fixed sharps kiosk at the Vancouver Navigation Center to address the need for access to safe sharps disposal. CCPH also implemented a training and maintenance toolkit, which was developed to ensure easy adoption for other agencies that may desire to procure a sharps kiosk for their community.

This project brought Clark County Public Health, Share and the City of Vancouver together to focus on a common goal and as a result we have collectively observed an increase the knowledge within their community related to services for people who use drugs, and has also provided an opportunity to respond to community questions and feedback.



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