

2021 AFA Grantee and Project Summaries by AFA

2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Equity and Prioritizing Populations Disproportionately Affected by COVID-19			
Grantee	Contact Information	County(ies) Served	Description of Project
Applied Research Foundation of West Virginia at Bluefield State College	Dr. Albert Beckroh tmckenzie@bluefieldstate.edu 304-327-4360	Mercer	Through multi-disciplinary partnerships, address health disparities in African-American, underinsured, uninsured, and homebound populations by empowering them with the knowledge to protect themselves and their family members from contracting COVID-19 and by increasing immunization rates among these individuals.
Barbour County Health Department	Jennifer Burner jennifer.l.burner@wv.gov 304-457-1670	Barbour	Expand staffing to assess community health needs, target health disparities linked to low vaccination rates, explore food insecurity as a risk factor for low vaccination rates and connect community members with outreach and resources.
Bluestone Health Association	Linda Hutchens linda@bluestonewv.org 304-431-5499	Mercer	Through the “Step in to Stomp Out COVID” project, improve county-level vaccination rates, especially for vulnerable populations through increased testing and vaccinations involving partnerships and collaborations; enhanced delivery systems; increased clinic locations; identification and elimination of barriers; and strong community education and advocacy.
Camden-On-Gauley Medical Center	Margaret E. Hickey meg@cfhvw.org 304-226-5725 ext. 131	Lewis, Nicholas, Webster	Utilize community health workers and outreach to provide 2,700 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine by leveraging relationships with local schools to reach children and families. Identify and compile local data sources that will be used to plan outreach and vaccination activities in areas/for populations with the greatest need. Transportation will be available, and an outreach campaign will be conducted to address vaccine hesitancy.

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Coalfield Health	Kristin Dial kdial@coalfieldhealth.org 304-220-4938	Logan	Provide volunteers and students to staff vaccine clinics, provide home visit vaccinations, schedule vaccines, and provide vaccine data entry.
Community Connections, Inc.	Dr. Jamie Styons jamie@strongcommunities.org 304-913-4956	Mercer	Implement the COVID Rural Recovery Education Program to 1.) foster community participation in development of an action plan to address COVID-19 vaccination stigma within the substance use populations of Rural Appalachia; 2.) establish inter-agency partnerships between federally qualified health centers, community behavioral health and substance use treatment providers, local medical providers, local health departments, and prevention coalitions to engage the target population; 3.) design, implement, and oversee a plan of timely response, outreach, and education focused on individuals who have not received a full COVID-19 vaccine series; and 4.) develop and promote a COVID-19 anti-stigma campaign to share with individuals, family members, and community members about resources for vaccination and treatment.
Community Education Group (CEG)	Dr. Noelle Chaddock nchaddock@communityeducationgroup.org 202-539-1855	Braxton, Nicholas, Upshur, Webster	Address gaps in outreach, education, access, and data reporting in Indigenous, Latinx, and immigrant populations.
Dunbar School Foundation	Romelia C. Hodges romeliahodges@dsfstop.org	Marion, Monongalia, Harrison	A culturally competent medical staff will focus on African-American communities with a high prevalence of preexisting health conditions that exacerbate the risk of serious illness and utilize community

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	304-933-9693		health workers to canvas and penetrate communities, providing accurate COVID-19 information and implementing a step-by-step plan to reach full vaccination of all participants.
Harrison-Clarksburg Health Department	Cindy Murphy Cynthia.j.murphy@wv.gov 304-623-9308	Harrison	Make contact with underserved areas, marginalized communities, and vulnerable populations through the use of a mobile vaccination team. A Public Health Educator will be hired to answer questions and provide information to educate and encourage vaccinations against COVID-19 infection.
Marshall University Minority Health Institute	Dr. Anthony Woart Woarta@marshall.edu 304-696-5772	Cabell	Engage in partnerships to address health equity and COVID-19 vaccination among African-American, underinsured, uninsured, and homebound populations in Cabell County, West Virginia. Project activities to improve health equity and COVID-19 vaccination rates will include strengthening existing community-based partnerships, identifying and vaccinating individuals among target populations, and linking the target populations to COVID-19 services that will increase the number of individuals that receive COVID-19 vaccination.
Mingo County Health Department	Keith Blankenship keith@mingochd.com 304-235-3570	Mingo	Implement a community-based "feet on the street" approach using a mobile health unit to best overcome barriers including lack of public transportation, a high rate of disability, a high rate of homebound residents, geographic barriers associated with a rural setting, and a population who historically has high rates of underlying health conditions that place them at a greater risk of developing life-threatening symptoms from COVID-19.

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<p>Monongalia County Health Department (MCHD)</p>	<p>Brittany Irick brittany.d.irick@wv.gov 304-225-0263</p>	<p>Monongalia</p>	<p>Work with community stakeholders, specifically West Virginia Sober Living, to achieve the following: (a) increase number of individuals vaccinated among different racial and ethnic populations and the LGBTQIA population, (b) increase influenza and COVID-19 vaccine confidence, (c) reduce vaccination hesitancy, (d) increase number of vaccination opportunities in the community, (e) effectively advertise these vaccination locations through multiple means of electronic and print media, and (f) reduce racial and ethnic disparities in adult immunization.</p>
<p>Partnership of African-American Churches (PAAC)</p>	<p>Tamara Eubanks tamara.eubanks@paac2.org 304-200-3704</p>	<p>Mingo, Cabell, Wayne, Kanawha, Logan, Clay, Mercer, Wyoming, Marion, Wood, Harrison, and Randolph</p>	<p>Improve vaccination coverage for West Virginia's population of African Americans and other people of color and build on West Virginia's vaccine education and outreach efforts through tailored approaches to meet the unique needs of the community.</p>

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Pretera Center	Lisa Q. Zappia lisa.zappia@pretera.org 304-399-7760	Cabell, Mason, Lincoln, Wayne, Kanawha, Clay, Putnam, Boone	By using an evidence-based approach and motivational interviewing, the project aims to serve clients facing healthcare inequity in general, including vaccine inequity, and who may experience severe and persistent or acute mental health problems and/or substance use disorder through COVID-19 education and vaccination services.
Race Matters	Loretta Young lorettayoung26@gmail.com 304-952-9927	Logan, Mingo, McDowell, Mercer	Implement a grassroots COVID-19 education and vaccination program using community health workers to target African-American and Hispanic/Latinx communities in regions with the greatest barriers to COVID-19 testing and low vaccination rates in four West Virginia counties.
Rural Appalachian Improvement League (RAIL)	Kristi Halsey 2001railwv@gmail.com 304-294-6188	Wyoming, Raleigh, Mercer, McDowell	Collaborate with Marshall University to gather standardized educational materials from the CDC to distribute and share when going door-to-door to speak with community members and through community events, converse with individuals whether they be homebound, disabled, or able-bodied to aid them in setting up a date and time to get vaccinated and will offer free transportation to appointments at the health department.
Valley Health Systems	Rachel Merino Rmerino@valleyhealth.org 304-781-5132	Cabell, Kanawha, Wayne, Lincoln	Increase outreach and vaccine uptake in areas with a high Social Vulnerability Index and to racial and ethnic minority groups through strong partnerships with community organizations with access to the population of focus and mobile pop-up clinics where individuals can receive vaccines directly in their communities.

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Williamson Health and Wellness Center	Jenny Hudson Jhudson@williamsonhealthwellness.com 304-928-1704	Mingo	Target individuals in Mingo County, West Virginia who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and who are impacted by disparities, people living in rural communities, people who are un/underinsured, and people with transportation limitations.
WV Health Information Network (WVHIN)	Sonia Chambers Schambers@wvhin.org 304-690-0722	Statewide	Remedy vaccine inequity in communities of color, communities with a high social vulnerability index, and among people with disabilities through the launch of a heat map application to help policymakers and providers identify the geographic areas, ages, and races/ethnicities with vaccination gaps so that efforts may be targeted to those most in need.

2021 Addressing COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities in West Virginia

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Cabin Creek Health Systems	Amber Crist amber.crist@cchswv.org 304-444-2146	Kanawha	Through partnerships with the Charleston Black Ministerial Alliance Churches (CBMA) and Tuesday Morning African-American Non-Profit Collaborative (TMG), create and sustain the social infrastructure to minimize racial health disparities in the region by assuring access to COVID testing, vaccinations, and treatments and providing accurate information for church leaders and congregations and local CBO leaders.
Change, Inc.	Judy Raveaux Jraveaux@changeinc.org 304-797-7733	Brooke, Hancock	Increase education, decrease hesitancy, and improve COVID-19 vaccination rates for underserved populations, such as minorities and low-income individuals in Brooke and Hancock Counties.
Community Education Group (CEG)	Dr. Noelle Chaddock nchaddock@communityeducationgroup.org 202-539-1855	Kanawha, Fayette, Raleigh, Summers, Putnam, Cabell, Hardy, Calhoun, Braxton, Ritchie, Doddridge, Lewis, Wood, Upshur, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Wyoming,	Address COVID-19 by targeting residents at high risk for COVID-19 and influenza by administering an expanded, evidence-based Community HIV/AIDS Model Prevention Services (CHAMPS) community health worker program to link, educate, and serve Central and Eastern Panhandle West Virginia. CEG will utilize a hub-and-spokes model to help ensure coverage of at least 44% of West Virginia counties.

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		Logan, Lincoln, Boone, Berkeley, Morgan, Jefferson	
Dunbar School Foundation	Romelia C. Hodges romeliahodges@dsfstop.org 304-933-9693	Marion, Monongalia, Harrison	Aims to rapidly gain African-American acceptance of vaccines; provide brick and mortar as well as mobile testing and vaccination services; improve upon and convey culturally sensitive health information; and care for vulnerable communities of color.
Economic Development Greater East (EDGE) Incorporated	Amelia Bandy Ameliabandy@gmail.com 304-596-4002	McDowell	Collaborate with community partners to create a sustainable local food system to address health disparities exacerbated by conditions of persistent poverty and events such as COVID-19. The project will create and disseminate health messaging to help better prepare for future health emergencies, and train and prepare food producers to support and build a sustainable food network including growing, processing, and food delivery.
Innovative Community Solutions		Berkeley, Jefferson	Conduct design of a virtual platform, data collection, and growth of datasets to address racial disparities that are intended to be reusable and scalable to benefit citizens across the state.
Jefferson County Health Department	Terrence Reidy terrence.j.reidy@wv.gov 304-728-8416	Jefferson	Collaborate with representatives of minority communities to identify gaps in knowledge, understanding, and access to services to decrease the impact of COVID-19. Community health workers from minority communities will engage with community members to identify needs, provide education, and

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			work with the health department and healthcare services to meet these needs
Keep Your Faith Corporation, Inc. (KYFC)	Dural Miller dmiller@kyfc.org 304-981-1412	Kanawha	Address social and health disparities among racial and minority groups living in the Kanawha Valley by building on existing wellness initiatives to address food insecurity and associated health challenges while providing behavioral health interventions that aim to reduce psychological distress. KYFC's West Side Grown Program and Licensed Behavioral Health Center will work together by engaging trusted partners and connecting community members to apply strategies helpful with managing the community response to health disparities heightened by COVID-19 among racial and ethnic minority groups in West Virginia.
Marion County Family Resource Network	Frank Jarman mcfrn@gmail.com 304-366-4445	Marion	Organize health workshops targeted toward communities of color to highlight the dangers of COVID-19 beyond the disease itself. The Marion County Family Resources Network will work with Black-owned businesses, church leaders, and community organizations to rewrite the narrative of how Black neighborhoods can become healthier and reduce COVID-19. Special focus will be placed on educating men of color.
Marshall University Minority Health Institute	Dr. Anthony Woart Woarta@marshall.edu 304-696-5772	Cabell	Work to reduce the burden of COVID-19 health disparities among the African-American and Hispanic-American populations in West Virginia through outreach, community collaboration, community capacity building, and data collection and analysis.

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Marshall University Research Corp	Dr. Deb Koester koesterd@marshall.edu 765-412-9511	Cabell, Harrison, Monongalia, Ohio, Raleigh	Partner to establish a chronic care coordination model with integration of community health workers in five free clinics. This project will develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities; increase/improve data collection and reporting; build, leverage, and expand infrastructure; and mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and reduce COVID-19 health disparities.
Partnership of African-American Churches (PAAC)	Tamara Eubanks tamara.eubanks@paac2.org 304-200-3704	Cabell, Wayne, Putnam, Kanawha, Mercer, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Jefferson, Berkeley	Increase access, eliminate barriers, and expand community access to improve COVID-19 vaccine equity.
Quality Insights	Bidy Smith bsmith@qualityinsights.org 304-346-9864 ext. 3252	Monongalia, Marion, Harrison, Wood, Ohio, Berkley, Jefferson, Fayette, Raleigh, Wyoming, McDowell, Mercer,	Mobilize community health workers, develop a partner referral network, and create a media campaign aimed to increase awareness of the needs of racial and ethnic minorities.

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		Kanawha, Clay, Cabell, Wayne, Logan Lincoln, Boone, Mingo	
Thomas Health System	Daniel J. Lauffer Dan.Lauffer@ThomasHealth.org 304-766-3595	Kanawha	Provide COVID-19 testing, PPE, preventive care, disease management, and wraparound services including behavioral health to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among minority populations in Kanawha County.
Race Matters	Loretta Young lorettayoung26@gmail.com 304-952-9927	Summers, Greenbrier	The project will seek the commitment of 500 persons from the racial and ethnic communities to (1) engage in identifying health disparities, (2) attend workshops that educate and define the factors that have led to the health disparities that exist, and (3) participate in activities proven to diminish the health disparities present among racial and minority communities.
WV Health Right/ Health Equity Action League (HEAL)	Dr. Angie Settle Asettle@wvhealthright.org 304-414-5931	South-Central Region (not county-specific)	HEAL is a health equity team assembled by WV Health Right to improve equitable healthcare resources to people of color and marginalized communities with a special focus on the African-American population throughout South-Central West Virginia.
WVU Research Corporation	Dr. Adam Baus abaus@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-1083	Monongalia	Implement a three-fold effort to 1) build on the ELC effort by increasing the capacity of participating health systems to leverage electronic health records (EHR) data to generate a health system level COVID-19 vulnerability index; 2) conduct a statewide assessment of metrics related to COVID-19 testing among community and clinic partners including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity to provide

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			recommendations on standardized data collection; 3) disseminate findings through the WV Health Connection initiative and through the WV Rural Health Association for public health program planning efforts.

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Camden-On-Gauley Medical Center	Margaret E. Hickey meg@cfhvv.org 304-226-5725 ext. 131	Lewis, Nicholas, Webster	Implement interventions to address transportation barriers, health literacy, and chronic disease management.

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Center for Rural Health	Sharon Lansdale Sharon.lansdale@wvruralhealth.org 304-397-4071	Webster, Mingo, Summers, Logan, Lincoln	The "Wild, Wonderful, and Healthy West Virginia", project will provide staff to support and strengthen engagement of business leaders in Community Health Improvement (CHI) Committees and implement strategies and activities stated in the Engaging Businesses as Stewards and Stakeholders in Community Health Improvement – A Report of the US Surgeon General and the Annual Action Plan.
Community Education Group (CEG)	Dr. Noelle Chaddock nchaddock@communityeducationgroup.org 202-539-1855	Braxton, Nicholas, Upshur, Webster	Develop and implement a media rollout to address vaccine hesitancy, streamline personal protective equipment (PPE) supply distribution, and increase vaccination uptake using CHAMPS, a 90-day community health worker model program in which individuals with histories of substance use disorder (SUD), HIV, viral hepatitis, and incarceration who are familiar with and from the targeted communities, are recruited and offered the opportunity to participate in community health work.
Dunbar School Foundation	Romelia C. Hodges romeliahodges@dsfstop.org 304-933-9693	Marion, Monongalia, Harrison	There is an extraordinary need for mental health services in rural areas and an increased need for services as related to COVID-19. Through linkages with local clinics that provide a wide variety of services and operate with the assistance of local community leaders and clinicians with cultural competence, local programs will foster and support the development of receptive behaviors toward vaccinations and testing.

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Economic Development Greater East (EDGE) Incorporated	Amelia Bandy Ameliabandy@gmail.com 304-596-4002	McDowell	Collaborate with community partners to create a sustainable local food system to address health disparities exacerbated by conditions of persistent poverty and events such as COVID-19. The project will create and disseminate health messaging to help better prepare for future health emergencies and train and prepare food producers to support and build a sustainable food network including growing, processing, and food delivery.
Lincoln Primary Care	Lisa Leach Lisa.leach@swvhs.org 304-824-5806	Boone, Lincoln	Increase COVID-19 testing and vaccination in rural Southern West Virginia Counties. Multiple testing locations will be spread throughout the counties as well as at school-based health center sites to improve access to care and remove barriers to service.
Logan, Mingo Area Mental Health	Donna Cooke Dcooke@lmamh.org 304-792-7130 ext. 1045	Logan, Mingo	Utilize staff to coordinate with local health departments to identify positive, homebound, and symptomatic COVID-19 patients and families, and provide them with access to education, PPE, testing, and linkage to additional health services to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on rural, vulnerable, and under-served populations. Additionally, this project will provide community members with expanded outreach efforts through a mass health education campaign centered on vaccine safety, reducing vaccine hesitancy and stigma, and providing community members with information on existing fixed vaccination and testing sites.

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Marion County Family Resource Network	Frank Jarman mcfnr@gmail.com 304-366-4445	Marion	Distribute written materials door-to-door and host a town hall meeting to provide information and increase vaccination.
McDowell County Commission on Aging	Dr. Donald Reed Jr. Donald@mcdowellcoa.org 304-436-6588	McDowell	Support increased home testing, implementation of chronic disease prevention and management, a reduction of social isolation activities with community health workers, increased transportation services, assessment of senior needs for services, and media by local champions using culturally appropriate materials.
Minnie Hamilton Health Services	Brent Barr Brent.barr@mhhs.healthcare 304-354-9726	Calhoun, Gilmer	Expand primary care and COVID-19 testing in remote areas through a mobile testing/treatment unit, collaboration with community groups for health services and food assistance, and improving chronic care management.
Monroe County Health Center		Monroe	Provide home testing kits through school-based wellness centers; improve capacity for high-risk patients to continue disease management visits by providing a safe environment for care; complete HVAC air duct cleaning and other effective air quality measures for safe, in-person visits; and launch a marketing campaign to encourage testing and vaccination and work with community leaders and groups to educate the public regarding the myths associated with vaccinations and testing.

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Morgantown Sober Living, Inc. dba West Virginia Sober Living	Sabrina Harper Sabrina@westvirginiasoberliving.com 304-413-4300	Monongalia, Kanawha, Marion, Logan	Operate two health outreach centers in Monongalia and Kanawha counties and deploy outreach peer recovery support specialists to Marion and Logan counties to connect people in need with health and social services, education, health materials, and other resources related to COVID-19.
Partnership of African-American Churches (PAAC)	Tamara Eubanks tamara.eubanks@paac2.org 304-200-3704	Mingo, Webster, Lewis, Greenbrier, Gilmer	Recruit and hire RNs to coordinate and supervise COVID-19 vaccination sites and clinical activities, support community health workers to identify and schedule vaccination sites in easily accessible locations, and develop and implement record keeping to help ensure second vaccine doses.
Preston Senior Citizens	Janie Lou White Jwhite@presonseniors.org 304-329-0464	Preston	Aims to increase COVID-19 home testing, improve chronic disease management while decreasing social isolation, improve transportation services and conduct a needs assessment.
Quality Insights	Biddy Smith bsmith@qualityinsights.org 304-346-9864 ext. 3252	Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Harrison, Lewis, Logan, Marion, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Nicholas, Preston, Randolph, Roane, Upshur, Wetzel, Wood	Mobilize community health workers, develop a partner referral network, create a Preventive Care and Disease Management Public Awareness Campaign: OPEN (Outcomes, Prevention, Education, and Nourishment), and develop a Power Business Intelligence (BI) COVID-19 Outreach and Response among WV Rural Populations Dashboard to formulate a visual quantitative narrative of rural populations' challenges among social determinants of health domains and experiences with COVID-19 including testing, disease prevalence, and vaccination rates.

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South Central Education Development, Inc.	Darryl Cannady Sced1@earthlink.net 304-325-6105	McDowell, Mercer, Wyoming	Provide a series of nine health screenings, and community vaccine outreach events to provide vaccine awareness, education, testing and vaccinations; provide COVID-19 community outreach in counties where health screenings are hosted and develop billboards reflecting the local communities; and design and implement a COVID-19 quarantine house in McDowell and Mercer counties for any infected persons in the catchment area to safely quarantine for 14 days to safeguard their family and local communities.
Williamson Health and Wellness Center	Jenny Hudson Jhudson@williamsonhealthwellness.com 304-928-1704	Mingo	Distribute the most up to date COVID-19 information to individuals with underlying conditions, expanded access to PPE, and expansion of community infrastructure and capacity for COVID-19 prevention and disease control to serve populations who are at higher risk and are underserved.
WV Farmers Market Association	Erica Gallimore coordinator@wvfarmers.org 304-202-6618	8 counties - undefined	Strengthen alliances with healthcare providers and farmers markets to prevent complications that arise because of food-related chronic disease; launch nutrition incentive programs and advance prevention partnerships with healthcare and social service providers; and strengthen the capacity of rural communities to act resourcefully together.
WV Rural Health Association	Richard Sutphin Rich@wvrha.org 304-435-7491	Statewide	Develop a distribution system for COVID-19 home test kits, develop a brief survey to assess COVID-19 risk perception among rural dwellers, and work collaboratively to develop and implement a training program for the rural health

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			workforce utilizing the principles and practice of Motivational Interviewing.
WV School of Osteopathic Medicine	Sara Crickenberger Scrickenberger@osteo.wvsom.edu 304-647-6358	Greenbrier	Provide and operate a mobile testing unit, provide non-emergency medical transportation, and digitize records of health department patients to provide better access to and continuity of care.
WV State University	Amy Postalwait Grants@wvstateu.edu 304-204-4005	Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Wyoming	Expand opportunities for testing, improve data reporting for rural populations, coordinate with community partners to increase preventative steps and measures, and provide education and training for the community.
WVU Research Corporation	Dr. Adam Baus abaus@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-1083	Braxton, Webster, Greenbrier, Mingo, Tucker	Develop and test the implementation of a novel, low-cost community-based intervention to increase knowledge of COVID-19 among adults with high-risk conditions such as diabetes and other chronic conditions.