

# PROGRAM SUMMARY

CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant



## Key Impacts:



The DCW program increased the ability and sustainability of local health professionals to address the unique needs of patients and families living with serious illness.



## Western Arizona Area Health Education Center (WAAHEC) housed in the Regional Center for Border Health

### Direct Care Worker Certification

#### Program Description:

The **Direct Care Worker (DCW) Certification Program** is a 3-week, 100 clock-hour program of full-time instruction program on how to safely assist long-term care patients with their daily living activities. Students are trained in how to safely assist long-term care patients with their daily living activities, including bathing, ambulation, transfers, oral hygiene, dressing, and eating. The DCW Training was conducted by certified instructors trained at the WAAHEC/Regional Center for Border Health College of Health Careers. Upon completion of the program, students obtain DCW certification, meeting the licensing requirements established by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment system (AHCCCS) and the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education.

#### Program Goals:

- ▶ Facilitate training to increase the DCW workforce to address disparities among long-term care patients in rural distressed communities impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Promote enrollment in the DCW training program in the following communities: San Luis, Somerton, Wellton/Dateland in Yuma County; Parker, Salome, and Quartzsite in La Paz County; and Lake Havasu and surrounding areas in Mohave County.



## CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant Strategies:

**Strategy 1:** Expand existing and/or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19-related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.

**Strategy 4:** Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.



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**Milestones:**

Certified 83 direct care workers and 2 trainers from 2022-2023.



**Stepping into the future:**

Going forward the newly trained DCW trainers will facilitate sustainability by training a new generation of DCWs. Furthermore, the program will continue its outreach and enrollment efforts in La Paz and Mojave counties to increase the number of trained medical assistants in those underserved communities.

**Partnerships developed or strengthened:**



**Regional Center for Border Health – College of Health Careers**

**San Luis High School**

**PEPP TEC High School (Migrant Program)**

**San Luis Walk-In Clinic, Inc.**

**Western Arizona Council of Government (WACOG) Area Aging**

**First Things First (La Paz/Mohave Arizona)**

**Lake Havasu Foundation**

**Kingman Unified School District**

Primary



**Health Equity SDOH Primary Area of Impact:**

**Education**

**Employment**

**Health Systems and Services**

Housing

Income and Wealth

Physical Environment

Public Safety

Social Environment

Transportation

Secondary



Tertiary



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