

PROGRAM SUMMARY

CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

Key Impacts:



This program helped address the shortage of health professionals in Cochise County; 16 students are currently employed by various clinics within the community.



Cochise Community College Medical Assistant Program

Program Description:

SAAHEC and the Cochise Community College Medical Assistant (MA) program developed an expedited MA training program to give students the opportunity to explore career opportunities and support their rural communities. This program combined the up-to-date curriculum with direct engagement of community members. Students received hands-on learning experiences by administering blood pressure checks and flu vaccines at community events. They also attended future health professional events where they learned how to navigate the job application process.

- ▶ AzTransfer
- ▶ Canyon Vista Medical Center
- ▶ Cochise County Health Clinics
- ▶ Local high schools



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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“Taking blood pressures is always a challenge for our students, this is why we start it right away to give them plenty of practice before externship.”



Milestones:

- ▶ 31 of 32 students graduated from the medical assistant program in 2023
- ▶ All 31 graduating students passed the National Health Career Association exam to become Certified Clinical Medical Assistants



Stepping into the future:

Students have encountered issues with transportation, time constraints, and low-wage prospects, all factors which have previously diminished student retention. The program will continue to address these challenges through the development of innovative ways to market and find job placements for the MA program graduates.

Partnerships developed or strengthened:






AzTransfer

Canyon Vista Medical Center

Cochise County Health Clinics

Local high schools

Primary		Health Equity SDOH Primary Area of Impact:	
		Education	Physical Environment
		Employment	Public Safety
Secondary		Health Systems and Services	Social Environment
		Housing	Transportation
Tertiary		Income and Wealth	



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