

PROGRAM SUMMARY

CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant



Public Health Champions Community Component

As experts on local needs and strengths and committed to providing essential information and services to their patrons, public libraries are trusted pillars of their communities. This is evidenced by their ability to pivot operations during the height of the pandemic to continue to provide critical services. AHEAD-funded mini grants provided funding to amplify this expertise. AHEAD supplied resources to support libraries' efforts to engage, mobilize, and empower leaders, health providers, volunteers, and other committed parties in rural communities to 1) address the negative impacts of COVID-19 and 2) build resilience against future public health emergencies. These projects evolved into the [AZ Librarians Enhancing Resilient Rural Communities initiative](#) in collaboration with the [Arizona Library Association \(AzLA\)](#).

Key Impacts:



This program fostered increased resilience among rural communities by fortifying relationships between libraries and communities made vulnerable by the effects of COVID-19. Program partners reported a significant increase in foot traffic at their libraries, which they were able to attribute to resources provided through this initiative, including new program offerings and educational materials supporting wellness and engagement.

Program Goals:

Develop partnerships with rural and small libraries (RSLs) across Arizona, providing support in the form of webinar trainings and mini-grant awards to RSLs seeking to implement innovative and impactful community programming.



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.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health





Milestones:

- ▶ Awarded 37 mini-grants across two cohort cycles to RSLs representing 10 of Arizona’s 15 counties.
- ▶ RSLs and their communities across Arizona benefitted from funded projects addressing the following priority areas: health and well-being, improving access to health care and related services, and meeting patron needs related to the social determinants of health.
- ▶ Convened Community of Practice (COP) webinar sessions designed to provide opportunities for grantees to share updates on their projects, network with other RSLs, and problem solve challenges in communal space.
- ▶ Designed and delivered a training series to grantees consisting of 8 webinars.
- ▶ Developed an online learning management platform to support RSL grantees’ access to important program information including a calendar of events, links to reporting tools, recordings of COP sessions and webinar trainings, and additional curated resources.



Stepping into the future:

Plans are in progress for facilitating RSL and Public Health partnerships, further enhancing the commitment to pursuing resources and opportunities to continue this work. In collaboration with the Arizona Library Association, the Arizona Center for Rural Health is seeking additional funding to expand programming to communities in high social vulnerability index areas.






Partnerships developed or strengthened:



Rural and small libraries
Local schools
Local public health departments

Western Region Public Health Training Center
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Primary		Health Equity SDOH Primary Area of Impact:
		Education
Secondary		Employment
		Health Systems and Services
		Housing
Tertiary		Income and Wealth

Physical Environment
Public Safety
Social Environment
Transportation



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health



Rural and Small Library

Supported Programming

Aguila Library	Rising Youth Theatre at Aguila Library
Bouse Public Library	Care Kits for Those In Need
Camp Verde Community Library	Anti-Bullying Program - the Toley Ranz Way
Clifton Public Library	Learning CPR AED First Aid at the Clifton Public Library
Coconino County Public Library	Addressing Health & Well-Being through Education & Related Materials Access <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Provision of Personal Hygiene Items Needed in the Community* Community CPR Education* Cooking with What You Have and Cooking with Commodities
Coconino County Public Library	PALSmobile Safely Serving Rural Coconino County
Coolidge Public Library	Mental Health and Well Being: Serving the Sensory Needs of Families
Copper Queen Library (Bisbee)	Tough Topics at the Copper Queen Library
Cottonwood Public Library	Get Out and Give Back A Program to Get Kids into the Outdoors
Douglas Public Library	Healthy Choices at Your Library Healthy Snacks at Your Library
Duncan Public Library	Feed the Body, Feed the Mind
Edward McElwain Memorial Library (Peach Springs)	Developing Youth Services at Edward McElwain Library
Globe Public Library	Growing Strong Mind and Body
Hayden Public Library	Wellness, Health, and Resilience through a Small-Town Library
Huachuca City Public Library	Huachuca City Library Diaper Bank
Isabelle Hunt Memorial Public Library (Pine)	Healthy Living grant
Miami Memorial Library	The HeART of Tai Chi, Fostering Fitness at MML
Navajo County Library District	Indoor Gardening for Health and Well- Being
Navajo Nation Library (Window Rock)	Initiating the Navajo Nation Library Early Childhood Literacy Pilot Program Diné Nizhóní iina Our People Living Beautifully through Movement and Health Literacy
Page Public Library	Page Strong
Pinal County Library District	Health and Wellness through Meditation and Hydroponics
Show Low Public Library	Wellness for Body & Mind
Snowflake-Taylor Public Library	Balance for Life
Tuba City Public Library	Early Childhood Literacy Development
Vine Jones Community Library (Florence)	Women and Self-Care Memory Care
Wickenburg Public Library	Story Walk
Winslow Public Library	Young Chefs Winslow Public Library Cooking Programs
Yavapai County Free Library District	Portable Accessible TeleHealth (PATH)

