

PROGRAM SUMMARY

CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

Key Impacts:



This program collaborates with the local community to educate all people on the health, wellbeing, and histories of the tribal communities that call the canyon home, providing meaningful support during the COVID-19 pandemic recovery. The Monument provided opportunities for people to

recover through social interactions and re-engagement with health, and environmental practices from local, Diné, cultural perspectives.

Program Goals:

This project was designed to support community revitalization, after COVID-19 public lockdowns. The goal was to provide a space and opportunity for the surrounding community to engage in practices and education using cultural and traditional knowledge related to history, health, resilience, and wellness. Activities included:

- ▶ Youth Running Camp, Fitness Walks and Hikes – Educate on related health behaviors, including fitness and nutrition.
- ▶ Junior Ranger Camps, Arts in the Park – Educate on topics related to mental health.
- ▶ Harvest Festival – Educate on local farm and harvest techniques.

Western National Parks Association



National Park Service

Canyon de Chelly National Park
Regional Community Engagement Services

Chinle, AZ Regional Area (Navajo Nation)

Description of Program:

Develop culturally relevant, community-based health and wellness programming, building on the “Elements of a Healthy Tribal Community” framework to cultivate awareness of healthy behaviors while fostering health and environment literacy.

15 years ago, Nora and I would ask the kids at the Chinle school if they had been to Canyon de Chelly and none of them would raise their hand. Now more of the local kids have been into the canyon and know about spider rock and the history.”

– Ravis Henry.

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:

Over 500 local community members and visitors were engaged through a series of community events, including Youth

Running Camps, Junior Ranger camps, Fitness Walks, Arts in the Park, and a Harvest Festival.

- ▶ Delivered two 5-day running camps over during 2023 Fall and 2024 Spring breaks for the surrounding Chinle youth, each providing supervised opportunities for strenuous-to-difficult physical activity.
 - Twenty-six individuals participated in the Youth Running Camps, leading to an increase in physical activity, nutrition, and COVID-19 prevention knowledge.
- ▶ Sponsored multiple events for the Junior Ranger Camp with an increase in attendance.
- ▶ Sponsored multiple events providing opportunities for cultural knowledge experts to educate the community on cultural practices. NPS held the 1st shoe game event, which has not been shared in years.



Stepping into the future:

NPS hopes to continue to expand their current program events with the Arts in the Park Program by fostering a cultural hub at the Welcome Center and the Youth

Running Camp by extending the canyon days and collaboration opportunities. For similar programs offered in the future, NPS will put more effort into marketing and outreach to showcase their work with the community. Overall, they will continue to create more partnerships, work with existing partners, and expand their efforts with current funding streams.

“We have the ability to provide the programs, but to give an effective program we need funding and partners.”

– Ravis Henry

Partnerships developed or strengthened:



Navajo Nation Chapter Houses (Local Governance)
AmeriCorps
Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program
Indian Health Service – Chinle (Chinle IHS)

Health Promotion Disease Prevention
Navajo Nation Department of Youth Services – Chinle Agency (Diné Youth)
Subject Matter Experts – Cultural Knowledge Holders

Primary



Health Equity SDOH Primary Area of Impact:

Secondary



Education

Employment
 Health Systems and Services
 Housing
 Income and Wealth

Tertiary



Physical Environment

Public Safety
Social Environment
 Transportation



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