

PROGRAM SUMMARY

CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant



Key Impacts:



Indigenous communities in Arizona improved their awareness and understanding of environmental hazards in their surroundings, including pest management, indoor air quality, and vector-borne disease risk. In all instances, communities were provided the equipment, products, tools, and training to implement sustainable specific and practical solutions.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Agriculture, Life &
Veterinary Sciences &
Cooperative Extension

The **Healthy Homes Project** was led by Extension Specialists from the Department of Entomology at the University of Arizona in collaboration with an air quality Specialist from the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Northern Arizona University. This capacity-building initiative was designed to improve environmental health in rural indigenous communities by improving facility assessment equipment and risk reduction practices in tribal schools and homes.

Program Goals:

- ▶ Improve community capacity to monitor key environmental hazards and measure improvements, and practices. Components included indoor air quality, cleaning, disinfection, and pest management.
- ▶ Provide technical guidance and assistance including a special focus on tick, mosquito, and field mouse control in response to vector-borne disease concerns including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, dengue, West Nile fever, and hantavirus related illness.



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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Center for Rural Health





Milestones:

- ▶ Conducted community outreach in Tohono O’odham Nation villages and addressed the Nation’s greatest vector-borne disease risk: Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Reached approximately 400 families.
- ▶ Engaged over 150 facility managers and environmental health professionals through professional development workshops, site visits, and risk reduction reports with the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Navajo Nation, Hopi Indian Tribe, Gila River Indian Community, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and Tohono O’odham Nation.
- ▶ Designed a needs assessment to capture environmental health concerns surrounding pests and indoor air quality (IAQ). Results highlighted the necessity for community employees

associated with education facilities and housing to have access to and utilize IAQ and general Integrated Pest Management (IPM) professional development resources.

- ▶ Provided tick collars and assisted in mobile rabies/tick prevention clinics throughout the Tohono O’odham Nation, treating 502 dogs and cats. Provided additional pest control and safe-pesticide-use information to facility managers. Provided six research quality IAQ kits to environmental management leads, and dozens of monitors for community engagement.
- ▶ Provided four indigenous students with part time employment for up to six months.

“It was great to gain all this information and know there are contacts we can reach out to for questions.”
 – Program participant

Partnerships developed or strengthened:



Local schools
 Red Feather Development Group
 Navajo Nation
 Hopi Tribe
 Ak-Chin Indian Community
 Gila River Indian Community

Tohono O’odham Nation
 Pascua Yaqui Tribe
 Pima County Department of Health
 Santa Cruz County Health & Human Services
 Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
 Northern Arizona University



Stepping into the future:

The University of Arizona and Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals faculty will continue providing IAQ and IPM technical assistance and professional development events for Tohono O’odham Nation, Pascua Yaqui, Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Gila River Indian Community, and Ak-Chin Indian Community staff. Additionally, they will seek potential sources of funding to continue this important work.

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

