

Making Connections for Mental Health and Wellbeing Among Men and Boys

Community Site Descriptions and Primary Contacts

Making Connections: International District, New Mexico Office of School and Adolescent Health, Albuquerque, NM

Engage, connect, cultivate and activate young men of color in Albuquerque's International District and Southeast Quadrant to be agents of social and systemic change in their community.

- New Mexico Department of Health, Office of School & Adolescent Health
Francisco Chavez francisco.chavez@state.nm.us
- Apex Evaluation
Michelle Bloodworth m.bloodworth@apexeval.org
- Arlen Nelson adnelson21@gmail.com

Local Initiatives Support Corporation Resilient Communities, Resilient Families, Boston, MA

Build pathways to success for men of color in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan by addressing economic opportunity, housing, social support, trauma and marginalization.

- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Allentza Michel AMichel@lisc.org

Resilience Grows Here, Farmington Valley Health District, Canton, CT

Support mental health among active and retired veterans in Farmington Valley by improving understanding of the needs and sacrifices of veterans and their families, reducing isolation, and improving mental and emotional support.

- Farmington Valley Health District
Justine Ginsberg jginsberg@fvhd.org

Sinai Health System, Chicago, IL

Promote community connectedness and wellbeing for African American and Latino men and boys in North Lawndale, South Lawndale, and Chicago Lawn through sports- and play-based mentoring, use of community spaces, photojournalism, and improved organizational practices.

- Sinai Health System
Alejandra Gonzalez alejandra.gonzalez1@sinai.org
Jack Callahan Jack.Callahan@sinai.org

Denver Men's Health Connection project, Denver Department of Human Services, Denver, CO

Improve mental health of adolescent and transition age young men living in the five ZIP code areas in the City and County of Denver with the highest percentage of hotline calls for child abuse and neglect.

- Denver Department of Human Services
Esmeralda Santillano Esmeralda.Santillano@denvergov.org
Marsha Brown Marsha.Brown@denvergov.org

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HopeHealth Inc., Florence, SC

Address mental health and emotional wellness of men and boys of color and male veteran populations of Florence in the rural Coastal Plain region by decreasing isolation and the impact of trauma and lack of connection through civic engagement, community and provider training, and a peer-support network.

- HopeHealth, Inc.
Shawn Maxwell shawn@hope-health.org

Kokua Kalihi Valley, Honolulu, HI

Address the systematic disenfranchisement and alienation of Native Hawaiian, Asian, Micronesian, and Pacific Islander young men in the ahupua'a of Kalihi through leadership training and multi-generational mentoring a local bicycle exchange.

- Kokua Kalihi Valley
Jeffrey Acido jacido@kkv.net

Houston Health Department, Houston, TX

Close the gap in success experienced by boys and young men of color in the Kashmere, Wheatley, and Scarborough high school neighborhoods of Houston with interventions that increase resilience and cultural identity and reduce risks, including creative arts, and peer supports

- Houston Health Department
Melissa Bing Melissa.Bing@houstontx.gov

Kankakee Community College, Kankakee, IL

Enhance place, connect people, and foster prosperity by offering a learning community for veterans in classrooms at a local community college with high veteran enrollment.

- Kankakee Community College
Cari Stevenson cstevenson@kcc.edu

Los Angeles Making Connections Network, Los Angeles, CA

Reduce the impact of gang culture and gang violence and increase sense of community wellness among young men and boys of color in south Los Angeles and surrounding LA County communities through work with schools and other partners.

- Community Intelligence
Randal Henry randalhenry@communityintelligence.org

Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD), NE

Work with veterans and their families in the 76 counties served by NALHD member local public health departments to ensure whole communities will know how to and be ready.

- Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors
Susan Bockrath susanbockrath@nalhd.org
Teri Clark tclark@nalhd.org

504HealthNet, New Orleans, LA

Equip African American men and boys ages 8-24 in the neighborhood of St. Roch to increase positive norms and culture that support health and safety for their community; increase use of public spaces to facilitate art, recreation and cultural expression; and enhance access to opportunities and services.

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- New Orleans Health Department
Khalilah Collins kvc@mcnola.org

Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, OK

Reduce mental health disparities experienced by American Indian boys and men by collaborating with schools in Anadarko and the Oklahoma City area to empower students to address and combat suicide contagion and its associated community trauma; training leaders; and raising community awareness.

- Southern Plains Tribal Health Board
Susan Gay sgay@spthb.org

United Women of East Africa Support Team, San Diego, CA

Develop a peer-led, culturally-literate, and responsive behavioral health and wellness hub to address employment, education, and isolation among East African refugee young men ages 16-25 in the City Heights area of San Diego.

- United Women of East African Support Team
Jama Mohamed jmohamed@unitedwomenofeastafrika.org

Lao Family Community Empowerment, Inc., Stockton, CA

Develop messages that build on social and cultural traditions and community strengths to help change the way Hmong elders, adults, and young men in the Stockton area talk and think about mental health and promote mental wellbeing.

- University of the Pacific
Ethel Nicdao enicdao@PACIFIC.EDU

253 Making Connections, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, Tacoma, WA

Strengthen community resilience through a movement-building process that nurtures authentic connections, activates collective action, and improves meaningful access to and use of quality resources among men, boys and LGBTQ people of color in the Parkland, Hilltop, and East Side communities.

- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Tomas Madrigal TMadrigal@tpchd.org