Alliance of Border Collaboratives

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ALLIANCE OF BORDER COLLABORATIVES
Executive Summary

The Alliance of Border Collaboratives (ABC) was established as a community-based 501(c)(3) and standalone fiscal agent in 2009. Since then, ABC has worked to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized populations (e.g. homeless, people of color, LGBTQ+, sex workers, low-income, and people with a substance use disorder and/or mental health disorder) can exercise their rights to receive prevention, intervention, and treatment services. ABC has developed and implemented programs that strengthen parity, inclusion and representation of socially disadvantaged community members in community planning groups, advisory boards, and in the planning and implementation of programs, at the individual, organizational, and community levels.

Between 2019-2020 ABC, spearheaded innovative and meaningful public health programs to some of the most vulnerable populations. For example, the launch of our free community-based naloxone dispensary has saved hundreds of lives due to opioid-related overdoses. Additionally, the Trans-Fronterizxs Project evolved to be first of its kind in the Paso del Norte Region by raising awareness and visibility of our transgender and gender non-conforming community. Moreover, our programs through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs made a significant by providing support to our elderly, disabled, and low-income communities. More recently, ABC began COVID-19 prevention efforts to homeless populations by providing them with hand-washing stations, camping tents, face masks, disinfecting wipes, and gloves.

ABC recognizes the needs of our community and will continue to move the public health agenda for such populations.

Rebeca Ramos MA, MPH
Executive Director
Organization Details

Mission

ABC brings together organizations and individuals to advance the practice of public health, promote social equity, affordable housing and community development. ABC strengthens working relationships and builds partnership opportunities that contribute to the effective delivery of programs and services aiming to improve the quality of life of underserved populations, including the homeless, low income and others in need. ABC delivers programs and services in Mexico and the United States particularly in El Paso County.

ABC’s Focus Areas

- **Public Health** - focus on preventing diseases and creating healthy environments and conditions to prolong life and promote positive health outcomes.
- **Poverty Mitigation and Affordable Housing** – focus on basic needs such as shelter to give the disadvantaged an opportunity to create wealth for themselves.
- **Education** - focus on knowledge and skill acquisition using targeted methodologies to improve skills, such as teaching civics and ethics in communities in crisis.
- **Community Advocacy** - focus on individuals and community representatives in coalitions that promote positive behavioral and structural change.
- **Equity and Environmental Justice** – focus on access to information and services to disenfranchised populations to help address grievances in an effective manner.
- **Applied Research** – focus on evidence-based programs, which incorporate proven evidence-based practices
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Profession</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Vazquez Ramirez</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Voting</td>
<td>Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose Manuel de Leon</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Voting</td>
<td>Highpoint Enterprises / Topline Water Technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose Alvarez</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Voting (Proxy)</td>
<td>Hospitals of Providence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adriana Valdes</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Voting</td>
<td>Cancer and Chronic Disease Consortium of El Paso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guadalupe Hernandez</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Voting</td>
<td>Programa Compañeros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susana Villalobos</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Voting</td>
<td>Texas Tech Health Sciences University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa Maria Benedicto</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Voting</td>
<td>Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebeca Ramos</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Non - voting</td>
<td>Alliance of Border Collaboratives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miguel Chacon</td>
<td>Fiscal Director</td>
<td>Non - voting</td>
<td>Alliance of Border Collaboratives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelvanny Marquez</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Voting</td>
<td>Independent Contractor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left to Right: Miguel Chacon, Jose Alvarez, Guadalupe Hernandez, Patricia Vasquez, Adriana Valdes, Rebeca Ramos, Jose Manuel de Leon (not Included), Susana Villalobos (not included), Rosa Maria Benedicto (not included), Yelvanny Marquez (not included)
OUR STAFF

SARAI LOPEZ
Pronouns: she/her/ellà
Research Assistant

SOL MARTINEZ
Pronouns: she/her/ella/they/them
Case Manager

TINA ORTEGA
Pronouns: she/her/ella
Project Liaison

GILBERTO PEREZ
Pronouns: he/his/him/él
Program Coordinator

JORGE PUENTES
Pronouns: he/his/him/ Program Specialist

REBECA RAMOS
Pronouns: she/her/ella
Executive Director

ROSALBA RUIZ-HOLGUIN
Pronouns: she/her/ella
Program Coordinator

ALAN VARELA
Pronouns: he/his/him/ Research Assistant
BREASTFEEDING

ALLIANCE OF BORDER COLLABORATIVES

Program Coordinator:
Rosalba Ruiz-Holguin
freefrontera77@gmail.com
Breastfeeding Project

Project Description

Since 2012 The Alliance of Border Collaboratives (ABC) has been a strong advocate of breastfeeding as the optimal nutrition for babies. In El Paso Texas in 2018 only 16% of babies were excusably breastfeed until six months. Research has demonstrated over and over that breastfeeding provides a large range benefits not only to the baby, the mother, the baby’s family economy, the work force, the global economy, education system, health cost and the environment. Yet with the interference of the powdered formula industry breastfeeding rates are extremely low.

ABC has been strategically working in partnership with other agencies to create a culture of breastfeeding by, developing education curricula, providing breastfeeding education, developed media campaigns and research in this field. In 2019-2020 ABC delivered 4 community forums discussing maternity leave using the critically acclaimed documentary Zero Weeks that argues for the need for paid leave in the United States whether it's for caregiving or maternity/paternity leave. We support mother friendly establishments and workplaces.

In May 2019 in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate in El Paso celebrated a Follow the United Nations Code Day. The Code calls on countries to protect breastfeeding by stopping the inappropriate marketing of breast-milk substitutes, including infant formula, feeding bottles and teats. It bans all forms of promotion of substitutes, including advertising, gifts to health workers and distribution of free samples.

On August 3, 2019 in partnership with the Binational Breastfeeding Committee organized the 8th annual Big Latch a global event that provides community support for breastfeeding raising awareness on the benefits of breastfeeding and talks about the importance of normalizing breastfeeding as part of day to day life in communities, locally more than 200 families participated in the event.

In March of 2019 won best poster presentation award at the New Mexico Breastfeeding Task Force Conference presenting the preliminary results of the Breastfeeding Breast Cancer Connection Study.

An employee of ABC won the 2019 US Breastfeeding Coalition “Cultural Change Maker “award given to individuals who are actively involved in collaborative efforts to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding in culturally distinct communities through service to a cultural coalition or community-based organization.
New Mexico State University (NMSU) awarded ABC funds to conduct phase 2 of the ‘Breastfeeding – Breast Cancer Connection” study. The goal of this research is to increase exclusive breastfeeding at 3 month among Hispanic pregnant women (18-44 years) by providing a brief education intervention focused on the importance of breastfeeding and Breast Cancer prevention. This data has been presented at conferences including the New Mexico Public Health Association annual Conference, the New Mexico Breastfeeding Task Force Conference at Texas Tech Cultural Competence Conference and at the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social in Ciudad Juarez.

In 2019 ABC continues to utilize the Promovision strategy to create awareness. In partnership with the Ciudad Juarez Breastfeeding network that conducted a breastfeeding photo contest and photos taken from previous Big Latch On events a 24 “Breastfeeding in Public” photo exhibit has been created. ABC also partners with the American Perinatal Association that developed an online campaign titled “it doesn’t matter how you breastfeed as long as you do”. ABC received permission to reproduce and is now a traveling exhibit with 22 double sided pieces of art to promoting breastfeeding. These 2 exhibits are available to any agencies that wishes to start a conversation around breastfeeding at their events.

Year round the Alliance conducts extensive breastfeeding promotion as local outreach in local health fairs, at local media outlets and in social media. The alliance each year observes Breastfeeding awareness month ABC is has a staff members that acts as one of the officers of the Binational Breastfeeding Coalition and the New Mexico Breastfeeding Task force.

In 2020 ABC will continue work in the area of breastfeeding including the support of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action WABA 2020 awareness campaign theme: “Breastfeeding for a Healthy Planet.”
Presenting at the IMSS in Ciudad Juarez to promote mother friendly worksites.

Preparing new generation of health care professionals.

Putting breastfeeding in other health agendas.

Media outlets promoting breastfeeding.
The Big Latch On
COVID-19

ALLIANCE OF BORDER COLLABORATIVES

Program Coordinator:
Gilberto Perez
gilbert.perezh24@yahoo.com
COVID-19 Project

Project Description

The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected vulnerable and marginalized populations (e.g. homeless, people of color, LGBTQ+, sex workers, low-income, and people with a substance use disorder and/or mental health disorder). According to the National Center for Health Statistics, COVID-19 is responsible for more than 110,000 deaths in the U.S., Texas being among the top ten states. Therefore, ABC set-forth a prevention initiative to aid homeless individuals in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez through this health crisis, especially those with preexisting conditions (e.g. human immunodeficiency virus, substance use disorder, hepatitis c, tuberculosis, diabetes, and mental health).

Since early March 2020, staff members at ABC were in the planning stages to set-up hand-washing stations in homeless encampments to protect and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Before the shelter-in-place order was issued on March 24, 2020, ABC had already established more than 15 stations across the city. That number has now grown to more than 40 hand washing stations across our borderland. With funding from the Paso del Norte Community Foundation, we were able to expand our efforts and set-up more hand-washing stations, distribute individualized camping tents, prepare and distribute COVID-19 prevention kits that include disinfecting wipes, gloves, and face masks. More specifically ABC has expedited the delivery of prevention services because the majority of our do not have a secure source of income and many lost their only source of income since shelter-in-place was enacted.

Objectives

1. Increase the distribution of protection equipment and disinfecting supplies.
2. Provide access to educational materials related to COVID-19 and pre-existing risks.
3. Deliver alternative social services (e.g. food, emergency housing, medical services, COVID-19 testing).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals Served</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand-Wash Stations</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping Tents Distributed</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Prevention Kits</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hand-washing stations for homeless individuals.

Homeless individuals receiving individual camping tents to abide by social distancing guidelines.
DIABETES PREVENTION

ALLIANCE OF BORDER COLLABORATIVES

Program Coordinator:
Rosalba Ruiz-Holguin
freefrontera77@gmail.com
Diabetes Prevention

Project Description

Diabetes is a leading cause of death in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 25 million people have diabetes, including both diagnosed and undiagnosed cases. This disease can have a harmful effect on most of the organ systems in the human body; it is a frequent cause of end-stage renal disease, non-traumatic lower-extremity amputation, and a leading cause of blindness among working age adults. Persons with diabetes are also at increased risk for ischemic heart disease, neuropathy, and stroke. According to the CDC, the direct medical expenditures attributable to diabetes are over $116 billion. Diabetes disproportionately affects minority populations and the elderly, and its incidence is likely to increase as minority populations grow and the U.S. population ages. According to the most recent data for El Paso County, Diabetes accounts for 34.1 deaths per 100,000 population with a prevalence of 12% in 2017.

The Alliance of Border Collaboratives (ABC) in its commitment for improve the El Pas population health outcomes in the 2019-2020 period partnered with “Everyone With Diabetes Counts” initiative as part of the TMF Quality Improvement Network, providing Diabetes Self-Management Education classes.

More than 1,000 individuals 65 years of age or older El Paso residents living with diabetes received the Diabetes Self-Management Education Program (DEEP) training curricula developed by the University of Illinois. A Community Health Worker provided the classes in the field at more than 45 different sites including: community centers, local libraries, places of worships, housing complexes etc.

The training curricula was delivered in 4 workshops that took place once a week, each workshop has a duration of 2 hours. The topics reviewed include: the Human Body, diabetes: types, risk factors, signs, symptoms, diagnoses, complications), stress management, physical activity, and nutrition.

In partnership with the Mexican Consulate in El Paso within the Ventanillas de Salud Program, the Alliance of Border Collaboratives provided presentation on “World Physical Activity Day” in the month of April and “World Obesity Day” in the month of October

ABC provided diabetes prevention trainings to the Community Health Workers program at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), using the Road to Health Tool Kit developed by the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP). Conducted diabetes
outreach at local health fairs, community events and was present in local and social media.

ABC Observes World Diabetes Day on November 14 and has an ongoing diabetes media campaign Go Blue on The Border the 3 focus areas of the campaign are:

1. Diabetes is serious
2. Diabetes can be prevented and control, and
3. The time is now to do something about it

Salud Por Vida Trainings
Road to Health Tool Kit training, delivered to Community Health Workers.

Diabetes Media Campaign

Community Health Workers Conducting Outreach
EL PASO HARM REDUCTION ALLIANCE

ALLIANCE OF BORDER COLLABORATIVES

Program Coordinator:
Gilberto Perez
gilbert.perez24@yahoo.com
El Paso Harm Reduction Alliance

Project Description

To strengthen community resources and address HIV and drug use and in the region, ABC leads the El Paso Harm Reduction Alliance (EPHRA). The EPHRA has substantial evidence in the context of drug use and high-risk behaviors. We recognize that there is considerable injection drug use in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez. In consequence, we began to implement secondary needle exchange, led by volunteers in active substance use. Shortly after, we opened a community naloxone dispensary in the El Paso, making it the first and only dispensary within a 100-mile radius. More than just a naloxone dispensary, we were quickly recognized by peers as an underground syringe service program. EPHRA is committed to improve access to free syringes and drug use equipment in our border region to decrease new HIV and HCV diagnoses, overdoses, and overdose deaths among people who use drugs.

Mission

- Provide a space to advocate for the human rights of people who use drugs (PWUD) and promote the Principles of Harm Reduction to improve quality of life.
- Provide direction and support to the Project Encuentro taking into consideration the needs, perspectives, and concerns of the target population (crack and heroin users).

Goals

- Understand the need and the services being delivered in the community.
- Make the training modules more holistic and client-centered by providing harm reduction principles.
- Legalize SSPs locally and statewide.

Objectives and Strategies

1. EPHRA will standardize harm reduction data collection across agencies and create a single reporting system.
   a. Each organization/member will provide EPHRA chair with reporting measures every month.
2. EPHRA will collaborate with nationwide organizations to provide education on the Principles of Harm Reduction to the Paso del Norte Region through trainings and presentations.
a. EPHRA members will promote harm reduction training and education.

3. EPHRA members advocate for public policies that are evidence-based and incorporate the Principles of Harm Reduction, such as syringe service programs (SSPs).
   a. EPHRA will meet with El Paso City Council to present SSPs as an innovative program in El Paso, TX.
   b. EPHRA will form part of the statewide alliance (THRA) to push for SSP legislation in 2021.
Banner outside our office promoting our Naloxone Dispensary

Training El Paso Police Department on how to Recognize, Respond, and Evaluate an Opioid Overdose

1st Annual El Paso / Ciudad Juarez Recovery Rally

Compassion and Care Fair

Training Peers on how to Recognize, Respond, and Evaluate an Opioid Overdose
ENCUENTRO

ALLIANCE OF BORDER COLLABORATIVES

Program Coordinator:
Gilberto Perez
gilbert.perezh24@yahoo.com
Encuentro Project

Primary Aims

1. To elucidate how the social context of crack and heroin use within and across the two cities changed, emphasizing participants’ perspectives of changes.

2. Adapt the intervention following an iterative process of intervention adaptation and consumer feedback.

3. Test the effectiveness of Project Encuentro.

4. Perform an implementation evaluation to understand barriers and facilitators of implementation in local partner organizations serving drug users on both sides of the border.

Objectives

1. Promote rapid HIV testing among crack and heroin users using respondent driven sampling.

2. Adapt and implement a peer-led psychoeducational and skill building behavior change intervention among small networks of substance users to promote the adoption of harm reduction and reductions in sexual and drug use risk behaviors (N=300).

3. Target structural level factors such as drug use stigma, harm reduction stigma in communities affected; engage in policy advocacy activities; implement community wide events.
## Impact

El Paso, TX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIV Tests Performed</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>439</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTF</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reactive</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeats</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention Participants</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>118</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTF</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formative I Surveys</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>78</td>
<td></td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTF</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formative II Surveys</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTF</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **60 (77)** participants that participated in the Formative II Survey also participated in the Intervention.
- **19** participants participated in the Formative Survey I, Intervention, and Formative II Survey.

Client receiving prevention materials…Naloxone and condoms
Ciudad Juarez, CHIH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIV Tests Performed</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total........583</td>
<td>Total.......287</td>
<td>Total.......1,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males.........402</td>
<td>Males.......198</td>
<td>Males.........851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Females.......178</td>
<td>Females......88</td>
<td>Females.......368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FTM.............04</td>
<td>FTM...........01</td>
<td>FTM...........06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MTF.............00</td>
<td>MTF...........00</td>
<td>MTF...........00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reactive........14</td>
<td>Reactive.......4</td>
<td>Reactive.......26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Repeats........36</td>
<td>Repeats.......23</td>
<td>Repeats.........XX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention Participants</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formative I Surveys</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formative II Surveys</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 29 (101) participants that participated in the Formative II Survey also participated in the Intervention.
- 1 participants participated in the Formative Survey I, Intervention, and Formative II Survey.
Marching for the rights of people who use drugs, finishing off at the state commission for human rights in Ciudad Juarez.

Presenting at the 10th IAS Conference on HIV Science in Mexico City

Presenting at the Annual Harm Reduction Conference in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ALLIANCE OF BORDER COLLABORATIVES

Program Coordinator:
Miguel Chacon
mchaconn8@icloud.com
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Project Description

ABC has established a working relationship with the Texas Department of Housing and Community affairs that goes back to 2011. Since that time ABC has participated in several of the programs administered by TDHCA for the benefit of local residents of the City and County of El Paso in most need. The programs ABC has participated in include:

H.O.M.E Project

HOME includes Home-Owner Rehabilitation Assistance funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of the program is to expand the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing primarily in rural parts of the state. ABC subcontracts local small construction companies to build new homes for families who need new construction of site-built housing to replace an existing housing unit usually in bad state of disrepair.

Amy Young Project

Amy Young Barrier Removal (AYBR) Program provides one-time grants of up to $22,500 for Persons with Disabilities who need modifications to increase accessibility and eliminate hazardous conditions in their home. Program beneficiaries must include a Person with Disability, must have a household income that does not exceed 80% of the Area Median Family Income, and may be tenants or homeowners. TDHCA implements the AYBR Program through ABC who process intake applications, verify eligibility, and oversee construction.

Contract for Deed Initiative

Contract for Deed Initiative funds ABC to assist colonia residents with converting contracts for deed into traditional mortgages. Households served under this initiative must not earn more than 60% of the Area Median Family Income (AMFI) and the home converted must be their primary residence.
Rental Assistance Project

Project Rental Assistance (PRA) program that allow ABC to provide rental assistance for extremely low-income persons. The program is made possible through a partnership between TDHCA who awarded 150,000 to ABC to assist families and individual at risk of homelessness during the COVID-19 emergency.

Single Family Development Project

Single Family Development - ABC has been certified as a Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). CHDOs may use SFD funds for the new construction or rehabilitation of affordable single-family homes. Single family homes built or rehabilitated with the assistance of HOME funds comply with required income restrictions and follow certain design requirements. Homes must be sold to lower income homebuyers after completion of construction. TDHCA provides permanent financing to qualified households if needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AYBR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABC - with support from the TDHCA through the Amy Young Project - serves people with disabilities modify and adapt their homes

The funds have enabled hundreds of people who are elderly or disabled to achieve better mobility and safety.

In 2019 alone 57 individuals benefited from home remodeling.

With modifications to existing facilities a person can achieve a better quality of life.
Amy Young funds serve the disabled as it continues to follow NIOSH safety guidelines while adapting the homes of disabled and the elderly.

Adapting the kitchen counter to be used by a family member in a wheel chair allows for that member to be part of the family meals.

HOME includes Home-Owner Rehabilitation Assistance funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to expand the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing primarily in rural parts of the state.
Families gathered in their new home.
TRANSFRONTERIZXS

ALLIANCE OF BORDER COLLABORATIVES

Program Coordinator:
Gilberto Perez
gilbert.perez24@yahoo.com
Trans-Fronterizxs Project

Project Description

Trans-Fronterizxs is a peer case management program for transgender individuals in the border region; due to various factors, transgender individuals in our region tend to be isolated from their communities and forced to navigate the world alone, which can lead to lack of knowledge of local resources available. Additionally, some trans folks may not follow-up with appointments due to stigma, fear, and judgment. Ignorance is also a factor that can lead to transgender folks feeling misunderstood and forces them into having to teach service providers in order to receive appropriate care. To this end, peer case management catering to trans individuals, such as Trans-Fronterizxs, can help improve the health outcomes and follow through by providing services in a safe space for transgender folks. Filling out applications, setting up appointments, and navigating the bureaucracy of the local healthcare and social services systems can be daunting for some trans people (many of whom might not have legal documents that are in agreement with their identity). We assist individuals in these processes and help them navigate the system. For this reason, we believe in meeting the client where they are - whether they are in El Paso or in Juarez and no matter their current situation. We hope that through our work we can create a tomorrow that is vastly improved from the difficulties and struggles of today.

Goal

Improve HIV-related health, wellness, and quality of life for transgender individuals living on the U.S.- Mexico Border by engaging them in the adaptation, implementation and evaluation of an evidence-based Peer-Navigator Model.

Objectives

1. Adapt and pilot the Navigator curriculum to address the needs of Transgender individuals in the El Paso-Juarez Border Region and develop a Trans-Navigator guide.
2. Train 3 Trans-Navigators in the El Paso-Juarez Border Region to deliver wraparound care services to at least 18 clients per year.
3. Monitor and evaluate the results obtained from the wraparound care services provided to transgender individuals in El Paso and Juarez.
4. Promote healthcare access, social and legal justice, and equal opportunity in education and employment to Transgender individuals in El Paso and Juarez by offering advocacy trainings and expanding access to social support networks.
Impact

Our local TGNC community has received personalized case management that has helped them enjoy a better quality of life through services like, preparation of name and gender marker applications, referrals, financial assistance for hormone replacement therapy, and transportation through our partnership with uber health. We’ve carried out this essential work; quarantine or no quarantine.

We believe that words fail to capture the relief clients have felt being able to have their identity legally recognized so they can participate in society in a safer way. It opens all kinds of doors to employment and other opportunities; it’s hard to quantify the impact of living your life as a trans woman with documentation that doesn’t match your identity. For example, one client had lived more than 20 years openly as a trans woman and had stopped applying to jobs because of how humiliating it feels to be called by her dead name. Trans-Fronterizxs has made an enormous difference, a client reports that, “we’ve changed her life forever.” Other clients have remarked how they were able to do things they never thought they would be able to do, such as getting on hormones and getting their name changed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals Served through Outreach</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals Served through CM</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and Syphilis Testing</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage to Care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRT</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PrEP/PEP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest Compression Binders</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Affirming Clothing</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health / Substance Use</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit Enrollment (e.g. food stamps, TANIF, housing)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name and Gender Marker Change</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Peer Case Managers completing the Trans-Navigator Training.

TGNC community on Transgender Day of Remembrance

Picture of a client holding up a certified copy of gender marker and name change, states that, “we’ve truly changed her life for the better.”

F.R.E.E Convening with beloved Lorena Borjas in Washington D.C.
THANK YOU!

A HUIGE THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR ALLOWING US TO SERVE THEM AND TO OUR FUNDERS!

Contact Us

Alliance of Border Collaboratives
2524 Montana Ave El Paso, TX 79903
Email: gilbert.perezh24@yahoo.com
Phone: (915) 584-2875