



TNEC-CSEA Recovery Centers and Health Disparities

Tom Estabrook, Project Director

The New England Consortium – Civil Service Employees
Association

UMass Lowell

TNEC-CSEA Recovery Centers and Health Disparities

- Two years of NIEHS funding to support Recovery Centers in disadvantaged communities:
 - Lowell Community Health Center
 - Coalition for a Better Acre (Lowell)
 - MassCOSH Recovery Center – Boston, Brockton, New Bedford
 - ConnectiCOSH/Naugatuck Valley Project Recovery Center, Waterbury, CT
- Significant racial disparities of health in these communities:
 - diabetes, poor nutrition, cardiovascular
 - front-line workers during pandemic

MassCOSH Recovery Centers:

- Four geographical neighborhoods/cities.
 - **East Boston** (MassCOSH Immigrant Worker Center)
 - **Dorchester** (Dorchester Crossroads coalition)
 - **Brockton** (Brockton Workers Alliance, Brockton Health Equity Task Force)
 - **New Bedford** (Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores).
- COVID training, vaccination education
- Legal assistance, food security
- Safety and resilience training for Community Education Workers



ConnectiCOSH/Naugatuck Valley Project Recovery Center

- Assist low-income residents, working families in Connecticut's Naugatuck Valley region (Waterbury)
- Collaboration with the Naugatuck Valley Project: 24 congregations, labor unions, housing co-ops
- Support health and wellness initiatives, disaster preparedness, training on worker protections and overall resilience for post-pandemic
- Support for food security, job placement
- Chemical safety, workers rights for domestic cleaners



Lowell Community Health Center

- Train community health workers and community residents on Infectious Disease Preparedness, Disaster Preparedness, and CPR/First Aid
- Train-the-trainer for staff → then train in different languages



Coalition for a Better Acre (Lowell)

- Training for staff – TTT, infectious disease, disaster preparedness → then train in different languages.
- Support their COVID-19 community education and support programs
- Recruiting, training youth peer leaders, adult ambassadors in comprehensive COVID-19 prevention outreach.
- In-person events close gap in disproportionately represented communities to provide resources, free vaccinations, including COVID, flu.



TNEC New England OSHA Outreach Trainer Program

- Trained four bilingual trainers in the OSHA Outreach Trainer program (OSHA 500 and OSHA 510, Construction)
- Partnership with the OSHA Training Institute, Manchester, NH
- Bilingual trainers based at MassCOSH (East Boston Worker Center), Brockton Workers Alliance, and Connecticut Worker Center (Bridgeport)
- Supports new and existing partnerships



Impact of Recovery Centers to address health disparities

- Vaccination education/support ensured greater protections in disadvantaged communities
- Training for Community Health Educators → for own protection to serve their communities
- Expanding OSHA 10-hour training in Spanish-speaking communities.
- Building new partnerships for future no-cost/low-cost training: HazCom, Disaster Prep., OSHA 10-hour.
- Example: La Colaborativa (Chelsea, MA)



Questions???

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