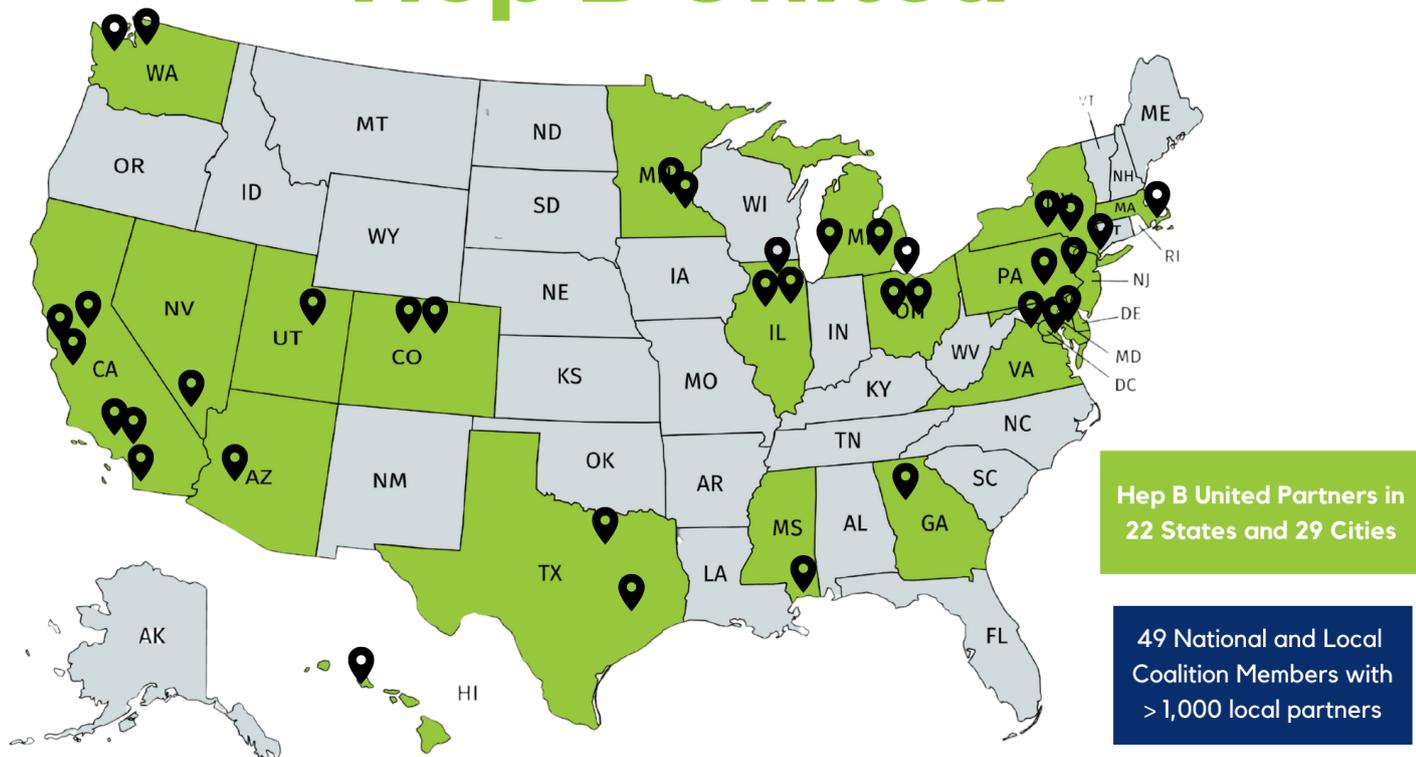


HEP B UNITED

MINI GRANT REPORT 2020



Hep B United



A NATIONAL COALITION

Hep B United (HBU) was established by the Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF) in partnership with the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) in 2011 to meet the need for enhanced hepatitis B programs and advocacy in the United States. Since then, the coalition has continued to expand across the United States, promoting equitable access to health care, preventive medicine, testing, linkage to care, and treatment for all communities at risk for hepatitis B through evidence-based public health best-practices.

Hep B United Goals

- 1. Awareness:** Raise the profile of hepatitis B and liver cancer as an urgent public health priority.
- 2. Prevention:** Increase hepatitis B testing and vaccination, particularly among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and other high-risk communities.
- 3. Intervention:** Improve access to care and treatment for individuals living with hepatitis B to prevent end-stage liver disease and liver cancer.

HEP B UNITED MINI-GRANTS PROGRAM

Each year, as an opportunity for capacity building, Hep B United offers mini-grant funding to support partners across the United States. Between 5-8 grants are awarded each year ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 each. Projects focus on outreach, education, awareness, expanding coalition capacity, provider education, and screening, among other projects. Hep B United awarded five mini-grants for the 2019-2020 grant cycle to the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (Aurora, CO), the Midwest Asian Health Association (Chicago, IL), San Francisco Hep B Free - Bay Area, VietLead (Philadelphia, PA), and Korean Community Services (New York, NY).

Despite the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, mini-grant recipients were able to educate a total of 1,693 community members and 293 healthcare providers through their project activities. A total of 133 community members were screened for hepatitis B infection, nine were identified as HBsAg (hepatitis B surface antigen) positive and linked to care, and 112 community members were vaccinated against hepatitis B infection.

1,693	<i>Community Members Educated</i>
293	<i>Providers Educated</i>
133	<i>Community Members Screened</i>
112	<i>Community Members Vaccinated</i>

72 EDUCATED
 Vietnamese Nail Salon Workers and
 Owners on Hepatitis B

9 WORKSHOPS

20 1 ON 1 TRAININGS

3 HEALTH CLINICS
 at Cooper Hospital

In 2020, VietLead connected with several nail salons in the Philadelphia Metro Area through workshops to educate workers and owners about hepatitis B prevention, transmission, care, and treatment. VietLead translated training materials about hepatitis B and infectious disease prevention, and a hepatitis B PowerPoint presentation in Vietnamese. To evaluate the training materials, pre-and post-surveys were distributed at workshops. A total of nine workshops and 20 1-on-1 conversations were conducted at locations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Through small 3-4-person groups and 1-on-1 workshops, VietLead discovered that participants were more attentive and active than in previous large group workshops. Participants had time to speak and share their experiences about themselves or family members affected by hepatitis B. They also shared personal challenges associated with getting a test or vaccine for hepatitis B. In the end, participants acquired knowledge on hepatitis B and prevention strategies to apply at work within the nail salon. VietLead successfully educated 72 nail owners and workers at 4 nail salons, hosted one virtual workshop, one messenger group workshop, and a few small groups or 1-on-1 conversations at three clinics at Cooper Hospital.



Due to the pandemic, VietLead was unable to conduct an in-person workshop in March. Workshops resumed from July to October and were held in small groups or 1-on-1 sessions online. More staff time was dedicated towards preparing and running 12 small group workshops and 1-on-1 sessions instead of 6-7 big group workshops as originally planned.

Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA)



MAHA's program aimed to educate the community about hepatitis B and the importance of screening and immunization. The target population was the medically underserved and hard-to-reach Bangladeshi community in Hamtramck, Michigan. In 2020, MAHA established an Advisory Board composed of ten community leaders and educators, provided community education, gathered patient feedback, developed a strategic plan for community outreach, created educational materials, hosted a training, and developed a plan to create an infrastructure in Michigan for future screenings, immunizations, and linkage to care.

Advisory Board meetings and trainings provided community leaders a better understanding of hepatitis B and outreach strategies for educating Bangladeshi immigrants. Staff used culturally and linguistically appropriate methods to inform people about hepatitis B and encourage screenings and immunizations. These materials were used to educate medically underserved clients in group discussions. Additionally, hepatitis B PowerPoint presentations followed by question-and-answer discussion were conducted at community events. MAHA established two partnerships: the Islamic Center of North Detroit (ICND) and the Arabian Community for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS). By the end of 2020, MAHA educated 1,200 participants through 6 community Advisory Board meetings, one large educational event, 12 group discussions, and the ACA navigator program.



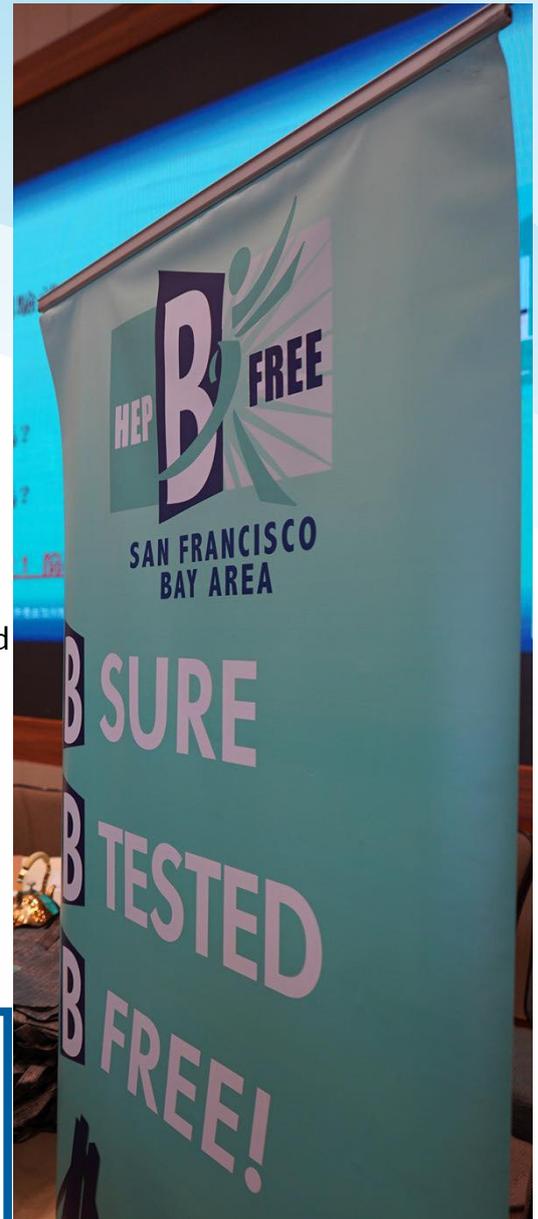
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MAHA had to cancel in-person events and workshops. They readjusted services to provide remote education in order to continue towards the project's initial goal of 2,000 people. In the end, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Navigator Program brought in 520 participants despite challenges set forth by the pandemic. MAHA plans to build the capacity and resources for the community as preparation for future program activity expansions, such as conducting more screenings and immunizations.

SF Hep B Free - Bay Area



SF Hep B Free's project goals were to increase business owner and employee knowledge of hepatitis B, increase hepatitis B screening in the Millbrae business community, provide linkage to care to local safety net system, or applicable private healthcare systems, and decrease community stigma associated with hepatitis B. Pre- and post-surveys were developed to assess participants' knowledge about hepatitis B and liver cancer.

SF Hep B Free educated 35 people, completed five education sessions, distributed 30 brochures to businesses, and discussed the project with small businesses, restaurant managers, government officials, and influential community members. Demographics included males and females, persons at risk for hepatitis B, low socioeconomic status, and Chinese immigrants aged 30-55 years. Furthermore, SF Hep B Free collaborated with a local Mandarin and Cantonese radio talk show to discuss hepatitis B and COVID-19. The show reached over 100,000 listeners. One strategy that contributed to the project's success was the involvement of well-known small businesses and local elected officials because who were well respected and trusted in the community.



30 MATERIALS SHARED
35 EDUCATED
1 RADIO SHOW REACHING 100,000



The pandemic hindered SF Hep B Free's plan to offer screenings and linkage to care, reach out to more restaurants, and host more education sessions. Instead, SF Hep B Free was able to develop a framework for the project, gain buy-in from community stakeholders, and begin achieving its objectives. All goals were achieved on a smaller scale, but SF Hep B Free plans to restart the initiative post-pandemic.

Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York Inc.

Distributed 125 Toolkits

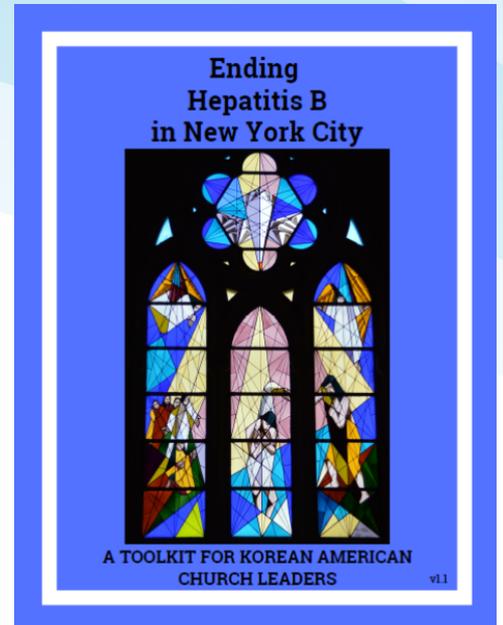
SCREENED 133

Identified 9 Positive HBV Cases

100% Linked to Care

Educated 256 Community Members

Educated 30 Faith-Based Leaders



In 2020, KCS hosted screening events at New Jersey (NJ) faith-based organization (FBO) coalition members sites. Other activities included updating and printing an FBO toolkit available in English and Korean. This toolkit was electronically distributed to 125 Korean FBOs across New York (NY) and New Jersey (NJ). In total, KCS conducted six online education sessions across the three coalitions. Overall, KCS educated 256 community members from NY and NJ, screened 133 people, and identified nine cases of hepatitis B infection who were subsequently linked to care.

Despite the pandemic, KCS was successful in reacting to abnormal circumstances and helping individuals suffering from or at risk for hepatitis B infection, particularly those who were heavily impacted by the pandemic. A primary example of this was an uninsured patient diagnosed with hepatocellular (liver) cancer. At a screening event, he learned that he was also infected with hepatitis B. Without any family history of hepatitis B, he was unsure of the virus' origin. His provider treated him for hepatitis B along with chemotherapy. However, the patient discontinued medication and has not seen his provider in three years after cancer treatment. Thanks to KCS' resources, this patient was linked to care through its Check Hep B program. The patient was connected to providers for blood tests and visited the radiology center for low-cost cancer screenings. Since his enrollment, the patient is back on medication to control DNA viral loads, commits to routine 6-month checkups, and receives regular liver cancer screenings facilitated by KCS' program.

Overall, KCS successfully achieved their original goal to establish a NJ-based coalition to address the prevalence of hepatitis B in the Korean American community, maintain the NY-based coalition, and provide screenings for community members in NY and NJ. Additionally, KCS held an official meeting with the NJ FBO coalition, hosted an online second annual meeting with the NYS FBO coalition, and educated 30 FBO leaders from the Korean American Sanctuary Church Network across the Tristate area through Zoom.

Immunize Colorado



112

Vaccinations administered

100

Community Members
Educated

293

Providers Educated

750

CDC Know Hep B
Materials Distributed

Immunize Colorado set out three goals for the 2020 project year. Their first goal was to increase knowledge of hepatitis B prevention, screening, and linkage to care among the Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA & NHPI) communities. They developed partnerships with AA&NHPI-serving organizations and strengthened existing partnerships. Staff reached out to 12 AA&NHPI organizations about providing hepatitis B education and awareness-building events. Furthermore, Immunize Colorado attended three Colorado Viral Hepatitis Task Force meetings to disseminate information and resources. They attended two Point-in-Time events to hand out resources on hepatitis A and B including information on viral infections, the importance of screenings and vaccinations, and postcards on linkages to care and vaccination locations. A total of 200 multilingual education resources and linkage to care documents were distributed to 100 attendees.

Their second goal was to educate healthcare providers about the importance of hepatitis B screening, vaccination, and linkages to care for refugee and AA&NHPI populations. Educational events about perinatal hepatitis B prevention, maternal immunizations, and vaccinations during pregnancy were recorded and archived on Immunize Colorado's website. Immunize Colorado hosted an online seminar about the impact of COVID-19. There were a total of 79 attendees from four virtual events, 214 attendees at the speaker seminar, 35 members attended task force meetings, and approximately 2,500 resource site visitors.

Their third goal was to increase hepatitis B and other vaccinations among low-income, uninsured, or publicly insured AA&NHPI patients, and evaluate the feasibility of providing free hepatitis B testing vouchers to medically underserved patients. Immunize Colorado coordinated 17 free walk-in immunization clinics, opened a fourth Shots for Tots and Teens clinic location, distributed 750 handouts on information about linkage to care and CDC Know Hepatitis B fact sheets, hosted 15 outreach events, administered six hepatitis B adult doses and 82 childhood doses for a total of 88 vaccinations. By opening another location, Immunize Colorado improved access to vaccinations for the low-income, uninsured, or publicly insured AA&NHPI population.

Due to the pandemic, Immunize Colorado could not host many in-person community awareness and education events, and develop the capacity and resources to provide free hepatitis B screening vouchers. To continue outreach and awareness, they sent educational resources about perinatal hepatitis B vaccination to obstetrics and gynecology providers, hospitals, and birth centers. They reached 15,000 viewers throughout Hepatitis Awareness Month by disseminating #justB storytelling videos and content on social media. Immunize Colorado also hosted virtual provider education events on Zoom. During this time period, Immunize Colorado hosted two in-person community awareness events and two virtual provider education events, educated 393 people, 100 community members, and 293 providers. The demographics of participants were males and females between 18-70 years old. Additionally 112 hepatitis B vaccinations were administered.

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