

# NORTHWEST HEALTH FOUNDATION

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## **Northwest Health Foundation Provides Health Grants to Uncommon Partnerships**

*Grants target those most affected by lack of health insurance; focus on equity and public health*

PORTLAND, Ore. — As part of an effort to encourage the participation of those communities most affected by the problems of the current health care system, and those who could most significantly benefit from health care reform, Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF) has awarded 11 health care reform grants totaling \$500,000. The grants are part of an effort by the Foundation to help Oregonians shape the next phase of health care reform implementation, particularly by addressing the health disparities inherent in the current system.

One of the explicit goals of the process is to encourage traditionally under-represented voices to engage in legislative advocacy for more equitable health care policy. By awarding these grants, the foundation is seeking to increase the presence of diverse voices, incorporate health equity into the larger health reform conversation, and ensure that issues of public health and prevention are integrated within health care reform efforts. Each of the projects focuses on advocacy during the 2011 Oregon legislative session.

“Northwest Health Foundation is, at its core, a social justice organization,” said Rev. Mark Knutson, Foundation board member, and chair of the Health Care Reform Committee. “These grants demonstrate how seriously this organization takes issues of equity and fairness.”

Projects were encouraged to include such activities as grassroots organizing, public-will building, coalition building, strategic communications, and policy analysis.

In issuing its request for proposals, Northwest Health Foundation asked for innovative or unusual partnerships between two or more organizations. According to Chris DeMars, program officer for the Foundation, the partnerships are a critical element of this funding process.

“By encouraging these unique partnerships, we wanted to bring all voices — experienced advocates as well as those that have been politically marginalized — to the health care reform advocacy conversation,” she said.

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**About Northwest Health Foundation:**

*The mission of the Northwest Health Foundation is to advance, support and promote the health of the people in Oregon and southwest Washington. The Foundation invests in efforts that address the root causes of health through community-driven solutions and seeks to ensure that the voices of all people are represented in health policy discussions. Northwest Health Foundation focuses its work in three areas: public health, health care reform, and health workforce. More information can be found at [www.nwhf.org](http://www.nwhf.org).*

**About our Health Care Reform Focus Area:**

*Health care reform is an issue of social justice for the Northwest Health Foundation as we believe access to health care is a basic right of all people. We envision a system that achieves health equity through expanded access, decreased costs, and improved quality. The Foundation helps reform the existing system by promoting innovative models for delivering care and supports advocacy for an improved health system by working to bring all voices to the health care reform conversation.*

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## 2010 Health Care Reform Advocacy Grants Promoting Partnerships to Strengthen Health Care Reform Advocacy

Partnering Organizations	Project Description	Amount
Causa Oregon Oregon Latino Health Coalition	Organizing and advocating for health care for Latino immigrant children and their families	\$50,000
Upstream Public Health Coalition of Communities of Color	Community and strategic planning for decreasing oral health services through community water fluoridation	35,000
Center for Intercultural Organizing Urban League of Portland	Incorporating racial equity and prevention in health care advocacy	50,000
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) Upstream Public Health	Incorporating racial equity and prevention in health care advocacy	50,000
Community Health Partnership American Heart Association Oregon Business Association	Partnering public health advocates with the business community to promote physical education and prevent chronic disease	32,750
Cascadia Behavioral HealthCare / Oregon Health Action Campaign / NAMI Multnomah County	Engaging consumers of mental health services into the health care reform process	49,344
Oregon Center for Christian Values CareOregon	Capturing stories of low-income Oregon Health Plan recipients, to help increase advocacy	50,000
Western States Center / Urban League / Safety and Justice Partnership / APANO / Basic Rights Ed. Fund / CAUSA / Center for Intercultural Organizing	Developing a racial equity report card to evaluate public policy affecting communities of color	50,000
Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology	To advocate for a legislative change to allow for the distribution of refurbished glasses by OHP	17,647
Oregon Academy of Family Physicians / Oregon Office of Rural Health / Oregon Rural Health Association / Oregon Area Health Education Center, OHSU School of Medicine, OHSU Phys. Asst. Program	Engaging rural business and civic communities in health care workforce-related legislative advocacy	50,000
The-TREE Institute / African Woman's Coalition Mano a Mano Family Center Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas	Engaging Latino and African immigrant women and youth in health care reform advocacy activity with the goal of increasing health equity	50,000
Archimedes Movement Oregon Primary Care Association	Fostering community conversations around difficult issues, such as end-of-life care and technology in medicine.	15,000
	Total	\$499,741