

MIDYEAR NEWSLETTER

WHAT IS THE COLORADO IMMUNITY CORPS?

Immunize Colorado's AmeriCorps VISTA Program, the Colorado Immunity Corps (CO-mmunity Corps) aims to advance and promote vaccine delivery and education in communities across Colorado through full-time VISTA members. These members build the capacity of their host site by developing and implementing local immunization activities that promote education and access to vaccines and primary care services in their communities.

The Immunization Outreach and Education Coordinator VISTA member builds the capacity of their host site by developing and implementing local activities which promote education and access to vaccinations and primary care services.

Main objectives include:

- Conduct and/or review existing assessment of community needs and assets and expand upon research to inform interventions to increase vaccine access and education
- Implement and/or expand intervention(s) that increase demand for vaccinations at the community-level through education, outreach and/or communication initiatives.
- Implement and/or expand intervention(s) that increase access to vaccinations and connections to primary care, such as community-based vaccine clinics

If you would like to be a host site for a future VISTA member, please contact Sarah Waraniak, program director for Immunize Colorado, at Sarah.Waraniak@childrenscolorado.org.

Thank you to the VISTA members for their hard work this year so far! On the next page, you will find out what they've been doing up to this point in their service year.



WHAT HAS THE CO-MMUNITY CORPS VISTA TEAM BEEN UP TO?

LUCY DEVANEY - PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE AT DENVER HEALTH

During the early months of 2022 at the Public Health Institute at Denver Health, I have worked mostly on continuing to expand Denver Health's In-School Immunization Program (ISIP) as well as working with CDPHE to coordinate vaccination clinics of Afghan refugees. With ISIP, I expanded the program to twice as many schools as the fall semester and have been busy with the organization of all of the new school clinics. With the refugee clinics, it has been an extremely unique and rewarding experience to provide culturally competent care and learn more about new cultures. Recently, I have been working with my outreach team to target stakeholders in the community that also work to serve our target populations (those individuals experiencing homelessness, minorities, LBGTQ+, and under or uninsured individuals) in the hopes of establishing new partnerships for vaccination clinics. With the help of my outreach team, I plan on finishing the Spring semester strong with a few more school clinics and continuing to create relationships with stakeholders in the Denver community.

ERIKA DUNNON - JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

My greatest accomplishment is conceptualizing and developing an instructional design project provided to me by my supervisor. Since October 2021, I have been preparing an Emergency Preparedness Module in collaboration with the Emergency Preparedness and Response team for JCPH's approximately 850 volunteers. It has been such a delight to implement with the help of a mentor, instructional design skills to prepare this module. Many of the JCPH volunteers are part-time or retired professionals, so it has been very interesting to prepare learning content that will engage but convey the important information they will need for when they work at an event for JCPH. I have been introduced to software that I had not previously used before such as Articulate 360, which is very user friendly. I have also had to implement practices based upon the Americans with Disabilities Act and 508 Guidelines; that help design trainings which will meet the needs of all learners.

KAELAN BRADLEY - JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

I just finished emailing all pediatric providers in Jefferson County who are enrolled as COVID-19 immunization providers to offer Jefferson County's support/ resources in preparation for approval of the maroon cap Pfizer dose. Additionally, a nurse and I called the pediatric providers in Jefferson County who are not enrolled as COVID-19 immunization providers to determine if there were any barriers being experienced in becoming a COVID-19 immunization provider. Several facilities shared that they did not have the capacity to store the vaccine and/or have enough staff to successfully become a COVID-19 immunization provider and distribute the vaccine. For these facilities, we offered to provide Jefferson County Public Health's staff and vaccine to host a COVID-19 immunization clinic at their facility.



PARIS SAENZ - TRI COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Since working with the Tri-County Health Department I have done a combination of both direct service and capacity building. In terms of direct service, I have worked with patients in clinic as "bullpen" to hand out vaccine consent and personal information forms, and I have worked in mobile clinics as line monitor and bullpen. When it comes to capacity building and outreach, I have created consent forms that are more friendly to with those strained vision including the elderly, and I have created a variety of educational materials including factsheets on HPV, Hepatitis A and B, Vaccines for Pregnancy and more. I have also collaborated/helped my fellow VISTAs on different projects, and helped provide feedback for a Spanish cheat sheet for nurses to use while in clinic.

ABBY DUFF - GARFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

My name is Abigail Duff and I am the AmeriCorps VISTA Immunization Outreach and Education Coordinator with Garfield County Public Health. I am originally from Virginia and graduated in May of 2021 from the University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology with a concentration in Medical Anthropology, Ethics, and Care, and a minor in Global Studies in Education. In my five months with GCPH, my day-to-day tasks have varied. I have assisted with the scheduling and promotion of vaccine clinics, have answered vaccine line calls through which community members can ask questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and schedule vaccine appointments, and have contributed to immunization education and outreach initiatives within Garfield County. It has been rewarding to be involved in this diverse community and explore health equity. I am part of GCPH's health equity committee, which aims to identify and address health inequities within our community. Particularly with my background in Anthropology and Global Education in mind, it has been fulfilling to put the lessons I have learned regarding public health, equity, and cultural relativism to use in this position. I look forward to continuing to make a positive impact in Garfield County through my VISTA position with the Colorado Immunity Corps. As I near my six months of service, I feel as though I better understand Garfield County, its constituents, its county climate, and its community's needs, which will aid in my implementation of education and outreach initiatives in the future. I am excited, though, to continually learn more about this community as I serve.

ELAINA ADAMS - GUNNISON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

I started my AmeriCorps service year in late January, 2022. During my first two months, I quickly became accustomed to using the online immunization database CIIS (Colorado immunization information system) to help with our county's COVID-19 vaccine clinics. I started my service working at our local community school COVID-19 vaccination clinics, mass clinics, and at the Gunnison Valley Hospital immunization clinic doing data entry and registration. In response to the rapid onset of COVID-19, I started my service dedicated to COVID-19 efforts and working at various vaccination clinics. The pandemic has shifted my role slightly as an AmeriCorps VISTA, but I am still able to educate the public about immunizations and help increase capacity within our county's response efforts. My favorite and most successful project thus far has been creating a community health service brochure. This brochure was distributed at the Gunnison County equity clinic, and included every public health resource that Gunnison offers and contact information to schedule appointments. 25 people attended the equity vaccination clinic and received the HHS (Health and Human Services) resource brochure. As COVID-19 cases have declined, I have begun working with the immunization nurse to increase routine immunizations among our pediatric population. For the next few months, I will be working on a reminder/recall outreach project to remind families about overdue or upcoming immunizations for their children. By partnering with the school nurse, we are able to directly contact each family about reminders and appointment scheduling. Throughout my service year, I have gained valuable experience in professional development (through training and seminars) and have expanded my knowledge about public health. Overall, I am enjoying this experience and look forward to seeing what the next year has in store.