



United Way of Anchorage

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: July 30, 2021

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## **United Way of Anchorage to Distribute \$3.4 Million in Grants Designed to Overcome Health Inequities and Prevent the Spread of COVID-19**

**Anchorage AK** – The Anchorage Health Department selected United Way of Anchorage to distribute \$3.4 million in Federal funding intended to limit the spread of COVID-19 by increasing testing and overcoming vaccine hesitancy.

The COVID-19 vaccine became available to Alaska's adult and young adult populations earlier this spring and for a while, Alaska made headlines as a front runner in the race to vaccinate U.S. citizens. Months later, only 47% of Anchorage's residents are fully vaccinated despite the surplus of vaccines and vaccination rates have remained stagnant for months. Infectious disease experts estimate that communities must reach between 70-90% vaccination rate to achieve herd immunity, meaning that there is considerable work to be done before Anchorage residents can be counted as safe against COVID-19.

Vaccine hesitancy is a complex problem fed by diverse factors ranging from language barriers to transportation to misinformation. After considering the research and opinions published by national health experts, United Way of Anchorage determined that the complexity of factors combining to cause vaccine hesitancy across diverse populations could only reasonably be met by an equally comprehensive and flexible approach.

United Way of Anchorage is therefore turning to our community's leaders, organizers and central figures to help lead a grassroots outreach campaign. United Way of Anchorage invites proposals and will equally consider applications submitted by nonprofits, for-profit businesses, religious organizations, social and civil organizations, clubs and other enterprises. Grants will be awarded for no less than \$20,000.00 and no more than \$200,000.00. Funding may only be used to:

- Increase access to COVID-19 testing in the community.
- Build capacity to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine in the community.
- Decrease health inequities with respect to COVID-19 related recovery and prevention strategies.

The grant application period opens today, July 30th, 2021 and runs through August 31, 2021, or until all funds are expended. All proposed outreach initiatives must be completed by June 30, 2022. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit [LiveUnitedANC.org/HCGrant](http://LiveUnitedANC.org/HCGrant) to apply for funds.

### About United Way of Anchorage

United Way of Anchorage is a community of donors, advocates, volunteers, and partners working together to improve the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. LIVE UNITED.

[www.LiveUnitedANC.org](http://www.LiveUnitedANC.org)