

The Story Page

Stories of Hope and Healing

Fighting Vaccine Hesitancy Across Washington

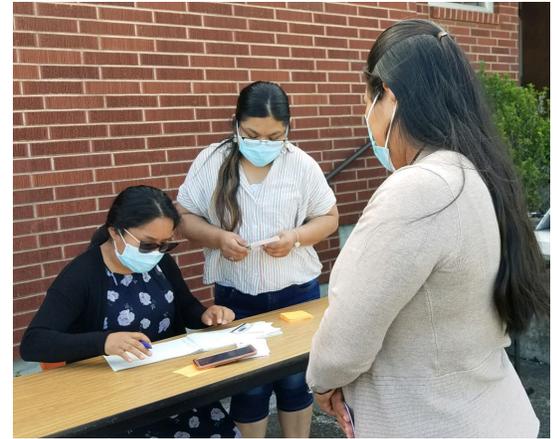
As the COVID-19 vaccine rollout began in Washington state, 8,000 to 10,000 farmworkers arrived in Skagit Valley for seasonal farming work. They are one of several communities that CCS serves, a community that needs vaccines. The CCS Farmworker Center and its director Gloria Burton has spent years building relationships with and serving the Indigenous, Latinx, and Farmworker community.

Supplying vaccines isn't the only hurdle. Many clients express uncertainty about the vaccine, mostly because they lack information. CCS is working to supply that vaccine information. With an \$80,000 grant from the Department of Health, Gloria worked with CCS Network Builders Mary Wahl and Isabel Cisneros-Rueda to develop the *Promotores Vaccine Hesitancy Project*, in Skagit, Grays Harbor, and Pacific Counties. "At this time, it is of great importance to address vaccine hesitancy and to achieve the highest participation in our communities," explains Gloria. "The *Promotores Vaccine Hesitancy Project* is allowing us through collaboration, effective communication plans, education, and compassion to successfully increase the participation in our communities."

At the weekly PREPARES distribution at Immaculate Conception Parish in Mount Vernon, CCS Program Coordinators, Marta Martinez Olivera and Guillermina Bazante work as translators, speaking with the local community in Spanish and Mixteco, an indigenous Mexican language. Working with a Registered Nurse, Marta and Guillermina answer whatever questions individuals or families may have and speaking Spanish or Mixteco allows clients to feel more comfortable with the whole process.

CCS Network Builder Isabel Cisneros-Rueda is leading the *Promotores Vaccine Hesitancy Project* in Aberdeen. "We have found families that feel very isolated," says Isabel. "They don't have much information about the vaccine." That's where CCS comes in. Using connections to local parishes and the Aberdeen Food Bank, Isabel makes phone calls and house visits to families who are interested in getting vaccinated. During her first day of outreach, half of the families signed up to be vaccinated.

CCS plans to partner with the local Health Department to answer medical questions about the vaccine and do outreach in even more communities. CCS will continue to work with unserved communities and fight vaccine hesitancy.



REAL IMPACT BECAUSE OF YOU



We want to be ready to answer all of their questions. We are working to bring education to families.

*- Isabel Cisneros-Rueda,
CCS Network Builder*



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