Health Disparity Issues

ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES THROUGH HEALTH LITERACY (WASHINGTON, DC)

Need Statement:
We have identified an increased burden of unequal healthcare access, economic instability, and poor health outcomes within minority populations who use Medicaid within Wards 7 & 8 in Washington, DC. We believe that accessible and topic-inclusive health literacy resources and curriculums will aid in addressing poor health outcomes amongst minority individuals living in Wards 7 & 8. Providing individuals with better means of health communication will allow individuals to confidently comprehend, communicate, and self-advocate for their own care.

How did you specifically address the problem listed in your needs statement?
We created accessible and topic-inclusive health literacy resources and used materials to teach health literacy workshops.

What qualitative and/or quantitative evaluation metrics did you examine?
Polling, email, age of user, zip code of residence, intended zip code of usage, primary first language, educational attainment, and immigrant status.

What community partners and allies did you work with to address the problem?
We worked with and received input/feedback from:
- 118 Community Organizations
- 32 Key Informant Interviewees
- 67 Focus Group Participants
- 53 Town Hall Attendees
- 7 DC Councilmembers

What community resources did you develop?
We developed health literacy curriculums, infographics, and medical planners.

How did you use social media or digital tools for outreach and/or data collection?
We used social media to share digital resources and surveys, and we used the following digital tools: Canva, Google Forms, and Linktree.

How does this project lead to greater racial equity?
We think that our project is a step in bettering the health outcomes for minorities in Wards 7 & 8 and the greater metropolitan area. However, it doesn’t negate or erase the mass disparities within the health care system as a whole.