



**PASOs**  
Educate. Connect. Advocate.

## **PASOs 2022 Impact Report**

**PASOs, which means *steps* in Spanish, is a community-based organization that works with the Latino population to promote health, advocacy, and leadership development – all of which are steps to create a strong, healthy South Carolina.**

**The following report highlights our achievements in 2022. Our community health workers, CHWs, served over 6,000 individual participants and continued to fulfill our mission to *build a stronger South Carolina by supporting Latino communities with education, advocacy, and leadership development.***

### **Data about Latinos in SC:**

- Hispanic/Latino population makes up about 6.4% of SC total population<sup>1</sup>.
- 21.1% of the Hispanic population in SC live in poverty<sup>2</sup> (higher than the national average 17.6% and higher compared to only 10.1% of White population<sup>2</sup>.)
  - Unemployment rates for Hispanic people have increased from 2019 to 2021 due to COVID-19 impact<sup>3</sup>.
- 29.3% of the Hispanic population are uninsured in SC<sup>4</sup>.
- 35% Hispanic women report having no personal doctor or health care provider<sup>5</sup>.
- Hispanic adults aged 18 and older reported an average of 3.6 poor mental health days in the last 30 days<sup>6</sup>.
- 26% Hispanic/Latino children live in poverty in SC<sup>7</sup>.
  - 32,000 Hispanic/Latino children in SC are living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment<sup>8</sup>.
  - 69,000 Hispanic/Latino children live below the 200% poverty line<sup>8</sup>.

### **PASOs Health Connections**

PASOs Community Health Workers (CHWs) work closely with members of Latino individuals and families in a variety of settings such as clinics and community-based locations to educate, inform, help them navigate resources and connect them with health and other needed services, using their cultural and individual strengths as a starting point.

**1. Access to Care:** When working with individual participants, PASOs CHWs provide health education on various topics. Additionally, our CHWs connect participants, and their families, to health, social, and other community resources to support their access to care and services that meet their needs and wellbeing.

## **1. Access to Care: (continued)**

- 1,257 unique adults were connected with Medicaid resources.
- 791 unique children were successfully connected to Medicaid resources.
- 1,401 participants were successfully connected to medical services.
- 69 unique women were successfully connected to prenatal care resources.
- 132 unique participants received support related to reproductive health. 100% of these participants received education related to reproductive health and 65% achieved their reproductive health goal.
- 77 unique participants participated in the Hypertension Initiative Outreach program and successfully received services.
- 1,485 individuals received education about COVID-19 and 1,347 individuals were successfully connected to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Distributed 988 bottles of folic acid vitamins.

**2. Social Determinants of Health:** Our CHWs also help individuals to address social determinants of health, which are the social and environmental conditions that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks<sup>9</sup>, by connecting them to nutritional and socio-economic supports, and other vital resources.

- 1,694 unique participants (adults) received education about WIC.
- 815 unique children were successfully connected to WIC services.
- 575 unique adults were connected to WIC.
- 3,415 unique participants were supported to address other social needs impacting their health and wellbeing.
- 90 families were supported with financial aid, some because of COVID-19 setbacks. Total direct assistance in relief funds was \$59,471.

## **Connections for Child Development (CCD)**

Teams of Community Health Workers (CHWs) trained on early childhood development assist parents and caregivers screen the development of their children under five years old using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) tool to determine if the child is at risk for developmental delays and to provide families with referrals to early intervention specialists, as needed. The CHWs also provide education, information, and tools to help parents and caregivers better understand their development stage as well as to support their children's current and continued developmental milestones so that young Latino children are better prepared for kindergarten.

## **3. CCD Program Outputs**

- Supported parents and caregivers in conducting 588 ASQ-3 child development screenings.
- Supported parents and caregivers in conducting 351 ASQ-SE2 child development screenings.
- 552 parents achieved a goal to support their children's development.
- 134 children were referred to various resources for further assessments.

## **Outreach and Training**

In addition to individual help, PASOs works to improve access to culturally appropriate resources by partnering with local agencies and coalitions. PASOs CHWs engage in outreach and leadership training to increase local capacity to address the community's needs.

### **4. Outreach events:**

- Conducted 256 in-person outreach events, including COVID-19 informational events, reaching a total of 2,542 community individuals face to face. During these events, we distributed a total of 674 vitamins containing folic acid.
- Reached over 600 individual community agricultural workers during 10 in-person outreach events.
- As a team, we published 122 virtual video events to our Facebook page. Our Facebook Live Broadcasts received 11,547 total views.

### **5. Cultural Humility Workforce Development Training**

- Supporting SC social service and health professionals and staff from various not-for-profit organizations, public agencies, hospital systems, FQHCs, among others in understanding how to better reach and work with Latino individuals, families, and children.
- Conducted 53 training events by which over 2,300 professionals received workforce development training and technical assistance support through our capacity building and cultural awareness diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings.
- Voces Comunitarias 2022, a conference which brings a new level of visibility to the local SC Latino community, was attended by 68 people. Voces Comunitarias involved collaborations with local community organizations and leaders.

### **6. Community Health Workers' Workforce Development**

- PASOs CHW Core Competency Training/ Capacitación de PASOs para Promotores de Salud PASOs trained a total of 22 Latino community leaders in two separate cohorts that took place in Spanish. Of the participants, 21 were certified as Community Health Workers by the South Carolina Community Health Worker Association.
- PASOs hosted its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Promotores Conference, a grassroots leadership development conference which aims to unite community leaders, encouraging them to learn from one another, and increase their capacity to serve their communities through high quality culturally appropriate leadership development. Networking amongst community leaders and a panel discussion with experienced CHW and community leader speakers from SC and California were the main focus of this conference. This conference had over 70 people in attendance.

## **6. Community Health Workers' Workforce Development (continued)**

- PASOs' CHWs participated in Spring and Fall, semi-annual conferences. This year's Spring Conference was the first time the team reconvened in person following the COVID-19 pandemic. At these conferences, all PASOs team members are invited to attend and engage in professional development topics such as advocacy & human rights, public health topics, mindfulness, selfcare, & wellbeing, team-building & group-bonding activities, as well as reflection and evaluation of their CHW experiences at the conferences. Each conference had an attendance of over 30 PASOs team members.
- Additionally, our PASOs CHWs participated in over 120 training opportunities such as webinars, trainings, and conferences covering topics related to CHW capacity building, child health, health equity, mental health, advocacy, and social justice.

## **7. Latino Communities Educational Workshops**

Community based education on topics such as parenting and reproductive health.

- Conducted 19 in-person educational sessions educating 184 participants in attendance.

## **8. PASOs Statewide Partnerships**

- Partnered with 97 organizations in South Carolina, including 51 new partner organizations.

## Our Impact, 2022

In summary, in 2022 PASOs Community Health Workers advanced our vision of having healthy Latino communities contributing to a stronger South Carolina by reaching 6,173 individual community members with personalized needs assessments, planning and goal setting, education, information sharing, navigation of resources, consultation and connection to resources.

- 3,727 unique community members were successfully supported in accessing care, including applying for or renewing Medicaid, connecting with a primary care doctor, and receiving a referral for specialty care.
- 1,485 people received COVID-19 education and 1,347 were connected to receive the vaccine. Additionally, 627 community members have been reached through mass text messaging with information about COVID and vaccine locations in the months of October, November, and December of 2022.
- 3,415 unique community members were successfully connected with resources addressing social service needs, legal service needs, food insecurity, and financial assistance. In addition, 422 individuals received financial aid, some because of COVID-19 setbacks, with total relief funds of \$59,471.
- 1,694 community members received education about WIC, and 1,390 were successfully connected to the program.
- PASOs supported parents and caregivers of children ages 0-5 conduct a total of 939 developmental screenings. Through this work PASOs supported 552 parents to achieve their children's developmental goals. In addition, 134 children were referred to various resources for further assessments.
- PASOs trained over 2,300 health and social service professionals about the realities of Latino families in South Carolina through cultural competence/humility training.
- PASOs partnered with 97 organizations statewide to better serve the Latino community.
- PASOs conducted 19 in-person educational sessions for adults and adolescents and educated 184 participants in attendance and 92 virtual educational sessions for parents, educating 83 participants in attendance.
- In 2022, we kept working on our social media presence, especially on Facebook. We conducted 122 Facebook Live broadcasts, which resulted in 1,744 video views. We also reached 2,542 community individuals during 253 in-person community outreach events.

# Success Stories

## April 2022

The Lexington, SC, school district contacted PASOs to advocate for a child with special needs. The child is blind, severely autistic, and schizophrenic. The child's parents needed support with applying to Emergency Medicaid since he is not eligible for full Medicaid coverage since he is not a US-born citizen. I put on my *promotora* hat and contacted the child's mother immediately. I provided support with applications for Medicaid and SNAP for her other two children that were born in the US. I also referred the family to Dominion Energy, their local electric company, for financial support to cover the costs of rent and other utilities.

One day, this child's mother calls me and tells me that her son has been suspended from school. She needs help understanding the reason for the suspension and what she should do to get him back in school. I immediately referred her to Family Connection, and with their support, we were able to facilitate communication between his mom and the school. We also ensured that the school follows the necessary protocol for these types of situations.

I would say that this family has received support from all the PASOs programs. The two younger children qualified and participated in our Connections for Childhood Development program (CCD), the oldest sister, who is pregnant was supported with Emergency Medicaid and WIC services, a large quantity of diapers has been supplied for the brother with special needs, and when we have food boxes, we always drop them off at their home. This is how we alleviate some of the emotional and financial stressors for this family.

I have learned from this story, that as an organization and as *promotores* and community health workers, we are prepared to meet the needs of families. It was valuable to have relationships with members from other community organizations, whom we trust and respect.

## June 2022

My participant was born in the United States to parents of Mexican origin. When she was very young, she had to return to Mexico with her mother after her father passed. Even though she was an American citizen, she did not have the same opportunities in Mexico and her only support was that of her mothers. Her mother had very few economic resources to provide for her and her three brothers. She was only able to attend school for a few elementary grades and wasn't able to return to the US until she reached the age of legal majority and returned alone.

She started working in the US to support herself and pay for her necessary expenses.

She learned about PASOs in Spartanburg, SC, through one of our *promotoras*, me. She was attending classes to learn English when we met. The next time I saw her, she was pregnant and so I offered her the PASOs programs to connect her with prenatal care and other social programs that PASOs collaborates with. From that moment, this participant has received support to access programs like WIC and Access Health. This participant and her baby

even participated in programs for children Connections for Childhood Development (PASOs CCD) and the ABC program which is a series of sessions in which mothers and their babies strengthen their relationship to encourage healthy self-esteem and attachment within the family.

When this participant graduated from the ABC program, she asked me for an opportunity to keep being a part of the PASOs Spartanburg programs. For some time, she served as one of the PASOs volunteers in Spartanburg and she assisted our team with reaching more families and providing support like that which she received. She is always willing to learn more and to continue to grow. She couldn't find regular childcare, so she no longer volunteers with us. However, she continues to send us many referrals and she is in close contact with me! I wouldn't doubt for one second that she could be the next candidate for *promotora* at our site!

## July 2022

A family had recently arrived in South Carolina. Marla, who works with Parents as Teachers, called me, and explained their situation to me. I was put in contact with the family, and they shared with me that their home address did not correspond with the school closest to them. The school that did correspond, was too far, about 15 miles away. I called a social worker, Alma, from the school district, and she contacted the family immediately. She visited them in their home and connected them with resources. Alma helped reassign the school to the little girl and she helped the mother of the family find a job at one of the schools since she is eligible to work in the US. She also helped them find a new home and she helped them with gift cards for groceries so that they could slowly, but surely, get back on their feet.

After some time passed, I spoke with Alma again, and she informed me that she had found the father of this family a job too! I was very happy for this family! And especially because I was able to work with Marla and Alma. It took effort from all of us for this family to succeed. Everything ended up working out for the family.

I learned that if families are connected with the right people, everything is better. I met this family early into my days as a *promotora*, I couldn't be more excited to keep supporting more families!

## Sources:

1. United States Census Bureau

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/SC#>

2. Kaiser Family Foundation

<https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/poverty-rate-by-raceethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&selectedDistributions=white--hispanic&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

3. South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L5n8kHjmoK7JMA2V6UeHpkwpnn4i2H1g/view>

4. Kaiser Family Foundation

<https://www.kff.org/uninsured/state-indicator/nonelderly-uninsured-rate-by-raceethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

5. Kaiser Family Foundation

<https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/state-indicator/women-report-no-personal-doctor-by-race-ethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&selectedDistributions=hispanic&selectedRows=%7B%22states%22:%7B%22south-carolina%22:%7B%7D%7D%7D&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

6. Kaiser Family Foundation

<https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/poor-mental-health-days-by-re/?currentTimeframe=0&selectedDistributions=hispanic&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

7. The Annie E. Casey Foundation

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/44-children-in-poverty-by-race-and-ethnicity#detailed/2/42/false/2048/9.12.1.13/324.323>

8. Spotlight on Poverty and Government: South Carolina

<https://spotlightonpoverty.org/states/south-carolina/>

9. Social Determinants of Health: Healthy People 2030

<https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>