

CHCF CHIP Summary

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CHIP Title: Voting is Health: Increasing Civic Engagement Through Health Care Delivery Systems

Project Description:

If voting is a sign of a healthy democracy, we are in need of serious interventions.

Voting is a health “thing”. It is the one power citizens have a right to holding democracy accountable. It ensures a right to a healthier life for people and their loved ones. The impact of voting and political decisions touch every part of our daily life, from safety to housing, education, and ultimately, our health. Voting sends a signal of support or dissent for policies that ultimately shape the social determinants of health. Social determinants subsequently influence who votes and who does not.

As a physician, we see the bodily impact of inequities that bad policy and law shape everyday within our clinical and healthcare settings. The goal of this project is to operationalize voting program interventions to increase voter participation within and throughout healthcare organizations, especially those who are “othered” and disenfranchised in the voting process.

Key Findings and Lessons Learned:

- Project started in 2020 initially as VoteHealth2020, now has scaled to a formal LLC, Civic Health Alliance (civichealthalliance.org)
- 2.5 million engagements through various campaigns and initiatives via social media (significant “footprint”)
- Scaled in 6 months with operationalizing voter registrations within healthcare settings nationally (heaviest footprints in states i.e. Texas, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, Virginia, Illinois, California)
- Worked in collaboration with legal organizations to “myth bust” C-suite and government relations pushback that voter registration is “illegal” in healthcare settings
- Raised \$180K in 2 weeks to position for scale
- Scaled in 6 months and developed a team of 20 volunteers, 7 medical student chapters with ~30 faculty champions nationally to operationalize within FQHC settings.
- Stakeholders as champions key
- “Plug and Play” operational model crucial to easy stakeholder and influencer buy-in

Next Steps:

- Rx Vote Campaign (in progress) – Register 200,000 people nationally by 11/2022; Register 1,000,000 people nationally by 11/2024 within healthcare settings
- Civic Health Compact (in progress) – Have 100 healthcare systems/organizations adopting the Civic Health Compact by 11/2024
- Operationalize “opt out” for voter registration in Medi-Cal/Medicaid enrollment nationwide
- Continue to scale movement and engagement