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Asian Health Coalition Receives \$20,000 COVID-19 Grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois

April 1, 2021, Chicago, Illinois – To help ease the ongoing needs of Illinoisans created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) has awarded Asian Health Coalition a \$20,000 grant as part of BCBSIL’s latest round of giving aimed at helping the helpers.

“This grant will help us to address COVID-19 related disparities among immigrant communities by understanding the unique cultural and language considerations when communicating information about COVID-19 and the vaccine,” says Alia Southworth, MPH, Director of the Chronic and Infectious Disease Programs at the Asian Health Coalition. “This information will be vital in reducing the misinformation and mistrust around the COVID-19 vaccine and increasing the intention and ultimately adherence to get the vaccine among these vulnerable communities,” added Fornessa T. Randal, Executive Director at the Asian Health Coalition.

BCBSIL selected 175 organizations across Illinois with missions focused on access to care, hunger, shelter and behavioral health care, and COVID-19 health education and vaccine access to receive \$20,000 grants as part of its COVID-19 Community Collaboration Fund.

“A year into the pandemic and the health, economic and social impacts around Illinois are still great,” said Harmony Harrington, vice-president government and community relations for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. “We’re proud to be able to help so many organizations increase their capacity to help more people receive the help they need.”

See the [full list of grantees](#).

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About Asian Health Coalition (AHC)

Established in 1996, AHC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission to improve the health and wellness of primarily Asians and Pacific Islanders, as well as African and other immigrant communities of color through advocacy, technical assistance, community-based education and research. To learn more, visit www.asianhealth.org

About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois

[Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois](#) (BCBSIL) is committed to expanding access to quality, cost-effective health care to as many people as possible in Illinois. BCBSIL is dedicated to innovation and exploring, nurturing and activating future possibilities to make the health care system work better for our members and our communities.