



Disaster Resilience Learning Network

A virtual network led by and for leaders of color

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INTRODUCTION

The Disaster Resilience Learning Network (DRLN) was created to bring together culturally specific and/or people of color serving CBOs and leaders who serve communities of color disproportionately impacted by disasters. This network was created on the foundation of trust and years of relationship-building with CBOs across Oregon.

Climate disasters disproportionately impact working-class communities of color by exacerbating existing racial, socioeconomic, and health disparities. After the 2020 fires community based organizational (CBOs) leaders challenged traditional service delivery models that were not addressing the unique barriers that these populations face. These inequities are not inherent, but rather the result of a long history of systemic marginalization and underinvestment in working class communities of color.

Disaster while devastating provide cause us to seek opportunities to reimagine how we respond to crisis. Our organizations wanted to deepen our understanding of how we begin addressing inequities and make space for community of color leaders to be the ones leading the path for how community resilience can be achieved in their communities.



THEORETICAL MODEL

Four crucial components guide this network:

- 1) Social resilience: a framework to enhance social infrastructure.
- 2) Trauma-informed care: an organizational model to actively resist re-traumatization
- 3) Healing-centered: a framework centered around political and cultural healing
- 4) Culturally grounding: a lens rooted in honoring, valuing, and uplifting diverse cultural knowledge and practices.



NETWORK RESILIENCE PROJECTS 2022-2023

In 2022, \$179,000 was allocated towards 12 organizations. These projects are estimated to have impacted over **8,000 people in total**. Some of these grant projects are highlighted below.

In 2023, the DRLN allocated \$446,500 to Network CBOs, prioritizing wildfire-impacted partners. Projects support building resilience & social connectedness for communities impacted by climate-related disasters through culturally grounded, healing-centered community engagement, mental and emotional community health and wellness, and restoration of identity and relationship with self and community.

PCUN & Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos

PCUN and Centro serve people of color, immigrant, migrant, and farmworker communities, many of which have been impacted by smoke wildfire, and heat. Their project, the Mental Health and Wellness Bank, is intended for their community leads and teammates to have direct access to culturally responsive mental health therapists and traditional wellness facilitators. Their project supports their teams in access to culturally specific healing and mental health services to be better prepared when supporting frontline workers.



Bridging Cultures

Bridging Cultures, a community-driven, multicultural nonprofit, gathered 30 Latine women from Clackamas and Marion counties to come together in a series of 7 culturally grounded and healing-centered classes focusing on physical, mental, emotional and community health, wellness and connections. One participant felt, "Agradezco mucho que Puestos Entre Cultura haya abierto la oportunidad para ofrecer sesiones enfocadas en la salud emocional y resiliencia para la mujer. Gracias al maravilloso grupo de mujeres de este grupo que acogieron a mis papás de una manera tan afectuosa. Cada vez que llegabamos a la sesión eramos recibidos con una sonrisa y nos sentiamos apreciados por Fabi y el grupo. Espero que en un futuro cercano continúe este tipo de programas que tanto hacen falta en la comunidad."



Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest

NARA NW is an Indian-owned, Indian-operated, non-profit agency. NARA NW offered experiences and tools to indigenize ways of living by weaving in traditional healing and centering cultural climate resilience practices such as native food sovereignty (community gardens, sharing traditional foods, growing native plants), and traditional Native cultural healing education.



League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) worked with the Latinx and Indigenous community and build a strong network of community members, many of whom are parents, to empower and enhance new skills for advocacy. Those attending the training were be offered participation stipends for joining the series of six bilingual sessions. There was a kick off and recruitment for 15–20 community Indigenous and Latino parents and leaders from Southern Oregon, Washington County and Lane County.

20 Latina mothers affected by the Alameda fires participated the leadership and advocacy training. From this cohort participants gained valuable skills and information to advocate for themselves, be more engaged and active in their children schools and community. Out of this cohort seven mothers/leaders are part of the School Site Council in Phoenix-Talent School District where their voices and the representation of the Latinx community is at the table where decisions are made.



Rogue Climate

Rogue Climate planned and implemented the Community Resiliency gathering series: a series of community gatherings focused on increasing social-connection within the Latinx community in the Rogue Valley, specifically focusing on families and youth who have been impacted and displaced by fire. These conversations were the groundwork for grassroots advocacy work within the community, including future campaigns around climate justice, disaster preparedness, cultural healing, and resiliency. Participants received stipends and childcare was be available.

MISSION & GOALS

MISSION

We are committed to advancing equitable disaster resilience, for people of color, through healing-centered, culturally grounded collaborations and sustainable practices



GOALS

- Wellbeing:** To improve wellness of our leaders working in climate and disaster resilience
- Relationships:** To build relationships for leaders of color working in climate and disaster resilience.
- Culture:** To center and bridge the importance of culture into climate and disaster resilience.



MEMBERSHIP & RESOURCES

As of 2023, there are 21 participating organizations in the DRLN. Our CBO leaders from across the state support communities of color impacted by climate disasters. Convening partners for this Network include Oregon Health Authority, United Way of Columbia-Willamette, and Trauma Informed Oregon.



View our webpage at Trauma Informed Oregon for a membership list and annual report!



Read Oregon Health Authority's Climate Change and Social Resilience Report!



Read UWCW's Preparing Oregon's Communities of Color for Disasters!

Contact Us!

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