

---

Page 2: 2020-21 Community Participation Program Annual Report Organization Information - please confirm

**Q1**

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Cedar Riverside Community Council

---

**Q2**

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization Contact:

**Tola Vann**

Organization Email Address:

**420 15th Avenue S Minneapolis, MN 55454**

---

**Q3**

Organization Website and Social Media

Website

**[www.crccouncil.org](http://www.crccouncil.org)**

Facebook

**<https://www.facebook.com/CRCCouncil>**

---

**Q4**

Date / Time

**12/15/2021**

DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL Once your board has reviewed this draft annual report, please provide the date of the meeting at which the board approved submission of this report to NCR. Note: Meeting minutes may be requested by NCR.

---

Page 3: 202-21 Community Participation Program Annual Report Additional Organization Information

**Q5**

Indicate the POSITION TITLE of each PAID EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACT STAFF (excluding professional services such as accounting, legal, etc.)

Position Title #1	<b>Co executive Director 1</b>
Position Title #2	<b>Co executive Director 2</b>
Position Title #3	<b>Project Coordinator</b>

---

**Q6**

Please indicate below the AVERAGE HOURS PER WEEK of each paid staff (excluding separate professional services such as accounting, legal, etc.)

#1 Hours/Week	<b>30.0</b>
#2 Hours/Week	<b>30.0</b>
#3 Hours/Week	<b>30.0</b>

---

**Q7**

IF NEEDED, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO BELOW: Note if any positions are seasonal, temporary, etc.

AJ Awed and Tola Vann are the only 2 employees of CRCC with Dave Alderson contracted to help do project management work on Vaccine outreach

---

Page 4: 2019 Community Participation Program Annual Report Stakeholder Engagement - Outreach & Engagement

**Q8**

MEETINGS (Check all that apply)

- Held regular committee meetings or discussion groups that are open to all stakeholders**
  - ,
  - Held at least one general membership or community meeting (in addition to the annual meeting) to gather input from residents and other stakeholders for a neighborhood specific initiative**
  - ,
  - Hosted at least one general membership or committee meeting in response to a City request for input - such as a development proposal, transit planning or public works projects**
  - ,
  - Conducted one or more focus groups**
-

**Q9**

DOOR-TO-DOOR (Check all that apply)Door-Knocking  
(with goal of face-to-face engagement)

At least once reaching a portion of neighborhood,

At least once reaching most or all of neighborhood,

For more than one issue/outreach effort,

On a routine basis,

Conducted primarily by staff members,

Conducted primarily by volunteers,

Carried out primarily to increase membership and participation

,

Carried out primarily to gather input or inform on a specific city or neighborhood issue

---

**Q10**

Approximately HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS DID YOU REACH through door-knocking in 2020-21?(Please provide a cumulative total for both years)

1500

---

**Q11**

FLYERING - Dropping literature at doors (Check all that apply)

At least once reaching a portion of the neighborhood,

At least once reaching most or all of the neighborhood,

Carried out primarily to inform and increase membership and participation

,

Carried out primarily to gather input or inform on a specific city or neighborhood issue

---

**Q12**

Approximately HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS DID YOU REACH through flyering in 2020-21?(Please provide a cumulative total for both years)

2000

---

**Q13**

EVENTS (Check all that apply)

Staffed a booth or table at neighborhood event or other community event that included sign-up sheets, surveys or information about your organization.

,

Organized one or more issue specific event (such as a safety forum, housing fair, Open Streets, Creative Citymaking, etc).

,

Organized smaller events for specific outreach to target audiences (e.g., sidewalk tabling to reach renters, lemonade stands, tabling at Farmer’s Market, etc.)

**Q14**

COMMUNICATION (Fill in all that apply)

Number of subscribers to your email list **115**

Number of followers on your primary social media channel (facebook, twitter, or other) **140**

**Q15**

OTHER (Check all that apply)

Conducted at least one community-wide survey (such as a random sample or all-household survey)

,

Conducted another form of survey (e.g., intercept survey)

,

Developed partnerships with cultural, religious, professional or business associations to expand outreach into under-represented populations

**Q16**

How did your organization adapt to issues surrounding COVID19 and civil unrest? (Check all that apply)

Staff working from home,

Closed office,

Online meetings/events,

Cancelled events/meetings,

Held events/meetings in person outside with social distancing

,

Held events/meetings in person inside with social distancing

**Q17**

How did you connect with your community about important information? (Check all that apply)

**Phone,**

**Email blast,**

**Flyer,**

**Postcards,**

**Doorknocking,**

**Social media posts/campaigns,**

Other (please describe here)::

Tabling at events and other similar outreach activities through covid outreach and fairs and forums. As well as talking circles and Safety meetings

---

**Q18**

What issues affected your community? (Check all that apply)

**Community members needing PPE,**

**Businesses damaged/destroyed,**

**Housing insecurity,**

**Encampments,**

**Increased crime,**

**COVID-19 outbreak in your community**

---

**Q19**

Did your organization create initiatives and projects or share information from/with other organizations that were developed in response to: (Check all that apply)

**COVID-19,**

**Civil unrest,**

**Food insecurity,**

**Supporting local businesses,**

**Solidarity Gatherings,**

**Healing circles**

---

**Q20**

PLEASE SHARE ONE STORY ABOUT A PROJECT OR INITIATIVE YOUR ORGANIZATION CREATED OR SUPPORTED IN RESPONSE TO THE VARIOUS CRISES OF 2020-21:

Vaccine Outreach and Education for COVID-19

With funding from the Minnesota Council on Foundations, CRCC executed an educational and promotional project from July through November of 2021 to encourage members of the East African community from Cedar Riverside and around the Twin Cities to receive their COVID vaccination shots. Although people of all ages were engaged, our outreach teams focused their efforts to encourage school age young people to get their shots before, or as soon as possible after returning to classes in the fall.

During the project, we enjoyed the benefit of particularly strong partnerships with Brian Coyle Center/Pillsbury United Communities and People's Center Clinics and Services with whom we met weekly to discuss project progress and strategies for encouraging people of all ages to get vaccinated.

Over the course of the project, our team of six East African project outreach workers made one-on-one connections with more than 1,500 people by tabling at community functions/celebrations, community vaccination and flu shot clinics, soccer tournaments, mosques, retail and grocery stores, and restaurants.

Our team reported an additional 20,000+ contacts with people through a variety of channels including Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram. Though counts are not available, more community members were reached through culturally tailored programs shared on East African media outlets.

---

**Q21**

Please provide an ESTIMATE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS PROVIDED to your organization in 2020-21. (see Volunteer Hour Tracking Guide for suggested ways to calculate this. Please provide a cumulative total for both years)

100

---

**Q22**

HOW DID YOUR ORGANIZATION REACH OUT TO UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? (Check all that apply)

**Worked on an issue of particular interest to an under-represented group within the neighborhood**

,

**Provided notices of annual and special meetings in multiple languages**

,

**Provided newsletter articles or web pages in multiple languages**

,

**Targeted outreach in apartment buildings or blocks to reach renters**

,

**Targeted tabling at other events or locations (such as farmers markets, cultural events, etc.)**

,

**Held focus groups or open meeting formats for under-represented communities**

,

**Reviewed participation activities, and identified new leaders and volunteers for volunteer, committee and board participation**

,

**Met with other agencies in the community that work closely with under-represented constituencies in the neighborhood**

**Q23**

What more would you like to tell NCR or the community ABOUT YOUR STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT? What are you doing that is NEW OR PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL TO REACH RESIDENTS and others?

CRCC has also helped with a lot of projects in and around the community which has helped improve and give resources to parts of our community. Some of which include:

Partnering with The West Bank Business Association (WBBA) and have been conducting monthly safety meetings virtually and in person at Brian Coyle Community Center. These meetings have facilitated many conversations that go on throughout the community concerning overall safety and well-being.

The meetings consists of community updates on crime and safety usually facilitated by Carla Nelson from The Minneapolis Department of Crime and safety. She will often bring in officers from the MPD as well as the Parks dept. to give updates on crime that has happened throughout the community and also giving resources to people to help deal and cope with these current issues.

CRCC became a proud endorser of Minneapolis United for Rent Control, a local grassroots coalition to enact a universal rent control ordinance in the city of Minneapolis in 2021. We hosted a Cedar Riverside Rent Control rally in our neighborhood, in partnership with coalition partners, to inform, educate and mobilize our renter population about the Question 3 ballot initiative. Our neighborhood organization is proud to have been a part of the historical passage of Question 3 in the 2021 election and look forward to continuing that advocacy work for our neighbors and families in 2022

CRCC has partnered with Brian Coyle Center director Amano Dube and youth program coach, Jennifer Webber, to offer a Sports of All Sorts Enrichment Camp that will include 8 days of academic, physical activity, STEAM, social emotional learning (SEL), and experiential place based learning programming.

We have also volunteered time, resources and money, in partnership with WBBA to clean up Edna's Park. The Area that was once the residence of a beloved community member. This area located in the Cedar Riverside Complex behind the Wienery has been an area that has been neglected and overrun with invasive plants and shrubs. CRCC along with other partners where able to clear the area free of all overgrown plants and debris in hopes to make that it into some sort of useable space or plans of installing some sort of art installation. We hope to continue the development of this project into 2022.

## Q24

### MAJOR HIGHLIGHT

CRCC addressed community identified priorities in the areas of safety, Vaccine Outreach, Opioid Outreach, Rent help and education, Youth Enrichment Programs and Improvements to the neighborhood.

In the past few years, there has been an increasing concern about opioid addiction among Somali-American youth in the Twin-Cities.

Community leaders, providers, and parents have been raising the alarm about increasing hospitalizations and deaths in the Somali community. While community reports are valid and informed by on the ground experiences, it has been challenging to ascertain the rate of opioid abuse among this group of youth due to the fact that cases are often recorded as African American rather than as Somali American. This is problematic because Somali Americans have unique cultural and linguistic needs and there is a great need to understand the experiences of Somali youth and their families in the opioid crisis, especially during COVID which can exacerbate many of the problems that are connected to substance abuse such as mental health symptoms, homelessness and job loss.

It is also very important to understand the pathways to use. At what age do youth start using? Who introduces them to these drugs? What are the risk and protective factors? What are the contextual issues related to addiction? These are all questions that we need to answer to address this crisis.

CRCC along with Dr. Saida Abdi from the University of Minnesota have conducted a study that explores the rate of opioid abuse and the pathways to opioid abuse among Somali-American youth aged 18-25 in Minneapolis. Using an experience-based co-design (EBCD) approach, Somali-American youth lead, shaped, and engaged in a participatory process to map their journeys with respect to opioid use. Previous research shows that there is a great stigma attached to substance abuse.

With the program still being executed and is currently underway we will examine the relationship between COVID, stigma, and opioid abuse among this sample. We aim to gather experiences from multiple perspectives – youth, family/community, in order to come together and co-design solutions or recommendations from our findings. Embracing a participatory, community-based approach to research, We have hired and mentored youth research co-leaders from the Somali-American community in the Minneapolis community to lead and partner on this work. The goal of the project is to provide a baseline for the prevalence and pathways of opioid use among this population to guide policy and practice.

#### Vaccine Outreach and Education for COVID-19

With funding from the Minnesota Council on Foundations, CRCC executed an educational and promotional project from July through November of 2021 to encourage members of the East African community from Cedar Riverside and around the Twin Cities to receive their COVID vaccination shots. Although people of all ages were engaged, our outreach teams focused their efforts to encourage school age young people to get their shots before, or as soon as possible after returning to classes in the fall.

During the project, we enjoyed the benefit of particularly strong partnerships with Brian Coyle Center/Pillsbury United Communities and People's Center Clinics and Services with whom we met weekly to discuss project progress and strategies for encouraging people of all ages to get vaccinated.

Over the course of the project, our team of six East African project outreach workers made one-on-one connections with more than 1,500 people by tabling at community functions/celebrations, community vaccination and flu shot clinics, soccer tournaments, mosques, retail and grocery stores, and restaurants.

Our team reported an additional 20,000+ contacts with people through a variety of channels including Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram. Though counts are not available, more community members were reached through culturally tailored programs shared on East African media outlets.

Project HOPE

CRCC partnered with Community Mediation and Restorative Services to provide outreach and community participation in the statewide Rent Help MN program for families financially insecure due to the Covid-19 pandemic. CRCC outreach staff engaged in canvassing efforts in our neighborhood, putting up fliers at local shops, and promoting the rental assistance program at local gather areas such as masjids. In addition, CRCC outreach staff hosted several tabling events both in our neighborhood and at our target audiences' frequently trafficked business centers such as the Karmel Mall and the 24 Mall. Through our outreach work, we served approximately 1,600 residents in our community and ensured awareness of crucial resources to families and residents in our neighborhood.

---

**Q25**

**Respondent skipped this question**

We'd love to share your highlights with others. If possible, upload a digital photo, video, or illustration with the link below, or send any of these files to [ncr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ncr@minneapolismn.gov) with the Subject Line: 2020-21 CPP Annual Report Images. If you have a large digital file with multiple images, please make arrangements to mail or deliver a copy directly to your NCR Neighborhood Specialist.

---