

# State of Wisconsin

**Governor Tony Evers**

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**Secretary-designee Karen  
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Dear Latino Health Council,

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us that each person's health depends on the health of their community. It has highlighted the many challenges we face in Wisconsin to assure everyone can be as healthy as possible. Racism and systemic barriers (such as lack of access to quality health care, job opportunities, housing, and transportation) have made Wisconsinites of color, members of tribal nations, those living in rural areas, and others facing historic disadvantage more vulnerable to COVID-19. Through your work, community-based organizations, local and tribal health departments, school districts, and health systems alike have stepped forward to lead at a time when hearing from trusted resources and individuals was critical.

The Vaccination Community Outreach Grant program sought to make COVID-19 vaccination more equitable, and your organization added your trusted voice to the effort of protecting every person in Wisconsin from COVID-19. Since awarding these grants, incredible and impactful steps have been taken statewide to ensure the equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for those who have been highly impacted and remain vulnerable.

Successfully reaching everyone in Wisconsin relies on organizations like yours, and we could not have done this without your expertise and insight. Your team of trusted messengers brought timely and credible information to your community and made vaccine available in trusted locations. Together with your fellow grantees, you have supported more than 4,170 vaccination events, more than 24,000 education and outreach events, administered over 131,000 vaccinations, and produced media advertisements promoting accurate COVID-19 vaccine information that have reached Wisconsinites across the state.

Simply put, thank you. Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for your investment in your community. Thank you to your staff, volunteers, and partners. Thank you for your ideas and insights, for every pop-up clinic, for every one-on-one conversation, and for all your creativity and dedication in lifting up the importance of getting vaccinated against COVID-19. We know that people are more likely to take action when they are encouraged to do so by the people close to them – and that is exactly what you have done and continue to do. Your efforts have been vital for the health of the people of Wisconsin, and to the health of Wisconsin as a whole.

We appreciate and thank you for everything you have done, and for clearly demonstrating that we are truly better together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers  
Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen E. Timberlake".

Karen E. Timberlake  
Secretary-designee

