

News Release

Well Woman Initiative Launch



December 2, 2022

Women Empowering Women Receives Grant to Launch Well-Woman Initiative

Dickinson, North Dakota, Women Empowering Women has been awarded a grant from the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) to improve women's health. As a partner working on this initiative, Women Empowering Women will play a key role in improving women's health.

Well-woman care is essential for ensuring women's optimal health and applies to women of all ages and states of life. Well-woman care facilitates access to health care services, identifies risk factors, and reduces the likelihood or delays the onset of disease. A well-woman preventive visit addresses issues of general wellness and provides screening, immunizations, counseling and other prevention services for a variety of health conditions. Despite the benefits of well-woman care, only 35.5% of North Dakota women reported having "routine" check up in the last 12 months before becoming pregnant (2019 North Dakota Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System).

Women Empowering Women, along with six other grantees across the state, have developed culturally appropriate campaigns for improving well-woman care in their local community. In the last few months, Women Empowering Women improved women's health through hosting a health fair targeting Hispanic and foreign born African American women in the community. Following the event 30 women had pelvic examinations and 15 are scheduled for mammograms. Many of these women had no access to healthcare in recent years.

In the next several months, Women Empowering Women will work diligently to improve women's health through a series of Women's Health Circles. The Women's Health Circles will meet bi-monthly at the West River Community Center with each session focusing on topics important to women's health. The Women's Health Circles will target Hispanic women as well as other new American and refugee women. A Hispanic translator will be available at each Health Circle. There is no fee for attendance.

For more information about this project contact Ray Ann Kilen, President of the Board of Women Empowering Women at 701-290-8036 or info@wewnetwork.org. For more information about this statewide initiative, contact Alicia Belay, public health specialist, Health Equity Office, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services at abelay@nd.gov.

Women Empowering Women is a local volunteer nonprofit organization that identifies and responds to the needs of women so that they are empowered, educated, and supported to become the best versions of themselves. To learn more see <https://wewnetwork.org>.

