

**2023** ANNUAL REPORT

# Welcome



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WELCOME TO CORE'S 2023 ANNUAL REPORT, featuring highlights and insights from our portfolio of research, evaluation, analytics, and strategic consulting work.

Through 42 projects active in 2023, we continued pursuing vital questions around health, health equity, and the myriad ways that the social determinants of health shape people's lives. These diverse lines of inquiry led us to topics as varied as behavioral health, healthcare payment reform, racism in healthcare, nutrition and gardening, housing, and genomics.

In this report you'll read about some of those projects and transformative ideas from our partners, including health systems, Medicaid programs, health departments, community nonprofits, and more. We are proud to collaborate on these efforts to help shape healthier systems, policies, programs, and communities.

Reflecting our commitment to sharing knowledge, this year's report includes a new section with resources and tools developed through our projects. We hope you find them valuable—and we encourage you to share!

I also want to express our sincere gratitude to our partners, funders, and research participants. Your support and collaboration are what make this work possible. Lastly, thank you to the CORE team; your commitment to our vision of a healthier, more equitable future is a true inspiration.

Kei Vartanian

# About CORE

WHO WE ARE: The Center for Outcomes Research and Education (CORE) is an independent team of scientists, researchers, and data experts with a vision for a healthier, more equitable future. We work with communities and a wide variety of cross-sector partners to take on today's biggest barriers to better health.



WHAT WE DO: We help our partners gather, analyze, interpret, and use data and information for better decision-making and more effective programs and policies. Through this work, we deliver evidence and insights that shape and sustain healthier systems, policies, programs, and communities.

**OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE:** Health systems; health departments; Medicaid programs; community-based organizations; foundations; the housing, education, and criminal/legal sectors; and more.

### MISSION

To drive meaningful improvements in health and health equity through collaborative research, evaluation, analytics, technical assistance, and capacity building.

### VISION

Engaged communities, effective programs and policies, equitable systems, and healthy people.

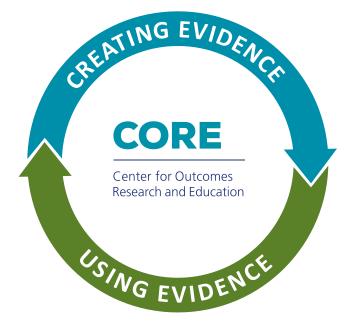
Learn more about CORE at **ProvidenceOregon.org/CORE** 

## About CORE

## **Creating & Using Evidence**

At CORE, we work with partners to both create and gather evidence, and use that evidence to shape decisions, programs, and policies.

This deeply connected cycle of creating evidence through our Research & Evaluation portfolio and using evidence through our Analytics & Strategic Consulting portfolio is visible in our wide range of services for projects and partners of all sizes.







CORE is very collaborative and goes beyond data and evaluation to focus on their work's impacts on end users.

They are genuinely interested in making a difference at the community, individual, family, and child levels. That's powerful for me.

-CORE partner

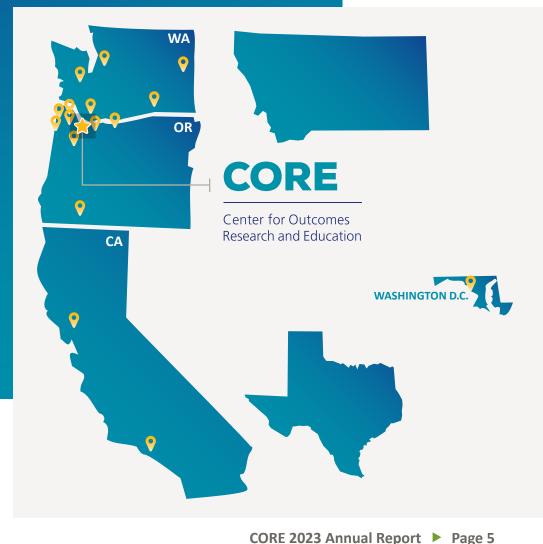
# Our Impact



## **CORE PARTNERS & PROJECT LOCATIONS**

CORE's reach extends well beyond our Portland, Oregon headquarters. Our work supports communities up and down the West Coast and around the U.S. In addition to the 2023 project and partner locations indicated at right, we also conducted statewide research in:

- Alaska
- California
- Montana
- Oregon
- Utah
- Washington



### HEALTH SHARE OF OREGON

## How a CORE data analysis is helping shape behavioral health policy & response strategies in Portland

A project by CORE is providing powerful data to help the Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Health Share of Oregon and its community partners zero in on solutions to the Portland metropolitan area's challenges with houselessness, mental illness, and substance use. Early data from the project illustrates the vital need to increase acute care services for community members with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. Below are several key findings from the analysis.

READ MORE

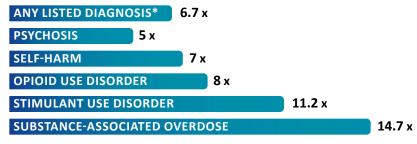
# "

CORE's work on this analysis is a game changer. It's moved Health Share in different, more precise directions. I can't overstate our appreciation for the thoughtful, smart, and capable team, and I'm so grateful for their partnership in this important work.

> –Mindy Stadtlander CEO, Health Share of Oregon

## <u>Key findings</u>

- Ten percent of adult Health Share of Oregon members (approximately 28,000 individuals) had a diagnosis of an opioid use disorder, stimulant use disorder, psychosis, substance-associated overdose, or self-harm.
- This ten percent of individuals utilize inpatient services at 6.7 times the rate of the Health Share population without any of these diagnoses; ranging from 5 to 14.7 times the rate depending on their diagnosis.



\* Opioid use disorder, stimulant use disorder, psychosis, substance-associated overdose, or self-harm  These 28,000 individuals comprise just 10% of Health Share's total membership, yet they account for 45% of adult inpatient costs.



#### PROVIDENCE OREGON COMMUNITY HEALTH INVESTMENT

### Using data with purpose: CORE's Data for Change program

Our Data for Change program brings together community-based organizations to grow their capacity to use data to address local needs and sustain promising and impactful programs. In 2023, the program's third year, we continued providing services to a wide range of community partners through individualized coaching sessions, community learning webinars, and our inaugural data summit.

READ MORE

Data for Change has given us a new perspective on our work. CORE often asks questions that we haven't even thought of!

–Data for Change participant



### **Convening our Data for Change partners**

As part of Data for Change's ongoing evolution, we were excited to host our inaugural Data Summit in 2023. This in-person event brought together partners from 15 community-based organizations for sessions on cultivating an organizational learning culture, harvesting feedback loops, and nurturing your data story.

#### **VIEW A RECAP IN OUR BLOG**



#### CAREOREGON

### Building evidence around Value-Based Payments (VBPs) in primary care

As healthcare payers look to VBPs to incentivize performance on

quality, cost, and patient outcomes, a recent CORE study evaluated a primary care-focused VBP model at 130 clinics serving members of CareOregon, a payer with Medicaid and Medicare Advantage plans. The study, funded by The Patrick & Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation, found increased use of primary and specialty care among members served by clinics participating in the model. It also highlighted the importance of staff engagement and buy-in when implementing such models.

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# "

Not only did we see evidence that this VBP model led to better connections to healthcare for its intended patient population, but it also had an unintended positive impact on other patients. This spillover effect suggests that there may be opportunities for alignment and partnership across health plans around funding for similar VBP models.

> –Hannah Cohen-Cline, PhD, MPH Program Director, Research & Evaluation, CORE

### SW WASHINGTON COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

# Identifying the links between health, legal, education, & housing outcomes

This innovative research project drew on crosssector data to study the relationships between outcomes across sectors in SW Washington State. Findings showed links between student mobility, health, and attendance; impacts of mental healthcare and substance use treatment on interactions with the legal system; and patterns of acute care use among individuals experiencing incarceration or housing instability.

READ MORE





**12%** received outpatient mental healthcare after leaving jail

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|                      |          |

Those receiving outpatient mental healthcare were **30% less likely** to experience rearrest



### PROVIDENCE

## Understanding long COVID based on patient experiences

A study by CORE and the Providence Research Network offers insights into patient experiences with the condition known as long COVID. Focusing on the patient perspective by using patient narratives and survey data, CORE identified four groupings of patients that encompass the wideranging experiences of people with long COVID. The research illustrates how physical, mental, and social health are linked and must be considered together to effectively manage and treat patients with this challenging disease.

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# "

I've been experiencing anxiety and depression since being so sick from COVID... realizing that my lungs will never be the same is such a harsh reality! -Study participant



#### PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY TEACHING KITCHEN (CTK)

Cultivating change through a Spanishlanguage culinary & gardening initiative

The CTK launched its culturally responsive culinary nutrition and gardening program in 2022 to serve more of the region's Spanish speakers, including those with diabetes and prediabetes. A CORE evaluation funded by the William E. and Thelma F. Housman Foundation used interviews, surveys, and Photovoice, a participatory research approach where participants take photographs to capture and share their lived experiences. Findings highlight the benefits and opportunities around communitydriven, culturally relevant programs.

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#### SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY OF HEALTH (SWACH)

### Building analytics capacity for a community-based care coordination program

In 2023, CORE assisted SWACH in building data capacity to monitor the impact of its HealthConnect HUB, which connects people to care through a community-based workforce and a network of community agencies. As part of that effort, CORE established systems for downloading and transferring HUB data to make it easier to use, built several new Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) metrics, and supported reporting and data visualization. In 2024, we are supporting the transition of HUB data management from CORE to SWACH by providing ongoing training, documentation, and technical assistance.

> LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEALTHCONNECT HUB

#### **OREGON PATIENT SAFETY COMMISSION (OPSC)**

## Enhancing Oregon's Early Discussion & Resolution (EDR) process

Oregon's EDR process, enacted by the state legislature in 2013, creates confidential and safe spaces for patients and families to have transparent conversations with providers following incidents of patient harm in healthcare settings. OPSC engaged CORE's data experts to develop a roadmap to help the program use data to identify potential disparities and ensure more equitable and positive outcomes for participants. This work highlights the impact of data systems on program effectiveness and equity.

READ MORE

CORE's work gave us a clear roadmap for how we can connect our data with our learning goals, integrate equity into our data strategy, and strengthen this important work we have been entrusted to do.

–Valerie Harmon Executive Director, OPSC

### PREPAREDNESS & TREATMENT EQUITY COALITION (PTEC)

# Understanding the impact of discrimination & racism on preventative mammography

Building on CORE's past research on disparities in mammography, in 2023 CORE began studying how discrimination in the healthcare system impacts the use of these important screenings. The study, funded by PTEC, also examines how these experiences impact breast cancer screening metrics and their interpretation. CORE's Monique Gill described this work in an interview with PTEC, which you can watch or read at the link below.

READ MORE

#### Patients who report MORE FREQUENT HEALTHCARE DISCRIMINATION

- Are less likely to be current on mammography
- Have worse perceptions of the healthcare system

#### Patients who report BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH PROVIDERS

- Are more likely to be current on mammography
- Have better perceptions of the healthcare system

What we're seeing, not just anecdotally, is that negative experiences in healthcare affect how people interact with healthcare. Our findings show that patients who experience more frequent discrimination in the healthcare setting are less likely to be current on their mammograms.

> -Monique Gill, PhD, MPH Research Scientist, CORE

### **PROVIDENCE GENOMICS**

## Navigating the path of genomic medicine

Recent advances in genomic medicine offer significant promise for more effective prevention and treatment for patients at higher risk of cancer and other diseases. Yet patients may not always understand the role or importance of genomic screenings in their healthcare journey. CORE's research into an early detection and prevention pilot program at Providence offers insights to help shape how healthcare organizations partner with patients to improve outcomes through genetic testing.

READ MORE

### WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### **Evaluating an innovative COVID-19 support program**

The Care Connect Washington program was created in 2020 to support people needing to isolate and quarantine in Washington State due to COVID-19 exposure or infection. This collaboration between the health department, nine regional hubs, and local care coordinators offered enrollees supports to help reduce the impacts of quarantine. The program also helped connect enrollees to other services. Our evaluation highlighted Care Connect's speed and reach, as well as opportunities to address unmet needs in the state.

READ MORE

# **CORE** Resources

At CORE, we're committed to making a positive impact by sharing data, insights, ideas, tools, and other knowledge gained through our work and partnerships.

Below are several of the resources we published in 2023. You can also find a list of our 2023 peer-reviewed publications on page 13.



### **CORE INSIGHTS**

LEARN MORE

# Six steps toward more equitable data visualization

Data visualization practices run the risk of misleading, misrepresenting, and harming communities that have experienced inequities and discrimination. Applying an equity lens can help researchers and others better represent and communicate with the communities they serve. In a 2023 webinar and blog post, we dug into some of our favorite data equity resources and shared six key steps to help apply an equity lens to your data visualization efforts. \_ \_ \_ \_

An equity lens isn't something that you can just apply at the end of a project. It requires thinking about the data and its context all the way through the process of collecting and visualizing that data.

> -Kristen Lacijan, MS, MPH Program Manager, CORE



### WEBINAR & RESOURCES

### **Demystifying logic models**

Logic models can serve as valuable tools for organizations working to improve health and health equity, yet they can sometimes feel burdensome and are often misunderstood. As part of our Data for Change program, a 2023 CORE webinar offers tips and tools to demystify the process of creating and using logic models.

LEARN MORE AND WATCH THE WEBINAR

## **CORE** Resources

### WEBINAR

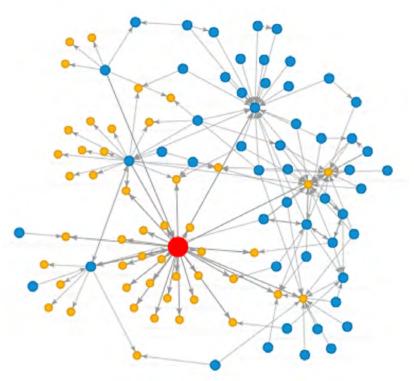
# Insights on collecting & using qualitative data

Data is key to shaping policies, systems, and programs that work for communities. Qualitative data, however, is too often an afterthought, despite its ability to help tell a more complete story. In a CORE webinar developed as part of our work with Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations, we shared insights and ideas on how to understand and use qualitative data, even with minimal training and resources.

#### WATCH THE WEBINAR

### EXAMPLES OF QUALITATIVE DATA

- > Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Listening Sessions
- Documents (e.g. reports, personal journals)
- > Visual Data (e.g. photos, videos)
- Observational Data
- > Open-ended Survey Questions



A network map from a CORE network analysis

### **CORE INSIGHTS**

# Using collaborative networks to support systems change

CORE's work with community and healthcare organizations and systems change initiatives offers evidence of a changing landscape of partnerships. It also highlights how broader networks can support organizational and workforce capacity.

As part of the CORE insights blog series, we described some of the opportunities and challenges involved in working together to meet the needs of communities and people.

READ MORE



# Publications

Longitudinal policy and systems change as a component of community power. Family & Community Health, October/December 2023. **READ MORE** 

Exploring power building capacity at the ecosystem level: A case study of a justice-oriented organizational network. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, October 2023. **©** READ MORE

Mammogram perceptions, communication, and gaps in care among individuals with non-English language preference in Oregon and Washington states. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, October 2023. © READ MORE

Assessing the impact of recovery housing on healthcare utilization in Portland, Oregon. Drug Alcohol Dependence Reports, September 2023. © READ MORE

Catalyzing alignment and systems transformation through cross-sector partnerships: Findings from the California Accountable Communities for Health Initiative. *Health Services Research*, September 2023. © READ MORE

Integrating patient-reported physical, mental, and social impacts to classify long COVID experiences. *Scientific Reports,* September 2023. **• READ MORE** 

Participation in genetic screening: Testing different outreach methods across a diverse hospital system based patient population. *Frontiers in Genetics,* September 2023. READ MORE



Our conversations with CORE made it clear that they have not just the expertise to do this work but a **depth of expertise.** 

"

-CORE partner

Participant perspectives on community health workers' critical role in their experience of the Pathways Program to address complex needs. Journal of Ambulatory Care Management, July 2023. © READ MORE

Patient perception of education, care coordination, and psychological distress after developing facial paralysis: A qualitative study. JAMA Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery, June 2023. © READ MORE

Investing in community power building to increase civic engagement through voting: Lessons from the Building Healthy Communities initiative. *Journal of Community Practice*, May 2023. **©** READ MORE

Bias-based bullying in california schools: The impact of the 2016 election cycle. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence,* March 2023. **© READ MORE** 

Evaluation of an integrated intervention to address clinical care and social needs among patients with type 2 diabetes. *Journal of General Internal Medicine,* March 2023. **©** READ MORE

# What's Next

Here are a few of the exciting CORE projects and partnerships launching in 2024.

### OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

## Supporting Oregon's 2022–2027 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver

In late 2023, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) announced it had selected CORE to develop the evaluation design for Oregon's 2022–2027 1115 Medicaid waiver. This initiative will shape and guide how Oregon measures the success of its innovative 1115 waiver benefits and services for eligible Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members.

In collaboration with OHA and OHP partners and members, CORE will focus on three major components:

- Formulating an interested parties engagement plan to gain input and insight from a diverse range of groups and individuals
- Developing a robust evaluation design leveraging input from interested parties
- Gathering input and recommending ongoing governance processes for evaluation implementation

The aim is to produce a rigorous evaluation design informed by the experiences of OHP beneficiaries, community-based organizations, Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), and other interested parties, as well as a commitment to health equity and transparency.

READ MORE

We are so excited to support the evaluation planning for the innovative policies that are part of this 1115 waiver. We hope the evaluation design will help everyone get a clear understanding of the waiver's implementation and impacts, and generate learnings that can help other states follow Oregon's lead.

–Lisa Angus, MPH Program Director, Analytics & Strategic Consulting, CORE



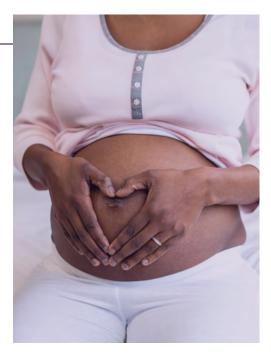
## What's Next

#### PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, HEALTHY BIRTH INITIATIVE

## Can a community & health system partnership improve Black birth outcomes?

In collaboration with Portland State University researcher Dr. Roberta Hunte, CORE is examining the impacts of a partnership between Providence and the Healthy Birth Initiative (HBI) on Black birth outcomes. Providence partners with HBI, a community-based program run by Multnomah County, on efforts to improve policies, practices, and outcomes for Black birthing people.

In 2023, CORE interviewed staff at Providence and HBI to support the organizations' relationship-building efforts. In 2024, with funding from the Housman Foundation for Medical Research, we will expand the study by interviewing patients to explore the partnership's impacts on birth experiences and outcomes.



#### SCAN FOUNDATION

## Collaborating to advance health equity for the aging population

The SCAN Foundation's Advancing Health Equity in Aging Initiative seeks to reduce health inequities and improve the lives of older adults, with an emphasis on individuals from historically marginalized communities. It also aims to increase the power of older adults to push for changes in their communities.

CORE is collaborating with the foundation and its partners to understand the overarching investment approach and potential for spreading this model across California.



#### CAREOREGON

# SHIFT: Transforming behavioral healthcare practices across Oregon

The Strategic Healthcare Investment for Transformation (SHIFT) initiative seeks to transform how behavioral health services are delivered so that people with behavioral health needs are at the center and care teams thrive. CORE has supported SHIFT in its first few years through formative evaluation and by creating a collaborative learning and evaluation system plan. The year ahead will see several major milestones for SHIFT, including an announcement of the clinics selected to implement SHIFT. CORE will also launch the learning and evaluation system.

Learn more about SHIFT at CareOregon's website

## What's Next

#### **OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY**

### Do financial incentives impact the provision of interpretive services in Medicaid?

In late 2023, CORE began investigating how financial incentives impact the provision of interpretive services and healthcare use among Medicaid members. While federal law has long required access to interpretive services, Oregon has taken the innovative approach of incentivizing health systems to provide these services. This study, funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), will evaluate the extent to which this approach impacts implementation and provision of interpretive services in healthcare.



#### CAREOREGON

## Studying an innovative approach to housing the healthcare workforce

In 2023, CareOregon purchased a Seaside, Oregon, hotel to convert into housing for the region's healthcare workforce and for individuals with disabilities. CORE is currently studying this innovative project to better understand its impacts and to inform other systems and communities considering similar investments.

#### PROVIDENCE

## Investigating a low barrier colorectal cancer screening program

With funding from The Patrick & Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation, CORE will study a low barrier colorectal cancer (CRC) screening program at Providence that uses fecal immunochemical testing (FIT) kits to increase access to screening. However, for the full value of FIT screening to be realized, FITs must be completed annually and patients who screen positive need follow-up care. This study will explore equity, persistency, and follow-up for FIT screening to improve value and reduce disparities not only with respect to CRC screenings, but also CRC outcomes.



For FIT tests to be effective in detecting colorectal cancer, they must be completed every year. This study will explore persistency and equity in FIT testing so we can make sure that everyone has access to CRC screening and the potential for early detection that we know saves lives.

> –Sarah Roth, PhD Associate Research Scientist, CORE

# With Gratitude

... to all our **PARTNERS AND FUNDERS**, project participants, and community stakeholders for your collaboration and support. We're proud to be a part of your important work!

... to the **COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PROVIDERS, AND SURVEY AND INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS** who put your trust in us and took the time to contribute to this work by sharing your insights and experiences.

... to the entire **CORE TEAM** for your hard work, ideas, and commitment to advancing health and health equity every day.

# Thank You

# Partners & Funders

CORE's work is generously funded and conducted in partnership with our cross-sector partners, including foundations, government agencies, ACHs, CCOs, health systems, and more. Examples include:

#### ACCESS

Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)

Amgen

**Better Health Together** 

Bridges to Change

CareOregon

Center for the Study of Social Policy

**Central City Concern** 

**Clatsop Child Care** 

**Coalicion Fortaleza** 

Feed'em Freedom Foundation

**Growing Gardens** 

Health Share of Oregon

**Hearst Foundation** 

Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)

Jack Coleman Communications

Jackson Care Connect

Jackson County Mobile Crisis Response

**Maslow Project** 

MDRC

**MEF** Associates

Merck

Mid-Columbia Community Action Council Northwest Regional Child Care Resource & Referral

Oasis Center of the Rogue Valley

Oregon Health & Science University

**Oregon Health Authority** 

**Oregon Patient Safety Committee** 

Pfizer

Pixel37 Design

Portland State University

Preparedness & Treatment Equity Coalition (PTEC)

**Project Access NOW** 

Providence Center for Cardiovascular Analytics, Research + Data Science (CARDS)

Providence Community Health Investment

**Providence Genomics** 

Providence Health Research Accelerator

Providence Medford Community Health Foundation

Providence Mental Health Strategy Team

Providence Milwaukie Foundation

Providence Milwaukie Hospital— Community Teaching Kitchen

Providence Portland Medical Foundation Providence St. Vincent Medical Foundation

**Restoration House** 

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** 

Rockwood Community Development Corporation

Rose Haven

SCAN Foundation

Southwest Washington Accountable Community of Health (SWACH)

The California Endowment

The Patrick & Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation

The William E. & Thelma F. Housman Foundation for Medical Research

**Todos Juntos** 

Truveta

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

**Uncommon Solutions** 

United Way of Jackson County

Vancouver Housing Authority

Washington State Department of Health

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**Evidence** for Change