

**Abstract**

This Community-Based Participatory Research aims to strengthen the Coalition of Communities of Color in Multnomah County by providing accurate and culturally-sensitive data, combined with effective advocacy resources, to support advocacy practices and influence the policy environment.

Local leaders in key policy settings have expressed a willingness to listen and have stepped up with some funding to gain insight into the experience of people of color, immigrants, and refugees in their systems. Funding has been secured from Multnomah County, the City of Portland and the NW Health Foundation.

Six communities are represented by this coalition: African American, Native American, Latino, African Immigrant, Slavic and Asian/Pacific Islander. Demographic profiles of each community are being prepared that outline experiences, needs and strengths. This work involves community consultations on recommended methodologies, collation of secondary data, analysis of administrative, Census and other survey data, and original data collection. Dissemination activities follow. We then develop appropriate advocacy tools and delivery systems to arm communities of color to speak for themselves. The project also provides public agencies with the data necessary to better serve these communities in an equitable manner, and enhance the cultural effectiveness of both policies and funding. Presentations to researchers and analysts will occur at regular intervals.

Under the direction of the Coalition of Communities of Color, Dr. Ann Curry-Stevens (PI) leads a team conducting this research.