

9. Potential Community Partners for Health Literacy Efforts

More mileage can come to your program's health education efforts if you enter into partnership with area health care providers, educators, and training institutions. Below is a list of possible partners you might want to contact in your program's community.

Public health clinics

Public health nurses

Public health educators

Health care social workers

Area Health Education Center (AHEC) branches. AHECs are federally-funded agencies that work on health issues relevant to their region.

Local American Medical Association Foundation members

Cross-cultural education agencies

Hospitals. Many hospitals have employees and funding for health education and community outreach. Contact a public relations representative of a local hospital to see what they can offer for your students (e.g. assistance with a health fair, a hospital tour, a presentation on a health topic important to your learners).

Medical and nursing schools. Medical and nursing students need training in sensitivity to health literacy and cultural diversity among their future patients. It is in the interest of these professional schools to bring your students and their students together. Expect scheduling a meeting or visit to take some effort, as no doubt medical and nursing students are very busy.

Social service organizations

Nonprofit organizations working on health-related issues (e.g., an HIV clinic, medical or nursing schools, associations focusing on individual ailments such as diabetes or cancer)

Churches and other religious institutions

Pharmacies

Community centers