



# PASOS (STEPS)

Greenville Health System | Greenville, S.C.

## Overview

In 2005, PASOs, a community-reaching organization created in response to research showing that Latino families in South Carolina value health and wellness, began addressing the need for

trusted sources of information and support to address challenges and fill in gaps. PASOs, which means steps in Spanish, works with the rapidly growing Latino population of South Carolina to promote health, education, advocacy and leadership development – all of which are steps to create a strong, healthy South Carolina. PASOs works to partner with health care and social service providers to help them provide more effective resources. The organization, supported and housed for the last 10 years by the University of

Carolina Arnold School of Public Health, has drawn financial and staffing support over the years from multiple hospitals, regional and national foundations, and state government contracts. PASOs provides programming in 14 South Carolina counties and provides services to families from 36 counties.

PASOs expanded to Greenville County in 2009 through a partnership with the Greenville Health System and originally started in the OB-GYN Clinic. They then expanded into the Center for Pediatric

Medicine and are now embedded in the Accountable Communities department as a key component in the system’s overall population health efforts. The team has effectively forged deep connections and *confianza*, or trust, with the Latino communi-

ties of Greenville and surrounding areas.

PASOs supports a significant proportion of the county’s Latino population with the PASOs Health Connections Program. Community Health Workers (CHWs) work closely with individuals and their families, in a variety of settings, such as clinics and community-based locations, connecting them with health and other needed services as well as addressing multiple social determinants of health. PASOs utilizes the CHW model and nurtures grassroots



**PASOs helps the Latino community and service providers work together for strong, healthy families through education, support and grassroots leadership development.**

leaders within communities. This model helps amplify the voices and lived experiences of community members to inform the solutions that affect their lives. Working concertedly with other initiatives under GHS’ Accountable Communities and Medical Neighborhoods model, PASOs focuses on overcoming barriers to healthier communities and establishing programs and infrastructure where resources are lacking. PASOs’ partnership with the GHS Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) greatly enhanced the success of this new program. “Having a PASOs representative

every time the bus was in the most popular location for our Latino families made the participants feel welcome and at ease that they were in a safe location. We have developed such a great trust that over 50 percent of the patients at the MHC are Hispanic.” — Rut Rivera, PASOs Program Manager, GHS

## Results and Impact

In the past year from September 1st, 2017 - August 31st, 2018:

- 2,211 unique Latino participants have had an intervention with PASOs Greenville, from providing referrals to services, such as medical, legal and education, to helping with Medicaid, WIC and SNAP enrollments
- 644 people have been reached through 21 PASOs outreach events in the community
- 851 unique parents and children have been successfully connected with Medicaid applications or renewals
- 677 new enrollments to WIC to increase access to healthy food, with more families being educated on WIC and its benefits
- 220 Latino individuals have been connected to Greenville Health System’s Mobile Health Clinic
- 139 pregnant women have received PASOs services, which helped them make healthy life choices during and after pregnancy; all pregnant participants also received information and supplements of folic acid to prevent neural tube defects
- 129 families were educated on the importance of early childhood literacy and its relationship to brain development during early childhood and families were provided bilingual books to read at home

- 40 partner organizations in Greenville County were supported by the PASOs’ team to improve the quality of care for Latino families

## Potential Cost Savings Benefits (calculated by PASOs)

- \$4.21 saved for every dollar spent on a pregnant woman with WIC
- \$1.37 saved for every dollar invested in augmented prenatal care for high-risk pregnancies
- \$1,768 - \$5,560 cost saved per birth by reducing hospital and NICU admissions thanks to intensive prenatal care
- 14.7 percent fewer inpatient hospital stays when Medical Home initiatives are implemented
- 25.9 percent fewer Emergency Department visits when Medical Home initiatives are implemented
- \$200 million is the annual medical care and surgical costs for people with spina bifida

## Future Goals

- Expanding the program to other locations served by GHS to address local needs
- Collaborating with a group of local advisors to address emerging needs and share resources
- Expanding outreach with a team of 20 volunteer “Promotores” (CHW volunteers) in local Hispanic churches and other community locations

## CONTACT

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