

FOCUS Program Seeks to Reduce Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening

Cancer affects many people, but it doesn't affect them equally.¹ **Nearly half of premature colorectal cancer (CRC) deaths are related to racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic inequalities.**² The most vulnerable patient populations often go unscreened for CRC,¹ which is one reason these communities are up to 11% more likely to be diagnosed with CRC in later stages,³ when treatment is less effective.

Exact Sciences is committed to overcoming barriers to care and ensuring access to our tests regardless of a patient's race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, or geographic location.

To support this mission, Exact Sciences created the **Funding Opportunities for CRC Screening Uptake Strategies (FOCUS) Program** which provides grant funding to community organizations, health foundations, public health organizations, and advocacy groups to expand access to colorectal cancer screening and create affordable pathways to follow-up diagnostic care.

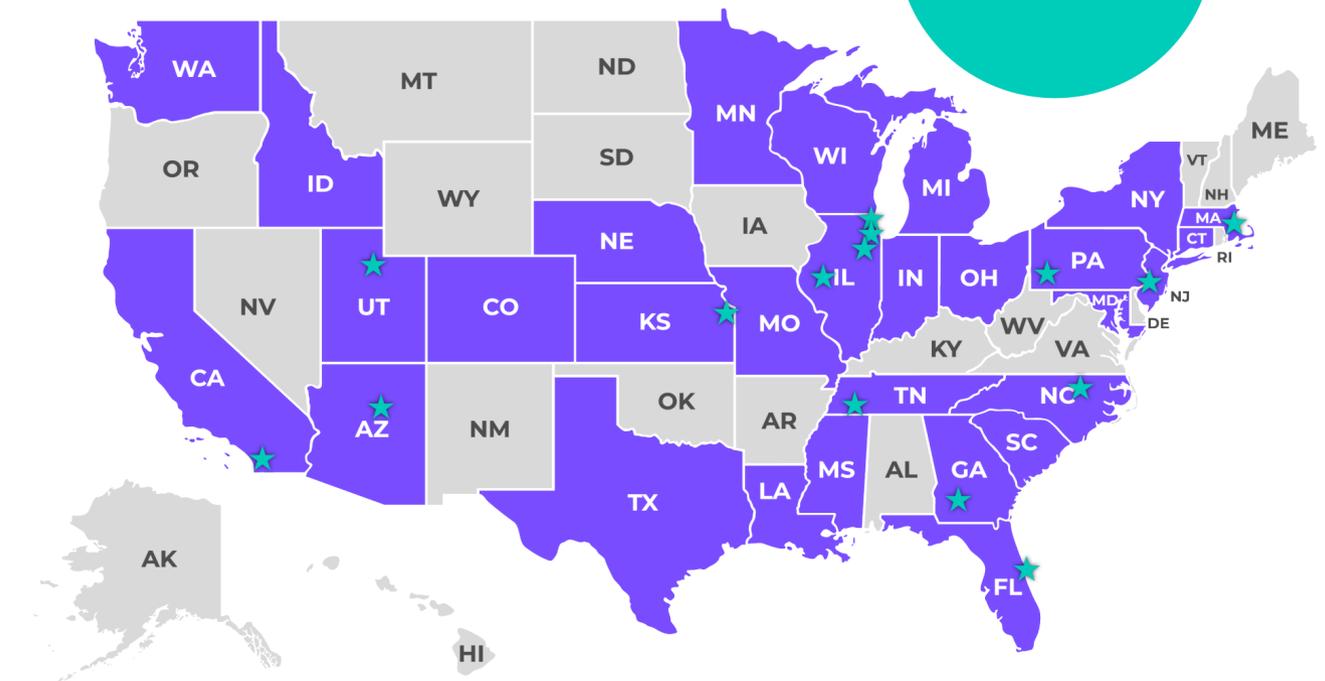
PROGRAM REACH

Since its launch in 2022, the FOCUS Program has awarded more than \$5.3 million to 93 organizations in 29 states.

While each program is unique and reflects the needs of its specific communities, all programs are grounded in evidence-based and informed interventions to maximize impact.



MAP KEY ★ Fall 2024 Awardees ● States with FOCUS awardee(s) since 2022



FALL 2024 AWARDEES

- Advance Community Health, Inc.
- Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation – Sacred Circle Healthcare
- Hardeman County Community Health Center
- Horizons Community Solutions, Inc.
- North Country Healthcare
- North Side Christian Health Center
- Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
- Tapestry 360 Health
- TCA Health, Inc.
- Turner House Clinic, Inc., d.b.a. Vibrant Health
- Virtua Health Foundation
- Vista Community Clinic
- Whittier Street Health Center
- Whole Family Health Center, Inc.
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

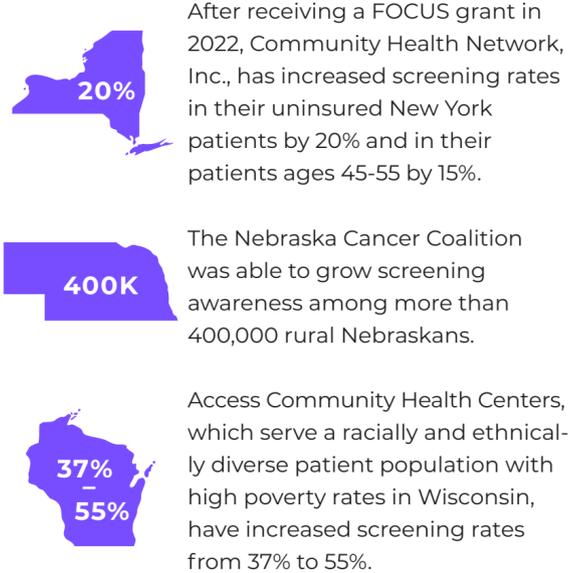
PROGRAM IMPACT

Across the country, FOCUS grant awardees have created a lasting impact in their local communities.

“I think the grant motivated us to come up with a solution to a problem we might’ve put on the back burner—and so far, the results have been incredible.”

— **DR. KYLE KOSTER**
*Assistant Professor of General Internal Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
FOCUS grant recipient in 2022*

At the midcycle check-in with the 2022 awardees, 60% had already shown an increase in patient screenings and nearly all reported a meaningful focus on community education to engender a more aware and informed population.



REFERENCES

1. ACS. Cancer facts & figures 2024. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2024.
2. Jemal A, Siegel RL, Ma J, et al. Inequalities in premature death from colorectal cancer by state. *J Clin Oncol.* 2015;33(8):829-83
3. Ho C, Kornfield R, Vittinghoff E, et al. Late presentation of colorectal cancer in a vulnerable population [published correction appears in *Am J Gastroenterol.* 2013 Jun;108(6):1020]. *Am J Gastroenterol.* 2013;108(4):466-470.