**Community Outreach to combat COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in**

**immigrant and refugee communities from former Soviet Union (FSU)**

**Допоможіть нам підтримати українську та російську громади, просуваючи**

**вакцинацію проти COVID-19**

**Помогите нам поддержать украинское и российское сообщества в**

**продвижении вакцинации против COVID-19**

**Help us support Ukrainian and Russian communities to promote vaccination against COVID-19!**

**Objective**: To assemble a listserv of Health Sciences students and professionals with interest in supporting immigrants and refugees from the former Soviet Union and/or who are themselves from those communities or backgrounds, may speak those languages represented, and interact or live within those cultural communities in the Puget Sound region, to help address concerns and mistrust, as well as support the COVID vaccine effort for these vulnerable communities.

**Current State**: According to data collected through a WA DOH workgroup, WA state has a large population of immigrants and refugees from the FSU. Focus groups with these communities reveal barriers to vaccination and vaccine hesitancy related to:

\*lack of Russian and Ukrainian speaking providers

\*distrust of the healthcare system and government agencies

\*lack of culturally appropriate care

\*vaccine hesitancy messages shared through close social/community channels.

Potential opportunities to participate as a student of the Health Sciences to support this initiative in partnership with SKCPH:

1. Provide insights and guide direction related to the community outreach, and identify barriers to vaccination for immigrants/refugees from FSU
2. Connect public health with key leaders and stakeholders within FSU communities to build trust.
3. Participate in community vaccination events (clinical and/or non-clinical roles)
4. Provide translation support for community vaccination events.

Opportunities for health professionals might include:

* + - 1. Acting as cultural liaisons
      2. Providing language support during community outreach events
      3. Promoting connections to key community leaders
      4. Helping with design and dissemination of culturally and linguistically appropriate education about COVID-19 vaccination

If becoming involved with this project sounds interesting and/or is a potential service-learning opportunity, please respond to Tamara Cyhan Cunitz, School of Nursing – [cyhant@uw.edu](mailto:cyhant@uw.edu)