

AES WORLD LANGUAGES AND  
CULTURES INSTITUTE (AWLCI)

# PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

AWLCI IS ADVANCING EQUITY IN HEALTHCARE BY  
GIVING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS SPANISH  
LANGUAGE SKILLS.



# ABOUT AWLCI'S MEDICAL SPANISH PROGRAM

The Boston Medical Spanish Center, a division of AWLCI, has been teaching Spanish to Boston's healthcare professionals since 2011. AWLCI has taught over 800 students in the Boston region, is skilled in curriculum development, along with on-site and virtual course delivery.

Existing and prior partners include Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professionals, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, and Harvard Medical and Dental School.

The Medical Spanish Language Program provides partner organizations with access to virtual courses throughout the year. Students can join a new session every six weeks, completing either one course or continuing with their training. By completing the course, healthcare workers will gain the language skills they need to communicate with their patients and establish positive patient/provider relationships.



## THE NEED

It is difficult for providers to establish relationships with their Spanish-speaking patients if they can't speak the language. This can lead to a lack of trust and hinder communication, while also making it less likely that patients will receive preventative or early care. Healthcare organizations with limited language proficiency on staff may have higher rates of ER visits due to patients not seeking early help, potentially prolonging or worsening their health problems prior to them receiving urgent care.

# HELP US TO TRAIN MORE HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

**There has never been a more critical time to invest in breaking down language barriers within the healthcare community.**

According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccination rates are lower in Black and Hispanic communities than the general population. “Black and Hispanic people have received smaller shares of vaccinations compared to their shares of cases and compared to their shares of the total population in most states” (CDC, 2021). There is an urgent need to eliminate any barriers to patient/provider relationships that are built on trust and communication.

We are seeking to establish partnerships with:

- Hospitals
- Medical clinics
- Dental offices
- Community organizations
- Non-profits
- Educational institutions
- Funders
- Volunteers
- Medical providers
- Individuals and trusts
- Student organizations

## WHAT PARTNERS DO

Partners make a financial contribution to AWLCI in the form of a grant or fee-for-service model. These funds are used to provide no-cost Medical Spanish classes to Boston's healthcare community. Partners can restrict participants to those in their organization, department or programs or leave them unrestricted and all healthcare students and professionals .

Partner contribution levels start at \$2,500 per year. Become a partner today by emailing Mauricio Gavilanes, Executive Director, at [Mauricio.gavilanes@awlci.org](mailto:Mauricio.gavilanes@awlci.org).

