

Shazia Anam Akram, MPH

Shazia Anam Akram has been devoted to issues of social justice and creating social change for more than 10 years. She is currently founder and chair of the South Asian Health Project, working to systemically address immigrant and minority health disparities for South Asians in the United States. Prior to this, Ms. Akram worked at the Asian American Federation of New York and led the HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Project, working with 14 community-based agencies to develop health programs, creating numerous collaborations and partnerships. She also managed a city-wide partnership for agencies delivering culturally-appropriate services for individuals of Asian descent, affected by September 11th tragedies. Her efforts ensured Asian translation services were available at World Trade Center Assistance sites immediately after September 11th.

Ms. Akram also works as an advisor and technical assistance provider, her expertise is on program development and strategic planning in the areas of community health and capacity building. Ms. Akram has launched several innovative and culturally appropriate pilot projects, such as those for youth, women, sexual health, and patient-centered care. Throughout, Ms. Akram has worked with several South Asian organizations, which include groups such as, Sakhi for South Asian Women, South Asian Youth Action and South Asian Public Health Association. She helped to spearhead the Women's Health Initiative at Sakhi, addressing health consequences of partner violence. She also served as co-chair for the South Asian Public Health Association.

In addition to her experience in institutional capacity building for non-profit groups, Ms. Akram has a private sector background in health care and organizational management. Shazia Anam Akram holds a BA in psychology from Rutgers University and an MPH in health policy and management from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.