

Palouse Alliance Community Resource Platform

Project Description and Clarification

Palouse Alliance Team



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I. Introduction

The Palouse Alliance Community Resource Platform is a digital initiative designed to make community health and wellness resources easier to find and easier to use across the Palouse region. Residents often need help quickly, but services are frequently scattered across separate nonprofit sites, county and state pages, flyers, and social media posts. That fragmentation creates real friction. People may not know what exists, which organization to contact, or whether information is still current. This platform addresses that gap by organizing trusted resources in one place and presenting them through a clear, searchable interface.

The platform is intended to support a wide range of users, including students, families, seniors, veterans, and individuals seeking housing support, food assistance, mental health services, or community programs. Rather than forcing residents to learn multiple websites and terminology, the platform will provide consistent categories, filters, and plain language descriptions. It will also highlight upcoming events and deadlines through a shared community calendar so residents can plan ahead instead of finding information at the last minute.

Accessibility is a core goal [3]. The project will follow established accessibility guidance so that residents using assistive technologies, mobile devices, or limited bandwidth can still access critical information. In addition, the platform supports the organizations behind the services by reducing repeated outreach work and enabling simpler updates. Over time, this creates a more reliable community information hub, improves coordination among participating groups, and reduces the information gaps that can prevent people from getting help.

II. Background and Related Work

Currently, information about local services is spread across dozens of different websites and social media accounts, making it difficult for residents to find what they need. Many organizations are available to help, yet it is nearly impossible for residents to access the full range of services in a single search. This project is inspired by the Whiteman County Veterans website (<https://whitmancountyveterans.com>), which brings together vital information for local veterans. Research on community resource platforms highlights the importance of good design and accessibility [1][2].

Our platform will utilize that successful model to serve the entire Palouse community in hopes that all residents, not just veterans, have a single, reliable place to find the support they need. Past successes highlight the value of having an organization manage content updates, which helped to inform this project's design. We will deliver a custom made platform featuring a user friendly interface for searching, community calendars, and posting.

As the project develops, skills required include modern full stack web development, user authentication and data security, **SQL**, **AWS**, UI/UX design, database design, and content moderation and posting systems.

III. Project Overview

The Palouse Alliance Community Resource Platform will offer a community calendar and tools for organizations to post flyers for events, and meeting dates. Some core requirements include accessibility and responsiveness, the site should be available on laptop, tablet, and mobile devices, with support for those with disabilities. Members of the Alliance can keep their listing current and share announcements. Visitors will be able to filter to make it easier to connect with

the relevant event hosts. The calendar shows upcoming deadlines and events, while admins can moderate what is being posted to ensure the content is accurate and appropriate for the community. Technical development will rely on modern web **HTML** frameworks. By focussing on making the website easy to use for the public and members, the project aims to improve events and lower barriers for everyone.

We expect to see increased discoverability and accessibility, better coordination, and a scalable platform that can be extended or adapted to future needs. We also aim to reduce the manpower required to post events and meeting dates so members can better focus on the community.

IV. Client and Stakeholder Identification and Preferences

Allison Rockwell (allison.rockwell@wsu.edu) serves as the primary client. She is responsible for communicating requirements, reviewing deliverables, and providing consolidated feedback from Alliance membership. She requests a platform with a low learning curve for end users and contributors. The main stakeholders include the Alliance organizations, the community members accessing the website, event organizers and volunteers, and technical maintainers.

For members, the ability to update listings, share events, and post flyers is essential. They can also protect sensitive details and display only chosen contact or service information. The general public values reliable information, responsive design, and clear categorization.

The initial meeting from the stakeholder helped us to realize we need an integrated calendar and simple flyer posting options. Consistent branding are priorities due to the nature of the website (for the public). Communication between the development team and Alliance will be through regular biweekly meetings. The reviews will be to review progress with requirements and gather feedback.

The platform must be highly accessible, and have a simple interface, must be available on laptop, tablet, and mobile devices, must be secure and respect the privacy of organization members, align with community values such as being inclusive and supportive, and be low maintenance, with content management having intuitive interfaces.

V. Glossary

HTML	(HyperText Markup Language); standard markup language used to create the structure of webpages.
SQL	Structured Query Language; standardized programming language used to manage and manipulate data in databases.
AWS	Amazon Web Services; A cloud computing platform that offers scalable services like storage, databases, and networking operations.

VI. References

- [1] U.S. General Services Administration, "Section508.gov," [Online]. Available: <https://www.section508.gov/>. [Accessed: Feb. 15, 2026].

- [2] American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), "Why Digital Accessibility Benefits Everyone," Aug. 06, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://aphsa.org/resources/why-digital-accessibility-benefits-everyone-access-beyond-disabilities-the-catalyst/>. [Accessed: Feb. 15, 2026].
- [3] W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI), "Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Overview," [Online]. Available: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>. [Accessed: Feb. 15, 2026].
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- [5] W3C, "WAI-ARIA Overview," [Online]. Available: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/aria/>. [Accessed: Feb. 15, 2026].
- [6] U.S. Department of Justice, "ADA Requirements: Effective Communication," [Online]. Available: <https://www.ada.gov/resources/effective-communication/>. [Accessed: Feb. 15, 2026].