



# The California Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the CA Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund?

The California Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund is a bold, innovative proposal to provide resources directly to community-based organizations, including clinics, and tribal organizations (CBOs) to identify the most pressing health and racial justice issues in their communities and develop solutions to address them. Funded initiatives will: 1) reduce health and social inequities that impact communities of color and other historically marginalized communities and 2) transform community conditions and institutional government systems to promote racial justice.

In another year of historic budget surplus, in addition to the funding for health departments in the Governor's January 2022 budget proposal, co-sponsors support an ongoing commitment of at least \$100 million to the Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund to support CBOs as part of a comprehensive approach to improving the health and well-being of our communities.

### 2. Why does California need a Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund?

Latinx, Black, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Asian American, American Indian, LGBTQ and low-income communities are bearing the brunt of health and/or social impacts of COVID-19 including a higher risk of contracting and dying from COVID-19, high rates of job and income loss, insecure housing, and food insecurity.<sup>1,2</sup>

Major contributing risk factors include a legacy of structural racism which has resulted in an unfair burden of largely preventable pre-existing health conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes. We spend billions to treat these diseases but little to change the community conditions that drive them such as lack of access to healthy food; crowded or insufficient housing; and unstable employment.<sup>3,4</sup>

### 3. Why is it critical to provide funding to community-based organizations, including nonprofits, community clinics and tribal organizations?

CBOs have played essential roles in containing COVID-19 by identifying local barriers to testing and vaccination and serving as trusted messengers in their communities. These on-the-ground organizations have first-hand knowledge of local community conditions and how they impact health and racial justice. For far too long, CBOs' efforts have been constrained by inadequate, inflexible, and discontinuous funding which prevents them from taking successful policies or programs to scale or initiating new ones to address emerging issues.

### 4. What types of programs will the California Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund Support?

Health Equity grants will support organizations to take action to reduce health inequities at the local level by addressing the social determinants of health which drive preventable diseases such as: 1) housing security, 2) food security & healthy food systems, 3) economic stability, 4) schools and childcare, 5) community violence & hate crimes, 6) youth criminal justice, and 7) health promoting built environments & environmental justice.

Racial Justice grants will support innovative approaches to promote racial justice via systems and governance changes such as: 1) overcoming structural barriers to racial equity in how government activities are implemented, 2) improving data systems and collection to ensure that demographic data recognizes all Californians, 3) supporting racially equitable leadership and participation in sectors such as arts and culture, technology, and research.

The range of allowable uses is intentionally broad. The health and social impacts of COVID-19 at a community level are not wholly reflected in statewide data sets. Local needs assessments are critical tools for community leaders to identify the most pressing inequities in their communities and tailor best practices to local circumstances.

## **5. What types of organizations will be eligible for funding?**

Nonprofit organizations, community clinics, and tribal organizations which focus exclusively on American Indian and Alaska Native populations will be eligible to apply for funds.

## **6. How will funds be distributed?**

Health equity grants shall be awarded to eligible applicants from specific geographic areas based on elevated rates of death from COVID-19 and high risk of other health inequities evidenced by social and environmental indicators of health. Grants will be awarded to initiatives that focus on populations that experience the highest rates of health and social inequities. At least one area in every region of CA shall be selected.

Racial justice grants shall be awarded to applicants that: demonstrate meaningful engagement with disproportionately impacted communities, have a direct impact of racial equity, and demonstrate equitable practices in design and implementation including in staffing, contracting, and targeting beneficiaries. Both programs will set aside a portion of funds for small CBOs.

## **7. How will the Fund be overseen?**

An Oversight and Accountability Committee with diverse representation will be established to collaborate with California Department of Public Health's Office of Healthy Equity (OHE) in guiding the distribution, implementation, and assessment of impact of local and regional grants dispersed by the Fund. All grantees from the same geographic area will be required to participate in local collaboratives that include their local health departments to ensure coordination of efforts.

## **8. How will the impacts of the Fund be measured?**

OHE will contract with an independent entity to collect data and measure the impact of initiatives in each of the targeted areas. The entity will provide technical assistance to grantees to develop continuous quality improvement strategies to achieve measurable improvements in the effectiveness of funded projects. Best practices in community-based participatory research will be incorporated in collecting and analyzing information from grantees to ensure accountability and determine effectiveness of projects. Evaluation results will be compiled annually and presented to the Oversight Committee.

For more information, contact Tracey Rattray: [tracey.rattray@phi.org](mailto:tracey.rattray@phi.org), 510-301-8981

3/25/22

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://covid19.ca.gov/equity/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-COVID-CA-Health-May-2020.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/healthequity/racism-disparities/index.html>

**Over 200 organizations have signed on in support of the  
Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund:**

Abrazar, Inc.	California Food and Farming Network	ChangeLab Solutions
Access Reproductive Justice	California Health Collaborative	Changing Tides Family Services
Albie Aware Breast Cancer Foundation	California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative	Children's Cause Orange County
Alcohol Justice	California Immigrant Policy Center	Children's Defense Fund-California
Alliance for a Better Community	California Latinas for Reproductive Justice	Christie's Place
AltaMed Health Services	California Pan-Ethnic Health Network	Chula Vista Elementary School District
American Heart Association	California Primary Care Association	Comité Cívico Del Valle
API Equality-LA	California Reinvestment Coalition	Common Threads
APLA Health	California School Nurses Organization	Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo
APTP SAC	California School-Based Health Alliance	Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)	California State University Channel Islands, Department of Health Science	Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
Asian Resources, Inc.	California Urban Partnership	Community Health Councils
Asian Youth Center	CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates	Community Health Partnership, Inc.
BANJ Health Center Inc.	Californians for Safety and Justice	Cooperation Humboldt
Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII)	Capitol City Black Nurses Association	CRLA Foundation
Be Smooth, Inc.	Central California LGBTQIA+/2S Collaborative	Cultiva La Salud
Berkeley Food Institute	Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)	Detour Empowers FANCY Teen Girls
Black Leadership Council	Central Valley Pacific Islander Alliance	Dignity Health
Black Women for Wellness Action Project	Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño	DOCS4POC
BreastfeedLA	Centro Del Inmigrante	Dovetail Learning, Inc.
CA4Health	Ceres Community Project	Ecology Center
California Access Coalition		Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits)		Empowerment Association
California Black Health Network		End Hep C SF
California Black Women's Collective		Esperanza Community Housing Corporation
California Black Women's Health Project		Essential Access Health
California Chronic Care Collaborative in San Diego County		Face to Face, Ending HIV in Sonoma County

Faith in the Valley  
First 5 Alameda County  
Fresno Barrios Unidos  
Fresno Community Health Improvement Partnership (FCHIP)  
Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM)  
Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce  
Gods' Grace Outreach Ministries, International  
Health Access California  
Healthy African American Families  
Healthy Hearts Institute  
HEART of Davis  
Helpline Youth Counseling  
Hemophilia Council of California  
Hmong Cultural Center  
Human Impact Partners (HIP)  
Humanidad Therapy & Education Services  
I Am Love  
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective  
Institute for Public Strategies  
International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis (AiArthritis)  
Jakara Movement  
Justice in Aging  
JW Healthcare Insights  
KIXE PBS  
Korean Community Center of the East Bay  
Korean Community Services

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
LC Disability Consulting  
Leah's Pantry  
Let's Kick ASS AIDS Survivor Syndrome  
LifeLong Medical Care  
Little Manila Rising  
Liver Coalition of San Diego  
Loma Linda University School of Public Health  
Los Angeles Christian Health Centers  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches  
Mark Horton LLC  
Maternal and Child Health Access  
Mental Health Advocacy Services  
Mental Health America of Los Angeles  
Merced County Department of Public Health  
Mi Familia Vota  
Mid-City Community Advocacy Network  
Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)  
Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies  
Multicultural Health Foundation  
Mulvaney's B&L  
NARAL Pro-Choice California  
National Harm Reduction Coalition  
National Health Law Program

National Union of Health Care Workers  
NextGen California  
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition  
North Coast Clinics Network  
Northern California Center for Well-Being  
Nourish California  
Nutrition and Fitness Collaborative of the Central Coast (NFCCC)  
Ontrack Program Resources  
Open Door Community Health Centers  
Pacific Asian Counseling Services  
Painted Brain  
Partners in Care Foundation  
Pesticide Action Network  
Physicians for a Healthy California  
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California  
PRC  
Prevention Institute  
Public Health Advocates  
Public Health Institute  
Public Health Strategies  
Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition  
Reach Out  
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention  
Regional Pacific Islander Taskforce - Bay Area  
River Oak Center for Children  
Roberts Family Development Center

Roots Community Health Center  
Roots of Change  
RYSE  
Sacramento Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Advisory Board  
Salud Para La Gente  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
San Francisco Senior and Disability Action  
Sanctuary of Hope  
Scripps Health  
Second Baptist Church  
Seeds of Hope  
SEIU2015  
Sepsis Alliance  
SISTAHFRIENDS Women's Counseling Services  
South Bay Community Services  
Southside Coalition of Community Health Centers  
SSG/Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement  
SSG/PALS for Health  
St. James Infirmary

Street Level Health Project  
Substratum Systems LLC  
Tarzana Treatment Centers Inc.  
Thai Community Development Center  
The Central Valley Urban Institute  
The Children's Partnership  
The Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers  
The Fresno Center  
The G.R.E.E.N Foundation  
The Health Trust  
The Índigo Project  
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health  
The Unity Council  
The Urban Collaborative Project  
Think Dignity (formerly Girls Think Tank)  
Toberman Neighborhood Center  
Transformational Health and Wellness  
Trinity Lutheran Church

United Parents and Students  
United Way Bay Area  
United Ways of California  
United Women of East Africa Support Team  
University of California Berkeley School of Public Health  
Urban Strategies Council  
Veritable Vegetable  
Village Movement California  
WALKSacramento  
Watsonville Law Center  
Wellspring Women's Center  
Western Center on Law and Poverty  
Wholesome Wave  
Wintu Education and Cultural Council  
Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases (WORLD)  
Worksite Wellness LA  
YES Nature to Neighborhoods  
Youth Forward  
Youth UpRising