



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.^{1,2}

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.^{3,4}

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.

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¹ <https://covid19.ca.gov/equity/>

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

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

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

**The following organizations have signed on in support of the
Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund**

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

Dignity Health	Human Impact Partners (HIP)	Mark Horton LLC
DOCS4POC	Humanidad Therapy & Education Services	Maternal and Child Health Access
Dovetail Learning, Inc.	I Am Love	Mental Health Advocacy Services
Ecology Center	Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective	Mental Health America of Los Angeles
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)	Institute for Public Strategies	Merced County Department of Public Health
Empowerment Association	International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis (AiArthritis)	Mi Familia Vota
End Hep C SF	Jakara Movement	Mid-City Community Advocacy Network
Esperanza Community Housing Corporation	Justice in Aging	Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)
Essential Access Health	JW Healthcare Insights	Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies
Face to Face, Ending HIV in Sonoma County	KIXE PBS	Multicultural Health Foundation
Faith in the Valley	Korean Community Center of the East Bay	Mulvaney's B&L
First 5 Alameda County	Korean Community Services	NARAL Pro-Choice California
Fresno Barrios Unidos	Latino Coalition for a Healthy California	National Harm Reduction Coalition
Fresno Community Health Improvement Partnership (FCHIP)	LC Disability Consulting	National Health Law Program
Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM)	Leah's Pantry	National Union of Health Care Workers
Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce	Let's Kick ASS AIDS Survivor Syndrome	NextGen California
Gods' Grace Outreach Ministries, International	LifeLong Medical Care	NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
Health Access California	Little Manila Rising	North Coast Clinics Network
Healthy African American Families	Liver Coalition of San Diego	Northern California Center for Well-Being
Healthy Hearts Institute	Loma Linda University School of Public Health	Nourish California
HEART of Davis	Los Angeles Christian Health Centers	Nutrition and Fitness Collaborative of the Central Coast (NFCCC)
Helpline Youth Counseling	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	
Hemophilia Council of California	Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches	
Hmong Cultural Center		

Ontrack Program Resources	San Francisco Senior and Disability Action	The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
Open Door Community Health Centers	Sanctuary of Hope	The Unity Council
Pacific Asian Counseling Services	Scripps Health	The Urban Collaborative Project
Painted Brain	Second Baptist Church	Think Dignity (formerly Girls Think Tank)
Partners in Care Foundation	Seeds of Hope	Toberman Neighborhood Center
Pesticide Action Network	SEIU2015	Transformational Health and Wellness
Physicians for a Healthy California	Sepsis Alliance	Trinity Lutheran Church
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California	SISTAHFRIENDS Women's Counseling Services	United Parents and Students
PRC	South Bay Community Services	United Way Bay Area
Prevention Institute	Southside Coalition of Community Health Centers	United Ways of California
Public Health Advocates	SSG/Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement	United Women of East Africa Support Team
Public Health Institute	SSG/PALS for Health	University of California Berkeley School of Public Health
Public Health Strategies	St. James Infirmary	Urban Strategies Council
Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition	Street Level Health Project	Veritable Vegetable
Reach Out	Substratum Systems LLC	Village Movement California
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention	Tarzana Treatment Centers Inc.	WALKSacramento
Roberts Family Development Center	Thai Community Development Center	Watsonville Law Center
Roots Community Health Center	The Central Valley Urban Institute	Wellspring Women's Center
Roots of Change	The Children's Partnership	Western Center on Law and Poverty
RYSE	The Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers	Wholesome Wave
Sacramento Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Advisory Board	The Fresno Center	Wintu Education and Cultural Council
Salud Para La Gente	The G.R.E.E.N Foundation	Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases (WORLD)
San Francisco AIDS Foundation	The Health Trust	Worksite Wellness LA
	The Índigo Project	

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