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June 25, 2020

Dear Partners,

I was reminded this week that it has been more than 100 days since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in the region. During this period, we've developed a profound appreciation for the sacrifice and heroism of our health and human service providers, other essential workers who deliver vital services, and businesses we rely on.

At the same time we've been reminded of how many of our systems are deeply flawed, unjust, and racist. We applaud all who are speaking up and speaking out against racism and injustice, from organized protests to everyday conversations. We are all called to action and have a responsibility to do our part in achieving racial and social justice in our communities.

To summarize the past 100 days at the Health Foundation, imagine that gasoline was poured onto the early embers of our mission and values. Our passion for working to create a region where all people can thrive has been part of our DNA since inception, formalized over the past several years by the work of our staff and board. At this moment we understand that our internal work to live up to these values is inextricable from our external efforts to advance equity, and both are more urgent than ever.

While recognizing we are still in the early stages of our equity journey, we are leaning in and will continue to seek opportunities to disrupt racial and other health inequities in our region.

The past 100 days have been filled with tragedy and loss, but have also shown our power as a community to demand better and support each other. This energy reinforces the work ahead of us and continues to push us in a positive direction of change. We know we have a long journey with much to do and much to learn -- but we are moving forward with you. We will continue to seek your counsel, learn from your experiences, make changes needed to support your success, and elevate your stories and expertise throughout our work.

Although we are nearing Phase 4 reopening in New York, we are still in the throes of a global pandemic and economic crisis. We pledge to continue to work with you to protect your circle, while dismantling racism and rebuilding for the better. We are ever grateful for your partnership.

Sincerely,

[Matthew A. Kuhlenbeck](#) (He/Him)

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The [Business Council of New York State](#) is hosting an important and necessary forum on racial equality within business from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, June 25. **An Open Conversation: Racial Inclusion, Diversity and Equality in Business** features a panel with diverse experiences and viewpoints that will lend expert analysis and advice on the struggles of black business owners as well as examine how all business leaders can diversify their workplace at all levels, ensuring that employees maintain an inclusive business environment that respects all employees, customers and clients. Click [here](#) to register for this free webinar.



[M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence](#) invites you to its online event, **Let's Talk About Hate**, from 1 to 3 p.m., Sunday, June 28. Free admission to this webinar is made possible by the [Levine Center to End Hate](#).

Join Alex Hubbell and Kit Miller from the Gandhi Institute for an afternoon dedicated to exploring seldom discussed topics through a variety of perspectives and traditions such as: *What is hate? How does it shape our thoughts, identities, and communities? What can we do about it?* Register [here](#).

In [WXXI's](#) continued series of conversations about race and racism, Connections radio show presents: **How companies can have conversations about race:** Companies across the country are grappling with how to have those conversations internally. Some have coordinated dialogue circles, town halls, and listening sessions, where employees share their experiences with racism, white privilege, and discrimination. Listen to the discussion and browse related topics [here](#).

Recommended Reading

[American Journal of Public Health special section](#) on racial biases and health disparities in the context of 400 years of oppression of African Americans (October 2019)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW: The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) is seeking proposals from non- or for-profit organizations, colleges or universities or other public entities for the leadership and management of the **RWJF Culture of Health Prize**. Applicants must be:

- Dedicated to equity and have a strong knowledge of how things like jobs, housing, and education impact health and opportunity in local communities;
- Experienced in directing a competitive multi-phased community application process that includes managing site visits, facilitating reviews, and administering financial resources; and
- Adept at engaging diverse communities that are bringing partners and residents together to create transformative change in neighborhoods, cities, and regions across the nation.



With a strong desire to seek and uplift examples of communities forging a more inclusive future, applicant organizations must present how they will bring seasoned experience, equity-infused strategies, and innovation to drive the Prize program forward. Up to \$4 million in funds are available. Apply and learn more [here](#).

NEW: Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has announced that \$65 million in federal CARES Act funding is available for child care providers statewide through the [New York Forward Child Care Expansion Incentive program](#). The funding available includes:

- \$20 million to assist childcare program with reopening and expansion of capacity by providing materials to support a more socially distant model, and for supplies and activities associated with reopening and expansion. This may include partitions, short term rental of space, etc.
- \$45 million in childcare Reopening and Expansion Incentive funds to pay for 50% of the cost of a newly opened classroom (maximum grant amount of \$6,000) as an incentive to open the classroom. The temporary funds will phase out over the second and third months as more parents bring their children back into childcare.

The [Golisano Foundation](#) is redirecting approximately \$2 million in grant funding through October to assist organizations in Western New York and Southwest Florida due to the coronavirus crisis. Applicants must be current Bailey and Friends grantees and prospective applicants during the November 2019 - October 2020 fiscal year experiencing unexpected costs incurred due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Learn more [here](#) .

From [Rochester Area Community Foundation](#) : Since 1990, grants from [Rochester's Child](#) have supported quality early childhood development programs within Monroe County. [Applications](#) must be submitted online by 4 p.m. on Friday, August 21.

[Community Crisis Fund](#) activated by the [United Way](#) and [Rochester Area Community Foundation](#)

[Federal, State, and Local Financial Assistance](#) compiled by the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce

[COVID-19 Related Funding Compiled by GrantStation](#)

[Council on Foundations' list of Global Response Funds](#)

[Greater Rochester Health Foundation Resource Page](#)

RESOURCES



Summer Meals are now available! Safe drop-in locations across the city are offering free grab-and-go meals for Rochester youth or their families all summer long. Check out [SummerMealsROC.org](#) for locations and more information.

The Mental Health Association of Rochester/Monroe County's [webpage](#) lists local and national resources (including video chats) to support those who are feeling anxious or overwhelmed.

[New York Forward Book: A Guide to Reopening New York and Building Back Better](#)

Coordinated Care Services, Inc. is sharing its [COVID-19 Paid Leave Quick Guide](#) , designed to help your organization find the right path forward when navigating new

paid leave laws under the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and Emergency Paid Sick Leave from New York State.

COVID-19 testing is available for anyone who is symptomatic. Call (888) 364-3065 or visit [covid19screening.health.ny.gov](#) , click "Start Assessment." Click [here](#) for more information .

Feel unsafe at home? Call [Willow's](#) 24-hour hotline (585) 222-SAFE (7233) or text their 24-hour text line (585) 348-SAFE (7233)

Need child care? [Visit the Child Care Council](#)

[Rochester Black Agenda Group's \(BAG\)](#) declaration of [Racism as a Public Health Crisis](#) . Sign the declaration [here](#) .

[Racial Equity and Justice Initiative – St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center](#)

[Race, Equity and Leadership \(REAL\) Core Team - City of Rochester](#)

[Cultural Competence and Health Equity Center – CCSI, Inc.](#)

[M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence](#)

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

National Summer Learning Week

July 6-11 has been designated summer learning week by the National Summer Learning Association.

National Summer Learning Week is a celebration dedicated to elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to succeed. Post your summer learning event or program and put Rochester NY on the map for summer learning and serving families!

Please consider joining your summer learning colleagues locally and nationally by posting your summer program or activity [here](#).



**NATIONAL
SUMMER
LEARNING WEEK**
JULY 6-11, 2020



#INTERRUPTRACISM in #Rochester

The Urban League of Rochester is encouraging people to let their voices be heard and #INTERRUPTRACISM in #Rochester today!

INTERRUPT RACISM is a collective impact equity platform where community members can help develop and prioritize ideas that may move the needle on racism, heal our community, and propel Rochester forward.

Submissions are open through July 5. Visit interruptracism.com to join the fight!

Foodlink Career Fellowship

The Foodlink Career Fellowship is now accepting applications for its next cohort of Fellows!

The Fellowship is a one-of-a-kind culinary training program that creates a pathway to prosperity for individuals with barriers to sustainable employment.

Fellows accepted into the program go through an intensive, yearlong curriculum that includes both classroom and hands-on training within Foodlink's state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, and will graduate into middle-skills careers in the regional food industry. Learn more and apply [here](#).



PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES TO SHARE

While the region is reopening, school is out, and warmer weather is encouraging us to be more active, we're still in the midst of a pandemic, and our vigilance is needed to continue to see the declines in COVID-19 transmission in the region. Please view and share the following multi-lingual public safety messages from the City of Rochester, Monroe County, and other partners.

PROTECT YOUR CIRCLE

STAY HOME & SAVE LIVES



PROTECT YOUR CIRCLE



The mission of the Greater Rochester Health Foundation is to pursue and invest in solutions that build a healthier region where all people can thrive.

