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**Health**  
*foundation*

June 4, 2020

As we close a tumultuous week around the country with communities responding to racial violence, we continue to be reminded of the deep [health inequities in our region](#) including the disparate impact of COVID-19. We must continue to take steps to battle this pandemic informed by [state](#) and [local](#) guidance while also seeking systemic change.

With both of these crises, many people and organizations are asking [What can I do?](#) The same is true for us, and we welcome your thoughts and recommendations. There is much work to be done.

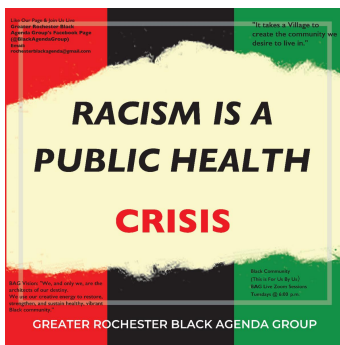
As a health foundation, we know that health disparities by race are pervasive and rooted in structural racism. We are surrounded by an overwhelming amount of data and evidence on inequitable health outcomes that does not need repeating. What's required now is **action**.

Earlier this week we shared our [Statement of Solidarity](#), standing with those who are grieving, and seeking justice and accountability. We share the pain caused by recent events, and recognize our responsibility to act. **Black Lives Matter.**

We've also pledged our support of the [Rochester Black Agenda Group's \(BAG\)](#) declaration of [Racism as a Public Health Crisis](#), and we're encouraging organizations working toward equity to review the declaration and [share your endorsement](#) with the Black Agenda.

Many dedicated partners in equity across our region are redoubling their efforts toward eliminating racism and are calling on the entire community to get involved. The [Urban League of Rochester](#) has announced their [INTERRUPT RACISM](#) collective impact equity platform, asking community members to help develop and prioritize ideas that the community can tackle that may move the needle on racism, heal our community, and propel Rochester forward.

We are committed to listening and learning from our communities in support of solutions to these crises. In addition, we continue to support the [Crisis and Recovery Fund](#) and encourage organizations responding to COVID-19 to continue to look to this resource for support.



## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



As anger and heartbreak have swept across America over the killing of yet another black man at the hands of police, CNN and "Sesame Street" are refocusing their second town hall to address racism. The 60-minute special [Coming Together: Standing Up to Racism. A CNN/Sesame Street Town Hall for Kids and Families](#) will air at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 6. The show will talk to kids about racism, the recent nationwide protests, embracing diversity and being more empathetic and understanding.

View a recorded panel discussion from [Columbia School of Social Work](#) on epidemics and the insidious ways that stigma and racism affect our response to them. Previous epidemics -- HIV/AIDS, SARS, Ebola, and others, have been accompanied by waves of discriminatory behaviors, actions, and policies. Watch the video [here](#).

### Recommended Reading:

Medium.com op-ed by President Barack Obama: [How to Make this Moment the Turning Point for Real Change](#)

[Black Lives Matter collection from Monroe County Library System](#)

[Health Equity Principles for State and Local Leaders in Responding to, Reopening and Recovering from COVID-19](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's](#) Emergency Response for the Healthcare System Innovation Challenge poses the question, "Can you create a digital tool supporting the healthcare system (including providers, government, and public health and community organizations) during a large-scale health crisis (pandemic, natural disaster, or other public health emergency)?" Respond [here](#) by June 12.

The Center for Optimizing Rural Health's (CORH) [application portal](#) for the HRSA-funded Rural Hospital Assistance Program is open. CORH offers technical assistance to 30 rural hospitals each year to help address economic challenges, understand community needs and resources, and find ways to ensure hospitals and communities can keep needed care local. The application is open until July 31 to all rural and Critical Access Hospitals in the U.S.

[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

[Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#)

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

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

[Greater Rochester Health Foundation Resource Page](#)

## RESOURCES

The [Society for The Protection and Care of Children's](#) (SPCC) Mary Ellen Institute has developed an [infographic](#) and tip sheet to support childcare staff and directors as they strive to support the social-emotional health and development of the babies in their care through relationships in the context of this pandemic. In addition, providers are invited to [email](#) SPCC to schedule a virtual meeting for additional support while thinking through best practice recommendations.

The [Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative](#) has been collecting feedback from the community to inform how the Rochester and Monroe County community responds to COVID-19 to support households experiencing poverty. [Share the survey](#) with parents. View current feedback [here](#).

The [City of Rochester Neighborhood & Business Development](#) (NBD) Department is assisting local businesses affected by last weekend's events. Business owners may reach out to NBD directly by calling (585) 428-7848. The City is also assisting business owners dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 via its Business Emergency Retention Grants, [Kiva Rochester](#) loan and loan deferral programs.

As we enter Phase 2 of reopening, New York Forward has created a [Business Reopening Safety Plan Template](#) to help businesses develop a written safety plan that is required by the State for businesses to reopen. Plans must outline how measures in the workplace will prevent the spread of COVID-19. This plan does not need to be submitted to a state agency for approval but must be retained on the premises in the event of an inspection.

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.



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



### Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives Youth Writing Contest

In his 1881 article, [The Color Line](#), Frederick Douglass said, "Few evils are less accessible to the force of reason, or more tenacious of life and power, than a long-standing prejudice." He considered racism a "moral disorder" that distorts perception "according to its own diseased imagination."

In this sentiment, [Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives](#) (FDI) is inviting youth ages 13 to 22 to share their ideas for practical remedies to racism by participating in their "Remedies Blog Contest" in partnership with Grammarly.

For rules and more information, click [here](#).

## ROC PRIDE 2020!

Happy National Pride Month Rochester! Be sure to check out the June [Empty Closet Magazine](#) produced by the [Out Alliance](#) for resources, training opportunities, announcements, and inspiring stories celebrating LGBTQ+ and Allied citizens.

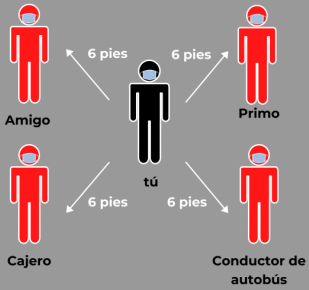
Founded in 1973, Out Alliance (formerly Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley), is a coalition of individuals and groups working to affirm LGBTQ+ identities and create an atmosphere where the diversity of our community can thrive both collectively and separately.



Suponer que **TODOS** tenemos COVID. **MANTENGASE SALVO** y

**MANTENGUSE ALEJADO!**

Si tienes la habilidad de quedarse en casa, hazlo por tu comunidad.



For more information, scan the QR code or go to <https://www.commongroundhealth.org/covid-19-community-resources>

## Students Respond to Community Concerns Over COVID-19

University of Rochester undergraduate students are doing their part to promote social distancing on campus and in the community by sharing a [bilingual poster](#) they created for organizations to display and distribute.

The effort grew out of a suggestion made during an undergraduate public health class from Miles Perry, a Rochester local. Perry and other students developed the text and graphics with the purpose of reaching more residents in Rochester with messaging regarding COVID-19.

Members of the [Latino Health Coalition](#) and the [African American Health Coalition](#) assisted with the project. Please download and share!

### MORE PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES TO BOOST:

**PROTECT YOUR CIRCLE**  
STAY HOME & SAVE LIVES



*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.*

