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greater rochester
Health
foundation

June 18, 2020

Dear Partners,

In the month following the release of [Rochester Black Agenda Group's \(BAG\) declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis](#), 999 individuals and 99 organizations have pledged their support, including the Health Foundation. Learn more about the declaration in this Connections [radio segment](#); sign the declaration [here](#).

This week, we want to amplify the following message from the BAG regarding next steps for organizations and individuals engaging in this important work:

Support does not end with the signing of the declaration. There must be an authentic commitment to action and implementation of specific activities required to achieve the change that we all need.

As an organization or coalition, in order to address racism as a public health crisis, you have committed to at least one of the following:

- *Publicly assert that racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire society.*
- *Conduct an assessment of internal policy, practices, procedures, reporting relationships, and organizational structures to ensure racial equity is a core element of your work.*
- *Work to create an equity and justice oriented organization with staff, and/or other stakeholders identifying specific activities to increase diversity and to incorporate anti-racist principles within leadership, staffing, and contracting.*
- *Incorporate educational and professional development efforts to address and dismantle racism, expand understanding of racism and how racism affects individual and population health.*
- *Provide tools to engage actively and authentically with Black and Brown communities.*
- *Advocate for relevant policies that improve health in Black and Brown communities and support local, state, and federal initiatives that advance social and economic justice while also encouraging individual advocacy to dismantle structural and systemic racism.*
- *Work to build alliances and partnerships with other appropriate organizations that are confronting racism and encourage partners and/or stakeholders to recognize racism as a public health crisis.*
- *Allocate adequate financial and human resources to accomplish all selected activities.*

The BAG is also sharing the following resources for organizations that may need support in getting started:

[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](#)

In closing, we echo the BAG's statement that *"declaring racism as a public health crisis is just one step toward eradicating racism from our society."*

PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES TO SHARE

While the region is reopening and the weather is encouraging us to be more active, we are 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 public safety messages, available in multiple languages:



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



[540WMain](#) is offering an **Introduction to Juneteenth** workshop at 1 p.m., Saturday, June 20 to provide a historical scope of Juneteenth, its present-day relevance and importance to United States history as well as the Black American community.

Tickets to this virtual class facilitated by Calvin Eaton, Antiracism Educator and Founder of 540WMain, are available for purchase [here](#) .

[Greater Rochester Martin Luther King Jr. Commission](#) has compiled a list of Juneteenth celebrations around the Rochester Community. View events [here](#) .

The [ROC the Future](#) Early Childhood Workforce Strategy Team is hosting a virtual event to explore potential benefits of a shared buyers group for employee benefits and insurance, and answer follow-up questions organizations may have. The webinar, **Potential Benefits and Insurance Savings for Early Childhood Organizations** , will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Monday, June 22. Register [here](#) .

Combating Racism: Necessary and Meaningful Action at Work, 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 23: The American Psychological Association has declared, "we are living in a racism pandemic." Now more than ever there is expanding support to impact racism in our community, country and the workplace in a meaningful ways. Join [Disrupt Rochester](#) as Jaime Saunders, President & CEO of United Way of Greater Rochester and Health Foundation board member Sady Fisher, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, bring local perspective and provide a framework for meaningful action.

The discussion will touch on the psychological impact of current events, how that carries over into the workplace, the importance of employing intentional and thoughtful strategies to open dialogue, and ensuring the required trust and safety with emphasis on avoiding risk of causing further damage. Register [here](#).

[Innovation For Equity](#) invites education leaders to participate in its [Summer Virtual Events](#). Monthly events are designed to help a generation of new leaders collaborate and discover innovative ways to improve life outcomes for Black learners of all ages. Up next: **Black Learners and COVID-19: With the IFE Fellows**, 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 23.

[Coordinated Care Services Inc.](#) is offering a Lunch & Learn from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24: **Social Determinants of Health: Morality in the Culture of Apathy and Privilege**. Register [here](#).

[New York State Association for Infant Mental Health](#) is hosting **The Work of Play: Developing Self-Regulation in Early Childhood** with play expert Gil Foley Ed.D. from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, August 20th and Saturday the 21st via Zoom. Dr. Foley will discuss factors that contribute to the development of self-regulatory capacity including: temperament and constitutional factors, cognitive control and executive function and positive parenting and attachment are reviewed in the context expected acquisition of self-regulatory capacity in early childhood. Register [here](#).

Recommended Reading & Resources:

The Smithsonian's [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#) has launched a new [online portal](#) to share resources and teaching tools on race, racism, and racial identity.

[The Anti-Racist Starter Pack](#): 40 TV series, documentaries, movies, TED Talks, and books to add to your learning list (via Parade).

[Teaching Tolerance: Teaching About Race, Racism, and Police Violence](#): resource page for articles, stories, and professional development opportunities.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW: Call for proposals from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) - This year we celebrate a landmark of the women's suffrage movement—the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. And just this week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Yet gender inequities remain a barrier to good health and well-being. Across the globe, nations and communities are finding ways to ensure everybody has a fair and just opportunity to live their healthiest life possible, regardless of gender or sexual identity. That's why RWJF's Evidence for Action (E4A) Program and Global Ideas for U.S. Solutions team are releasing a special call for proposals: *Approaches to Advance Gender Equity from Around the Globe* —to learn from efforts in other countries to ensure that all people—regardless of gender or sexual identity—have access to the opportunities and resources they need to stay healthy. Learn more [here](#).

[Rochester Area Community Foundation](#) is accepting applications for its LGBT+ Giving Circle grants, now through July 23. The LGBT+ Giving Circle unites donors to support organizations that serve, are inclusive of, or are allied with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community to enhance and strengthen our region. Projects and activities outlined in the grant request need to align with the mission and scope of the LGBT+ Giving Circle and must be inclusive of or allied with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Click [here](#) for more information.



Combating Racism: Necessary and Meaningful Action at Work

Tuesday, June 23th
2 - 3 PM



Jaime Saunders
President & CEO
United Way of Greater Rochester



Sady Fischer
Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield

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

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

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

[Greater Rochester Health Foundation Resource Page](#)

RESOURCES

NEW: [The U.S. Small Business Administration](#) and the U.S. Department of the Treasury have posted a revised, user-friendly Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness application implementing the PPP Flexibility Act of 2020:

- [EZ Forgiveness Application](#)
- [Full Forgiveness Application](#)

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

[Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce](#) is sharing resources to help businesses make informed decisions and undertake responsible, fact-based planning for continuity during the pandemic and as businesses prepare to re-open. Visit the resource page [here](#).

[CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#)

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



View and download the job posting [here](#).

Extra: Read RMAPI's Interactive, [digital report](#) marking its first five years in service to our community.

RMAPI Seeks Next Executive Director

The Health Foundation applauds the work of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative and leadership of Dr. Leonard Brock, and we wish him well in his next endeavor!

The Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) is looking for an Executive Director to tackle the next phase of its important work. To best accomplish this next stage in RMAPI's evolution, they are seeking an individual who possesses a rare balance of strategic leadership, motivational leadership, project management savvy, and courageous entrepreneurship.

“I Can’t Breathe” - Black Doctors Rally for Black Lives



The [Black Physicians Network](#) held a “Black Doctors for Black Lives Rally” this past weekend at Washington Square Park to spread awareness of the intersection between racism and health disparities while protesting systemic racism which shortens the lives of black people and worsens their health.

Black physicians, health professionals of all races and ethnicities, and non-health professionals gathered for the protest to peacefully raise awareness of how critical equitable treatment is across

institutions -- including health care.

Community leaders spoke out against racism and its detrimental effect on the health of black people while raising a call to action to promote anti-racist practices across institutions and systems. The event concluded with 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence to commemorate the life of George Floyd and other black victims of police brutality. Read more [here](#) .

HEALTH FOUNDATION NEWS

Grantee Perception Report & COVID-19

Since mid-March, we've been responding, adjusting, and adapting to help do our part to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in the communities we serve. To this end, it was important for us to include input from our grantees and let this information help guide us.

Last month, we engaged the [Center for Effective Philanthropy](#) (CEP) to administer the Grantee Perception Report (GPR), the leading tool for collecting grantee feedback and benchmarking against similar foundations.

The main survey included a series of questions on how COVID is affecting nonprofits' operations and how funders can best support their organizations and those they serve. We wanted to share the following responses with you in advance of the overall survey results:

- Respondents reported shifting plans to focus on COVID response, with between 60 to 80 percent adding new services or projects, re-allocating funding or staff, and suspending or delaying other projects
- More than 30 percent of respondents had already or expected to reduce staff, and more than 50 percent reported experiencing reduced staff or volunteer capacity. Between 30 to 40 percent experienced decreased revenues.
- Operating and financial challenges are occurring in the face of increasing need, as more than 50 percent of respondents reported an increase in demand for programs and services.

Respondents conveyed a strong desire for continued flexibility in use of grant funds, project activities and timelines, and reporting. Respondents also urged funders to sustain grant support and offerings through the recovery phase, anticipating elevated need and strain on organizations and systems to continue.

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.

