March 18, 2021

Dear Partners,

At the Health Foundation, we believe our partnerships are our most valuable resource for advancing our mission of building a healthier region where all people can thrive. We are deeply appreciative of the work you do to support our communities, and your dedication and ingenuity in responding to the COVID pandemic and the racial and social inequities at its center. We are committed to listening and learning from our partners as we strive to be more than a funder, but an amplifier, a multiplier, and a connector.

Last spring we engaged the Center for Effective Philanthropy to conduct the Grantee Perception Report (GPR) to obtain comprehensive feedback on our performance and our grantees’ experience working with us. We thank all who generously shared their feedback on the survey, and would like to share with you some of the results and related changes we’re making through the summary below and the more detailed report available here.

Grantees rated us highly for our impact on their communities and fields, comfort approaching us with challenges, and the helpfulness of our application/selection process. Grantees also gave us high marks for our staff’s commitment to values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. As a matter of both impact and justice, we are striving to apply an equity lens in what, who, where, and how we fund.

As for areas of improvement, we scored lower on our understanding of grantees’ fields and beneficiaries’ needs, and on advancing the state of knowledge and public policy. To improve, we’ll put more time into listening to our partners, be more present in community, and practice greater trust in our grantees—continuing to streamline requirements and increase flexibility in our funding. We’re also expanding our participation and support for advocacy at both the grassroots and grasstops.

In addition, a number of grantees reported infrequent interactions and a desire for more collaboration with their program officers. We are working to ensure more regular touchpoints and proactive thought partnership, and to offer more support beyond our grant dollars. The above changes are part of an intentional shift in our grantmaking approach away from transactions and oversight, and toward stronger partnerships, focus on learning, and sharing of power with our grantees and communities.

We plan to conduct the GPR every few years to formally track our performance over time. Of course, we welcome and appreciate your feedback on how we’re doing and how we can do better at any time, and we’ll continue to keep you informed as to our work and our progress in these areas. Please feel free to reach out to Health Foundation staff.

In partnership,

Greater Rochester Health Foundation
COVID-19 RESOURCES

NEW: In New York State, Wegmans Pharmacy was selected by the state to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to the following groups: individuals age 60+; P-12 teachers, school staff (administrators, support staff, bus drivers), and childcare workers; Wegmans customer-facing store employees; and individuals age 16+ with comorbidities or underlying conditions. Learn more and schedule an appointment here.

Eligible New Yorkers may also reserve an appointment for COVID-19 vaccines via phone (New York State COVID-19 Hotline: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829) or on the Am I Eligible app. Community members calling from within Rochester city limits may dial 311 for assistance in making appointments.

The Finger Lakes COVID-19 Vaccine Hub is providing information about eligibility, area vaccination sites, the science behind vaccine development and more. The Finger Lakes COVID-19 Vaccine Hub collaborates with health departments, health care providers and community partners in Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Orleans, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties. The Hub also partners with Common Ground Health, the region’s health research and planning organization, and with the Finger Lakes COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force, to help ensure equity, transparency, and efficiency in COVID-19 immunizations efforts.

New York State continues to increase testing capacity for COVID-19 on a daily basis. Individuals who have questions regarding eligibility or access for testing should call the New York State COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or visit the NYSDOH website.

From the CDC: Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

In light of recent attacks on Asian and Asian Americans across the country, the Levine Center to End Hate is partnering with Monroe Community College’s Department of Global Education & International Services to present a free, three-part series exploring the Asian and Asian American communities of Greater Rochester, the history of racism and xenophobia aimed at Asian and Asian Americans in our country, and ways we can work together to support our Asian and Asian American neighbors. The Asian Matters virtual series starts Sunday, March 21. Register here.

RBJ Diversity & Inclusion Summit Attend this online summit on Thursday, March 25 to take the first steps in creating your company’s DEI business strategy and making equitable action a priority to improve business outcomes. Topics will focus on the 4 A’s: Action, Authenticity, Accountability and Acknowledgement. Health Foundation board member Sady Fischer will participate in the panel discussion.

Save the date - Wednesday, April 14: YWCA STAND Against Racism – Sparking Change Virtual Experience and review the Toolkit for Change.

Recommended:
Senior Program Officer Danette Campbell-Bell on WXXI news: Health Foundation follows up on disparities and system racism

Candid and the Center for Disaster Philanthropy explore the trends in philanthropic giving as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. View the report here.

Watch the “Tale of Two Cities: Segregation and Redlining in Rochester, NY” event recording via the Levine Center to End Hate website

From Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council: Stop AAPI Hate Report

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Coming soon! This spring we’re opening another opportunity of Responsive Grant funding: Call for Ideas. Through Call for Ideas we are seeking innovative, partnered work that reimagines systems, programs, and services to rebuild stronger, healthier communities and address inequities affecting populations including communities of color/indigenous communities, children and adults impacted by poverty, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA persons, rural residents, immigrants/refugees and older adults. Workshops and support for prospective grantees will be made available in the coming weeks.

NEW: Rochester Area Community Foundation seeks social innovation proposal from BIPOC-led nonprofits to align with the Community Foundation's action areas of racial equity, poverty, and education through it's Racial Equity Growth Fund - Social Innovation Grant. The deadline to submit an application is May 15, 2021 at noon.

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.