Dear Partners,

Coming soon! Next month we’re opening another opportunity of Responsive Grant funding: Call for Ideas.

Responsive grants are one way we partner with and support a broad array of communities and organizations as they are best suited to understand their priority needs and to create solutions that improve health. Driven by community voice, responsive grants are open, nimble, and responsive to emerging health issues and needs. These grants allow flexibility to test innovative ideas and different approaches to challenges and share what we and our partners are learning from the projects supported.

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, resources, and other supports for prospective grantees will be made available in the coming weeks. Be sure to check our website, this newsletter, and our social media pages for announcements.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

NEW!: HERO Act Requirements for Employers

On Monday, September 6, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the designation of COVID-19 as an airborne infectious disease under New York State's HERO Act. As a result of this designation, all covered employers are now required to implement their workplace safety plans. The NY Department of Health (DOH) issued an order to reflect this designation which may be viewed here.

The standard applies to private employers with worksites located in New York (NY), with the exception of those employers covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Emergency Temporary Standards.

While the state's HERO Act webpage has been updated to acknowledge that the DOH's “designation requires all employers to implement workplace safety plans,” it is not expected that the state will issue highly specific guidance on implementing the activation. However, based on the written prevention standards, employer should pay close attention to Section 8 of the Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Standards (“prevention standards”) for guidance on how to proceed.

Resources

- The Surgeon General's misinformation advisory
- Rockefeller Foundation's Vaccine Confidence Message Brief on what motivates people to get the shot
- Communicating About the Covid-19 Vaccines: Guidance and Sample Messages for Public Health Practitioners
- CDC’s communications resources, communications toolkit, and community-based orgs toolkit
- Frequently Asked Questions - Click here for answers to commonly asked questions about COVID-19 vaccination. The CDC also has information for busting common vaccine myths available in facts about COVID-19 vaccines
Vaccinations Available


LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Accessing the Employee Retention Credit Webinar

Rochester Area Community Foundation invites you to share an upcoming webinar opportunity with your organization's financial leaders and board members as its partners, EFPR Group, present on the Employee Retention Credit (ERC).

The ERC was created to encourage employers to keep their workforce intact during the COVID-19 pandemic and is available to all businesses including nonprofit organizations.

Nonprofit organizations are accessing the refundable tax credit to stabilize their finances through the challenges of the pandemic. The recently enacted American Rescue Plan Act extends the eligibility period for this credit through the end of 2021.

Accessing the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) Webinar takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 10. Click here to register.

Urban League's INTERRUPT RACISM Summit

On Tuesday, Sept. 14 and Wednesday Sept. 15, the Urban League of Rochester will host its second annual Virtual INTERRUPT RACISM Summit, presented by JPMorgan Chase & Co. and ESL Federal Credit Union.
The INTERRUPT RACISM Summit is an online, immersive learning experience for youth and adults, uniquely designed for attendees to participate and come together to identify, interrupt, and dismantle processes of systemic racism.

This year’s summit theme is "Health, Wealth, and Safety for Black/Indigenous/People of Color," and features a stellar slate of local and national thought leaders across these areas. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

New! CRSEF-Aligned Resource for Teachers and Staff

Our partners at the [Children's Institute](#) are proud to share a new resource for teachers and staff (Pre-K-2nd grade) that implements [New York State's Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework](#) (CRSEF).

This user-friendly resource integrates social and emotional learning and equity practices and demonstrates how they can, together, be woven throughout the schedules and routines of the early childhood school day. Designed to support the use of, and adherence to the State Department of Education’s Framework, this resource is a collaboration by educators from Children’s Institute, Greece Central School District, and Webster School District, and was underwritten by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation.

Through curated teaching tools, children’s books, articles, videos, and podcasts, this resource supports Pre-K-2nd grade staff in the successful integration of the CRSEF’s
grounding principles and practices during: SEL Throughout the Day, Mornings and Transitions, Reading and ELA, Science, Math, and Special Areas.

View the resource [here](#).

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**Recommended Reading: BIPOC Emotional Wellness and Creating a Diverse, Inclusive Workplace**

In a recent blog for WellRight, Health Foundation Program Officer and racial health equity expert Chiara Smith (pictured) writes about the “illusion of inclusion”—its effects, what employers need to know and do, and how to make your wellness program more inclusive (and more effective!).

Access the blog [here](#).

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**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT**

**Spotlight on The Hub585**

In our recently released [2020 Annual Highlights](#) report, we're featuring the stories of grantees from each of our program areas.

THE HUB585 [The Hub585](#) is a not-for-profit organization established by Ashley Cross (pictured) to educate, enrich, and empower youth and families through programs and partnerships, prioritizing families working with the Department of Human Services (DHS).

In 2020, the organization developed the CarePortal -- a network of churches and ministries focused on responding to the needs of local children and families in crisis. The CarePortal not only serves children in the foster care system, but works to prevent children from entering the system entirely.

A Health Foundation grant helped enable The Hub585 to support children and families placed into the CarePortal by their DHS worker through purchase of emergency needs such as beds, groceries, and bus passes, among others.
The organization also hosted eight foster children for a two-week Hope Academy program to alleviate the strain of quarantine and virtual learning. During the pandemic, the organization hosted youth who worked with professionals to design and print their own clothing while learning the basics of entrepreneurship and career readiness.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

NEW! NYSHealth Launches 2022 Special Projects Fund Request for Proposals

The New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) 2022 Special Projects Fund Request for Proposals (RFP) is now available. Applicants must submit an online inquiry form to determine whether a proposed project fits the funding criteria. There are two funding cycles for the 2022 Special Projects Fund. Deadlines for the online inquiry form are Oct. 7, 2021 and March 2, 2022. Selected organizations will be invited to submit full proposals, with deadlines of Dec. 8, 2021 and May 5, 2022.

NYSHealth Special Projects Fund awards are one-time, nonrenewable funding opportunities consistent with the Foundation’s mission to improve the health of all New Yorkers but outside of its main priority areas.

Read details on the 2022 Special Projects Fund RFP and frequently asked questions.

**OMH Request for Proposals: Young Adult Assertive Community Treatment Team - Western New York**

Utilizing additional federal block grant funding received via the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) is seeking proposals from OMH-licensed not-for-profit providers (with 501(c)3 incorporation) that have experience providing mental health services to persons with Serious Mental Illness, to operate a Young Adult Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACT) in either Erie County or Monroe County.

This Young Adult ACT team will serve individuals age 18 to 25 who are diagnosed with a Serious Mental Illness that impairs functioning in the community, have continuous high service needs, and who lack engagement in and whose needs have not been met in traditional outpatient services.

Letters of intent to bid are due on Oct. 12, and proposals are due by Oct. 26. For more information about this request for proposals, click here.
The Revitalize Rochester Fund

The Revitalize Rochester Fund (RRF) is a funding initiative administered by REDCO which delivers a multi-pronged and geographically targeted investment strategy aimed at reimagining Rochester’s traditional commercial corridors.

The RRF provides a portfolio of creative financing to spur mixed-use, transit-oriented, and high-density development and investment as well as support for neighborhood small businesses. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Learn more here.

Excellus 2021 Health Equity Awards

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield strives to work with communities to create an environment of equity and access where everyone can reach their full potential. The 2021 Health Equity Awards focus on addressing racial and ethnic health disparities. Apply by Friday, Sept. 17.

Each region will award a minimum of $30,000 through a competitive application process to qualified community-based organizations. Click here or on the flyer for more information.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Centered in equity, 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.