

The CAREs Grant Program

The COVID-19 pandemic deepened health disparities, including the gap in average life expectancy and outcomes for many chronic diseases across race, gender, and geographic location. But, health disparities have deep roots in the U.S. where it is well documented that communities of color have a higher prevalence of preventable, chronic diseaseⁱ and tend to be diagnosed and treated later than white Americans.^{ii, iii, iv}

PhRMA believes that diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to the discovery of new medicines and that people of all ethnic and racial backgrounds should have equitable access to treatment.^v We are committed to addressing the many interwoven social determinants of health that allow health inequities to arise and persist.^{vi} Moreover, we believe addressing inequities requires connecting with and learning from affected communities directly.

Recognizing that each community faces unique barriers, PhRMA established the Collaborative Actions to Reach Equity (CAREs) grant program in April 2020. The CAREs grant program aims to support community-centered solutions to address health inequities through partnership with community-led organizations. These awards support local and national activities and research to drive meaningful change on the ground to advance health equity. The CAREs grant program not only supports the efforts of grantees to advance equity, it also helps support the identification of community-led best practices toward scalable, practical interventions that can be applied to other communities, disease states, or public health concerns to advance health equity.

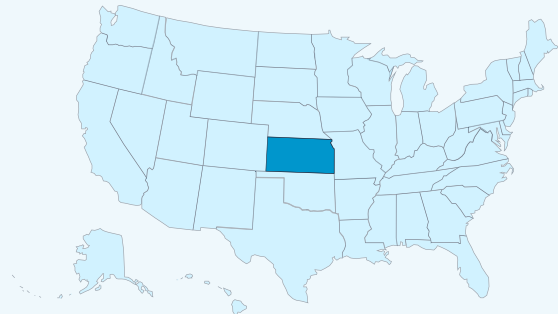
ⁱ Minority Health Profiles. Office of Minority Health. Available at: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=26>

ⁱⁱ Kim G, Ford KL, Chiriboga DA, Sorkin DH. Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare Use, Delayed Care, and Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Older Adults in California. *J. Am. Geriatr. Soc.*; 2012; 60 (12). <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.12003>

ⁱⁱⁱ Artiga S and Orgera K. Key Facts on Health and Health Care by Race and Ethnicity. Kaiser Family Foundation. 2019; <https://www.kff.org/report-section/key-facts-on-health-and-health-care-by-race-and-ethnicity-coverage-access-to-and-use-of-care/>

^{iv} Kim EJ, Kim T, Conigliaro J, Liebschutz JM, Paasche-Orlow MK, Hanchate AD. Racial and

CAREs Grant Recipient for Kansas



Providing Accessible Medication Information for Visually Impaired Patients Using Assistive Technology

University of Kansas Drug Information Center in Lawrence, Kansas

Written medication information distributed by community pharmacies is typically not available in an accessible format for patients with visual impairment and blindness, which can be a barrier to their receiving patient-friendly information about medicines they are taking. Using the PhRMA CAREs grant funding, the University of Kansas Drug Information Center will offer a free service to patients through conversion of written medication information (e.g., medication guides or patient leaflets) to an accessible format for use with a screen reader. In addition, the project will study the needs of this patient population with respect to obtaining accessible drug information in the pharmacy or other healthcare settings. Lessons from the study will be disseminated with the hope of offering scalable recommended practices for other providers, relevant stakeholders, and developers of written medication information to improve equitable access for individuals with visual disabilities.

To learn more about PhRMA's equity efforts please visit phrma.org/equity.

Ethnic Disparities in Diagnosis of Chronic Medical Conditions in the USA. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2018 Jul;33(7):1116-1123. doi: 10.1007/s11606-018-4471-1. Epub 2018 May 7. PMID: 29736755; PMCID: PMC6025658.

^v PhRMA, "Building a Better Health Care System: PhRMA's Patient-Centered Agenda" <https://phrma.org/report/Building-a-Better-Health-Care-System-PhRMAs-Patient-Centered-Agenda>
^{vi} PhRMA, "Building a Better Health Care System: PhRMA's Patient-Centered Agenda" <https://phrma.org/report/Building-a-Better-Health-Care-System-PhRMAs-Patient-Centered-Agenda>