

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>

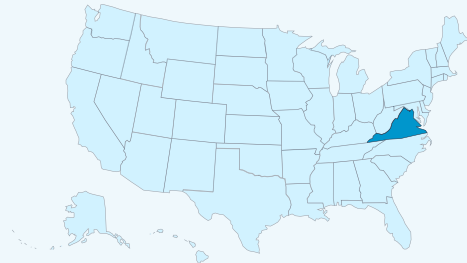
ⁱⁱ Kim G, Ford KL, Chiriboga DA, Sorkin DH. Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare Use, Delayed Care, and Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Older Adults in California. *J. Am. Geriatr. Soc.*; 2012; 60 (12). <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.12003>

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 Ethnic Disparities in Diagnosis of Chronic Medical Conditions in the USA. *J Gen Intern Med.*



CAREs Grant Recipient for Virginia



Lighthouse Community Health Services Primary Care Service-Learning Clinic: A Community-Based Model of Care to Improve Equitable Access to Treatment and Medication Management
FARRR Foundation in Lynchburg, VA

Individuals who have a mental health condition and experience poverty often face numerous social and economic barriers to receiving treatment. The 24501 zip code (in Lynchburg, VA) has a high concentration of poverty and racial inequities due to a history of redlining, a practice of denying home loans to Black and other non-white individuals, and other barriers rooted in institutional racism. Patients living in the 24501 zip code also face barriers to care due to a limited number of primary and mental health care providers. The FARRR Foundation is a faith- and community-based, trauma-informed care organization that is committed to providing social, educational, and clinical support to individuals who are impacted by poverty and mental illness. Using the PhRMA CAREs grant funding, the FARRR Foundation will expand their on-site community-based care services to include primary care, medication referrals, and medication management to individuals experiencing the effects of poverty and mental illness living in the 24501 zip code. Findings from this effort will be used to design a roadmap for other initiatives to improve health equity among patients with mental health conditions in communities with high rates of poverty.

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

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>