



PhRMA COVID-19 Collaborative Actions to Reach Equity (CAREs) Grant: Spurring Ideas for a More Equitable Future

In 2019, PhRMA established the Health Equity Roundtable with the goal of improving health outcomes by addressing inequalities in care. As part of the Health Equity Roundtable, PhRMA is offering grant money to spur ideas for practical interventions to address the alarming health inequalities highlighted by COVID-19.

COVID-19 has exacerbated longstanding health disparities in the United States, as evidenced by the disproportionate impact on communities of color. Social drivers and determinants of health (e.g., poverty, discrimination, access to resources and services, employment, housing, education, and health care) and pre-existing health conditions place communities of color at greater risk for the disease. These risk factors will need to be considered and addressed in any mitigation of the current and future burden of COVID-19 in these populations.

Conditions highly prevalent among minority populations, such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and other respiratory illnesses, appear to significantly increase the risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Often, these chronic conditions can be prevented or managed through medication management, routine check-ups, and lifestyle changes. To prevent greater risk of severe COVID-19 illness among communities of color, improving access and adherence to chronic disease management interventions should be a top priority, now more than ever. Better management of chronic conditions is also essential to promoting meaningful progress towards greater health equity in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The PhRMA Health Equity Roundtable aims to fund practical ideas that can be cultivated or implemented to address immediate challenges related to COVID-19 faced by communities of color and that may also demonstrate promise for long-term progress toward health equity solutions. Specifically, this initiative seeks ideas to address the following challenge question:

What are practical solutions to address disparities in treatment of chronic conditions among communities of color that may be exacerbated by COVID-19?

Examples of ideas for short-term interventions may include the design of:

- a) Risk reduction programs (e.g., chronic disease management and medication adherence improvement);

- b) Policies within government, local community organizations, faith-based organizations, or agencies;
- c) Strategies to support education and communication of COVID-19 risk and prevention (e.g., digital resources or human resources such as community health workers, etc.);
- d) Approaches for equitable triage and prioritization of COVID-related health care and support, including testing, hospital care, treatment, and resource distribution; and/or
- e) Strategies to address challenges for communities who are uninsured or underinsured.

Applicants for the CAREs grant are asked to submit ideas for interventions, educational materials, policy options, programs, or research to address the challenge question. Up to four grants will be offered in the amount of **\$25,000** each.

All research and community-oriented organizations are eligible to apply, and preference will be given to applicants representing community organizations, faith-based organizations, businesses, local health agencies, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), or academic institutions who have a history of providing resources and/or services to communities of color. Given the importance of collaboration for successful implementation of proposed interventions, applicants are encouraged to propose implementation of the project with at least one partnering organization such as minority advocacy organizations, or state or local governments.

Eligibility and Rules

- An applicant can only be funded for one project.
- Projects with potential for immediate implementation and measurable impact will be prioritized and, if awarded, will have the opportunity to compete for additional funding to implement the proposed intervention.
- Preference will be given to applicants representing community organizations, faith-based organizations, businesses, local health agencies, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), or academic institutions who have a history of providing resources and/or services to communities of color.

Grant Proposal Requirements

- Grant proposals should be emailed to CAREs@phrma.org as a single PDF document with no more than 4 pages. Use 1-inch margins and single 12-point spacing, with font no smaller than 11-point Arial font. Please include the Project Lead's name and organization and the project title in the header of each page of the proposal.
- The 4-page limit includes a 1-page abstract, narrative, references, and the budget. References should only include those pivotal to the proposal.
- Append the Project Lead's curriculum vitae or resume to the end of the proposal. The 4-page limit does not include the Project Lead's curriculum vitae or resume.

- The first page should consist only of a structured abstract with the following, in order:
 - Title
 - Purpose: 2-4 sentences that succinctly describe the project
 - Project Lead
 - Lead Institution
 - Partnerships: list specific organization(s) for collaboration and role(s) each partner would play
 - Rationale: 4-5 sentences describing the reason for proposing the project. This may include background information, demographics about the community, and/or why the proposed project is important (i.e., what gap(s) the project will address in terms of drivers and determinants of health)
- The remaining 3 pages should consist of the proposal narrative. For the proposal narrative, please use the following headers in order:
 - Project Design: include the goals and the activities supporting each goal of the project. Include the resources that will be used, methods of assessment and evaluation, and plans for disseminating or sharing the results
 - Outcomes and Deliverables: describe what will be the measurable outcomes, and what products will come from the project (e.g., reports, etc.)
 - Implications: describe the impact that the proposed intervention is anticipated to have on the target population
 - Project Team: describe the members of the team and their organizational affiliations, include information on the history of the lead organization in serving communities of color
 - Budget: propose an approximate budget and budget justification for implementation of proposed intervention

Timeline

- Opening date: April 24, 2020
- Proposal submission deadline: May 25, 2020
- Award notification: June 8, 2020

Please contact CAREs@phrma.org with any questions.