



We help build equity-focused systems of health that create opportunities for all people to achieve well-being.

Health is about so much more than health care. Our health and well-being are influenced by a variety of factors, including housing, education, economic stability, transportation and other services, along with community contexts like civic participation and interaction with the criminal justice system.

Our access to these social determinants of health is influenced by the social determinants of equity – systems of power like structural racism, sexism, nativism, ableism and poverty. These systems of power include decision-making structures, policies, practices, norms and values.

As the Health Team at Kresge, we help build equity-focused systems of health that create opportunities for all people to achieve well-being.

In our ideal future, people and communities are thriving and have the power to realize their vision of health and well-being. All sectors work together for the benefit of everyone, particularly low-wealth and communities of color. And we benefit from a fully functioning democracy that includes and represents everyone.

To help ensure that future, we champion community-led solutions, working closely with our partners to make sure that people with low incomes in America's cities have access to high quality affordable housing, fresh food, clean air, safe neighborhoods and economic opportunities.

We aim to reduce the racial gap as a pathway toward achieving health equity. We seek to reimagine systems of care and help build local health ecosystems where communities are safe, engaged, served and healthy.

To achieve improved health outcomes for people of all identities, we must look to thoughtfully and meaningfully engage members of our communities whose voices are often ignored. By tapping into their wealth of expertise and experience, we can change how we think about what is possible and build a new system of health for all of us.



WE INVEST THROUGH THESE FOCUS AREAS:

Community-Driven Solutions

We partner with communities to drive locally determined solutions and policies that influence systems, services and practices to improve health equity.

Community Health Ecosystems

We seek to reimagine systems of care by shifting community power and health system accountability, supporting resilient health workforce pipelines and infrastructure and expanding community-centered health programs.

Community Investment for Health Equity

We engage a diverse range of partners to reduce the racial wealth gap by establishing equitable capital pipelines and increasing Black, Indigenous, and People of Color community ownership of land, enterprises and other assets.

KEY INITIATIVES



Climate Change, Health & Equity
Kresge’s Environment and Health Programs partnered on the Climate Change, Health & Equity initiative which includes:

- Strengthen leadership among community-based organizations to accelerate implementation of equitable policies and practices that advance climate resilience and reduce health risks;
- Build the capacity of hospitals, health care systems and public health institutions to act as leaders in promoting climate mitigation and adaptation and advocating for equitable climate policies; and
- Engage professional health care and public health membership organizations to advance climate resilience policies and practices within their organizations, communities, and throughout their networks.

Equitable Food Oriented Development (EFOD)

EFOD is a strategy that uses food and agriculture to create economic opportunities and build community assets, pride and power with historically marginalized communities, ultimately increasing long-term community health. Using a process designed and led by the EFOD Collaborative, Kresge invests in organizations that are building EFOD-aligned projects in their communities.



PHEARLESS (Public Health Regenerative Leadership Synergy)

PHEARLESS brings rising public health leaders together with community leaders to co-create sustainable solutions that advance health equity and well-being for all. PHEARLESS integrates regenerative leadership education and experiential learning with innovative collaborative tools that will help public health and community leaders build the skills they need to tackle the complex issues facing their communities today. As a holistic, strengths-based, and adaptive approach to leadership, regenerative leadership focuses on creating positive change and restoring balance in complex living systems. By creating positive relationships and nurturing the interconnected elements within a system, regenerative leaders aim to generate outcomes that benefit everyone.

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