



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

***Innovative Approaches  
to Achieving  
Equitable Community  
Health Ecosystems***

**Purpose:** The Kresge Foundation’s Health Program seeks to gain a stronger understanding of innovative approaches to achieving equitable community health ecosystems in cities throughout the U.S.

We believe that community health ecosystems are accessible, driven by individuals and families, honor intergenerational expertise, reflect cross-sector leadership, provide high-quality coordinated services, create economic opportunity and advance racial equity.

We recognize that communities are continually innovating new approaches to achieve their vision of health equity, and we need to learn from beyond our existing networks.

**Description:** This Request for Information seeks ideas and examples from those who have built or are building community health ecosystems that can inform our future grantmaking, engagement and learning strategies. It is not a call for funding requests.

Through this RFI, we seek to learn about community-driven models that are specifically:

- Building community power and improving the accountability of health institutions to achieve health equity;
- Supporting resilient health workforce pipelines and infrastructure; and/or
- Expanding community-led programs that partner with public health and health care systems.

The ideas and examples submitted will help us think critically about how to strengthen and leverage our partnerships with public health and health care systems working to improve population health through innovative policy, payment reform, workforce development, data use and stewardship, and community-centered care models. This information will also help us determine how to directly support communities in obtaining the necessary resources to address the social needs and structural barriers that impede community health and well-being.

**Community Health Ecosystems Focus:** More than the infrastructure required to ensure public health, our [Community Health Ecosystems](#) focus area considers the dynamic constellation of environments, people, relationships, practices, services and opportunities necessary to sustain holistic systems of care.

With this focus, our intention is to make explicit the critical contributions that communities—residents, leaders and organizations—make to strengthen and sustain systems of care. Our goal is that communities and residents have full power in deciding what their own community looks like and how it is resourced, and all sectors are collaborating to support community-defined solutions.

We know that communities across the U.S. have the knowledge and experience to design solutions that change health systems, services and practices to achieve equitable outcomes. By tapping into their expertise, we can change how we think about what is possible and build a new system of health for all of us.

In addition to our [Community Health Ecosystems](#) focus area, which is the subject of this RFI, the Health program also makes grants and investments through our [Community-Driven Solutions](#) and [Community Investment for Health Equity](#) focus areas.

**Eligible Organizations:** For this RFI, we are interested in learning from organizations that have shared values of racial and health equity that have been embedded within organizational structure and culture. While the majority of our funded partners are non-profit, 501(c)3 organizations, for this RFI we are also interested in hearing from others that could inform our strategies, even if they do not work within an organization that would likely be eligible for grant support.

**Geographic Interests:** The Kresge Foundation has four priority cities — Detroit, Fresno, Memphis and New Orleans — and we are particularly interested in community health ecosystems being developed in these cities. We are also interested in ideas and perspectives from the Southeast (including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia) and the Southwest (including Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas).

**Responses are due by 12 p.m. EST on July 11, 2022.**

## Specifications

### Request for Information

The Kresge Foundation Health Program seeks to learn about established and emerging models of community health ecosystems that have the potential to create thriving, equitable communities. We are only interested in learning about models that are led and co-designed by and with affected residents, honor intergenerational expertise, involve diverse leaders from multiple sectors, provide high-quality coordinated services, create economic opportunity and advance racial equity.

Each response should include:

- 1) **Contact information** of the relevant parties involved in your initiative;
- 2) **A narrative description** of no more than three pages (12-point type, 1" margins) describing your community health ecosystem, including:
  - The origin of your cross-sector effort, its overall purpose, scale and current phase of development;
  - How your collaboration embeds your commitment to racial and health equity within the design and implementation of your work;
  - How community power building efforts have improved the accountability of health institutions for achieving health equity;
  - The organizations involved and how they collaborate to deliver high-quality services;
  - Any initial encouraging signs of impact or benefits;
  - Any barriers that are currently preventing your collaboration from achieving its full vision (e.g., policy barriers, financial barriers, organizational capacity);
  - Key lessons you've learned thus far that you feel are relevant for other field practitioners and funders.

Because the Kresge Health program has not set aside a specific level of funding in this fiscal year related to this RFI, we have not committed to providing grant, loan, guarantee or other investments to RFI respondents.

Information gathered through this process will help determine how the Health program can most effectively add value to a range of community-led efforts in the future.

### Submission Guidelines

Information should be submitted by **12 p.m. (EST) on July 11, 2022** to [inquiryhealth@kresge.org](mailto:inquiryhealth@kresge.org). Please use the following subject line: *RFI: Your Organization Name*. In the content of the email, please include contact information, including name, email and telephone number. We request one pdf document per submission that consists of the information outlined in the Request for Information section above.