

Cities + Health Systems Community of Practice Application

[APPLICATION DUE](#) 11:59 PM ET OCTOBER 2, 2020.

PLEASE REACH OUT TO LAURA MCDANIEL AT MCDANIEL@NLC.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

CITIES OF OPPORTUNITY - CITIES & HEALTH SYSTEMS - COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE:

The new Cities of Opportunity Cities & Health Systems Community of Practice, a partnership between the Public Health Institute (PHI) and the National League of Cities (NLC), is a new learning community for up to 12 cities offering in-depth assistance focused on fostering alignment and collaboration between cities and health systems. In the wake of COVID-19, the aim of this effort is to ensure robust city and health system partnerships to improve health outcomes and advance equity.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS EFFORT?

The goal of the initiative is for city leaders to partner with their health systems peers to advance shared goals to ensure better health outcomes for vulnerable populations. Through the Community of Practice, they will access technical assistance services and peer to peer learning opportunities to support these partnerships.

WHY CITY AND HEALTH SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS?

The root causes of poor health, or the factors influencing how well we live and how long we live, lead to concentrated inequities resulting in significant differences in the quality and length of life. Root causes are social and economic, they relate to access to healthy, affordable food, reliable transportation, hazard-free living conditions, and access to clean air and water among other factors.

The stark contrasts of the devastating effects of the COVID-19 and racism pandemics across communities increase the urgency to contend with these root causes before the inequities they cause deepen further. To achieve this, city leaders and their health system peers need to collaborate to tackle these complex problems.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO CITY TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE?

Each city team will receive expert coaching and technical assistance to support their city-specific goals to advance

stronger partnerships with health system stakeholders. Through expert guided monthly-sessions, a select group of city leaders and key partners, will join this endeavor to strengthen existing partnerships aligned by shared values and priorities with a specific focus on COVID-related impacts.

BENEFITS OF JOINING THE COP INCLUDE:

- Access to CoO resources, tools, alumni, and faculty
- Access to Center to Advance Community Health and Equity (CACHE) team resources and expertise
- Opportunity to present and share insights and learnings with other CoO learning community members
- Peer exchange
- In-person meet-ups at NLC convenings

ABOUT CITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

NLC's Cities of Opportunity initiative, made possible with the generous support and partnership of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, provides a comprehensive framework for cities to improve community health. NLC's Cities of Opportunity initiative supports local leaders as they chart new paths seeking to heal longstanding inequities and create more equitable and resilient futures. City leaders do this by addressing diverse, and interconnected factors affecting our collective health and driving comprehensive policy and systems change. This is all with a focus on embedding racial equity.

Through the Cities of Opportunity initiative NLC works to meet cities where they are. There are three ways cities can be part of this effort, through the Action Cohort, Communities of Practice, and Learning Lab. Action Cohorts receive highly tailored support for their systems and policy change work across various issues, Communities of Practice receive expert support in a single subject area, while the Learning Lab is a peer sharing and learning opportunity for cities at all levels of readiness.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

Building on diverse strengths and complementary expertise, the Public Health Institute (PHI) brings a national and local level capacity for carrying out the project in an efficient, effective, and sustainable manner. PHI is a leader in promoting and evaluating national model programs in numerous areas of public health and a proven partner to the US federal government, especially the Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) with more than 55 years of experience implementing HHS programs of similar size and scope. PHI is one of the largest public health institutes in the U.S. and home to a broad range of established projects, emerging initiatives and diverse public health leaders. PHI works in a variety of sectors and industries to support a broad range of public health issues.

The Center to Advance Community Health and Equity (CACHE) is a program of the Public Health Institute. The center was established as a national coordinating center to support community-wide health initiatives through data analysis and technical assistance. The core vision for CACHE is to support evidence-informed, generative dialogue across the health and related sectors to better align and focus institutional and community assets where health inequities are concentrated. CACHE has partnered with the National League of City to tailor the work to specifically support city administrations in their effort to engage healthcare.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Submit your replies to the question below via [online application](#) by 11:59 PM ET October 2, 2020.

PART I [Not Scored]

Tell us about your community

1. First Name
2. Last Name
3. Title
4. Pronouns
5. Email Address
6. Phone Number
7. City Name
8. State
9. Population of your community
 - Below 50,000
 - 50-100,000
 - 100,001-250,000
 - 250,001-500,000
 - 500,000+
10. Geography type
 - Rural
 - Urban
 - Suburban
 - Other - short answer
11. Area Median Income
12. Race and Ethnicity Demographics
13. What inspires you to join the Cities and Health Systems Community of Practice? Select all that apply
 - Access to resources
 - Learning city examples
 - Tailored strategies for hospital/health system engagement
 - Group problem solving
 - Networking
 - All the above
 - Other - short answer
14. Does your application have the support of your city executive?
 - Yes
 - No

PART II [50%]

In this section, you will discuss your existing health disparities work in the community. Complete responses will include how your city defines race and equity, a description of ongoing work with health systems partners, and evidence of an existing plan or partnership to further this work.

15. How are you currently addressing root causes of racial and health inequities in your city?
16. How is your city currently working with health systems partners to address health inequities? Please describe your successes and challenges.
17. Do you currently work as part of multi-sector collaborative to advance these efforts?
18. If yes, do you find the work impactful? If so how? If not, can you describe the challenges?
19. If you have community plans, community health needs assessments, project charters, or other supporting documentation to support your application, please email it to mcdaniel@nlc.org.

PART III [25%]

In this section, complete responses will detail current community conditions and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Describe in detail how the pandemic has affected operations in the city and approach to health disparities work.

20. There are undoubtedly many ways in which COVID-19 impacts your work. Describe the top three and how they may impact your work with health systems and/or multi-stakeholder initiatives. How are you modifying your approach to your work given these COVID 19 impacts?
21. Describe how the COVID-19 experience has informed your approach to health inequities.

PART IV [25%]

The Team

When selecting your team, please keep in mind that successful teams will include leaders and subject matter experts from within the city and hospital system, and local partners. Strong teams will have a mix of members who can ensure the project progresses and remains a priority within the city, those with subject matter expertise, and access to on the ground information and data needed to advance this effort.

22. Please list the recommended members of your team: Include their name, title, department, and anticipating role on your team
23. How do you hope to learn from peers as part of the community of practice? In what ways do you hope to contribute to the community of practice?

PART V

A select number of applicants will be eligible for additional services from The Center to Advance Community Health and Equity (CACHE) at the Public Health Institute. These services will include targeted data analytic services, combining analytic tools to give municipal leaders and their community stakeholders insight into the hospital investment strategies and geolocation of their respective patient populations.

These members of the Community of Practice will participate in regular team meetings with CACHE to deepen their partnership with their healthcare community. The CACHE team will directly engage healthcare leaders, both to assess internal dynamics and external activities to date and to facilitate productive engagement with municipal and community partners.

Selected city participants can expect a deeper time commitment for participation in this 12-month engagement. Applicants for this program should exhibit a deeper level of understanding and collaborative partnerships with the healthcare sector and be interested in developing a cross collaborative initiative.

24. Would you like your application to be considered for additional services from CACHE?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Maybe, I would like more information

SCORING CRITERIA

Part II [50 points]

Scoring Criteria

Exemplary responses will clearly and concisely:

- Describe race and equity definitions in the city
- Describe ongoing partnerships
- Describe at least one collaborative effort

Part III [25 points]

Scoring Criteria

Exemplary responses will clearly and concisely:

- Provide an overview of COVID-19's effects on the community
- Describe how the applicant will contribute to the community of practice
- Describe what the applicant will learn from the community of practice
- Outline successes and challenges in responding to the pandemic

Part IV [25 points]

Scoring Criteria

Exemplary responses will clearly and concisely:

- Include a team of at least three (3) members
- Have team members representing a cross-section of sectors and city agencies
- Have members included who are appropriate to advancing this effort
- Demonstrate buy-in from the city executive