



[Join Our Email List](#)



[View as Webpage](#)

greater rochester
Health
foundation

September 18, 2020

Dear Partners,

Our community is in shock and pain over the senseless death of Daniel Prude. We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Prude, and we share in the grief and anguish. **Black Lives Matter.**

As we contemplate what is demanded of us in the fight for racial and health justice in our community, we reflect on a message shared by the [Racial Equity & Justice Initiative \(REJI\)](#):

"This moment presents us with an existential question -- what are we really doing to dismantle racism? Now is the time for every organization to look at what they are doing to either dismantle or uphold the racist power structure that oppresses people of color. And while this question may seem as if it presents us with an insurmountable task, it challenges us to look at the details in our everyday existence and whether tools of oppression or tools of liberation, equity and justice are at work."

We already know that health inequities by race are pervasive and [rooted in structural racism](#), and we urge all to join the collective of concerned citizens and organizations endorsing the declaration of [Racism as a Public Health Crisis](#) led by the [Rochester Black Agenda Group](#).

Yet we recognize that statements are only the first step. Statements and endorsements are transactions. What's required of us is movement from transactions to transformation. To further the quote above, each of us should be asking: *"What are we doing that's going to make a meaningful difference within our organizations and within our communities?"*

We're committed to doing the work to become a more equitable organization focused on transformation, rather than transactions. As an organization, we are reviewing and making changes to internal policies and practices with a racial equity lens, engaging in ongoing learning around anti-racism, more intentionally investing in staff of color, and working to create a more inclusive culture.

In our grantmaking investments we're working to implement strategies that support BIPOC-led organizations, focusing more intentionally on communities/groups that experience the greatest health inequities in our region, and seeking to uplift co-created, community-led solutions. We're also directing funds to support many of the advocacy efforts in the region and ensuring we are positioned to support the solutions generated from racial and social justice movements.

We'll be sharing more details on these efforts in the coming months and invite the community to hold us accountable to these commitments. We pledge to continue to listen and learn from our partners and those we serve on how we can further live into our [equity-centered mission and values](#) and do more to disrupt the conditions that result in racial and other health inequities.

We've included some resources below being shared by our partners at REJI:

[National Coalition Building Institute](#) (NCBI)

NCBI offers some excellent programs on bias, communication and intersectional work.

[Partners in Restorative Initiatives](#)

Offers extensive programming and training in restorative processes, restorative circles and ways to address harm when it has been done in an organization (often what pushes an organization to take action).

[The Gandhi Institute](#)

Offers trainings/workshops related to cultural humility, effective communication and having conversations about race.

[The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond](#)

See their "Undoing Racism" workshop.

[Exploring Racism Group Program](#)

These groups target white leaders to help explore issues of race/racism as they impact leadership and are facilitated by former business executives. There is no cost for participants but members are asked to attend 12 interactive sessions that cover a variety of topics. Applications are being accepting now for the January sessions. Contact [Tom Mitchell](#) or [Frank Staropoli](#) if interested.

REJI also highlights and recommends reviewing crucial local history including:

Watching the documentary [July '64](#) to understand the local uprising that happened here in the 1960s and why.

Viewing recent program on [Redlining](#) in Rochester by Shane Wiegand and reading a corresponding article from D&C writer Justin Murphy [here](#).

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



[UR Medicine Pediatric Behavioral Health & Wellness](#) is hosting a series of online webinars over the next few months to discuss topics related to child and teen mental health.

Panelists include UR Medicine psychologists, representatives from community organizations, and parents. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for these free events.

[SURJ](#) (Showing up for Racial Justice) Rochester invites the community to participate in its upcoming online workshops:

[Building Racial Justice Through Allyship](#)

Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m.

[Responding to Racist Remarks](#)

Wednesday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Recommended:

WXXI Connections radio show: [How to address children's social, emotional, and educational needs during the pandemic](#)

ROC The Future's Updated 2020 [Digital Divide Report](#)

ACT Rochester's [Hard Facts Update: Race and Ethnicity in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area](#)

[Black Lives Matter collection from Monroe County Library System](#)

[Health Equity Principles for State and Local Leaders in Responding to, Reopening and Recovering from COVID-19](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Greater Rochester Health Foundation Resource Page](#)

[Community Crisis Fund](#) activated by the [United Way](#) and [Rochester Area Community Foundation](#)

[Federal, State, and Local Financial Assistance](#) compiled by the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce

[COVID-19 Related Funding Compiled by GrantStation](#)

[Council on Foundations' list of Global Response Funds](#)

RESOURCES

City of Rochester recreation centers (R-Centers) are offering "Learning Lab" hours to help students with remote school assignments and instruction, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Meals are provided at select locations. Click [here](#) for more information.

The Strong museum is offering a program for working parents in need of a safe, supervised space for their child's remote learning. The [Strong School Club](#) offers students in grades 1 through 5 an environment to attend their virtual school lessons, work on assignments and projects, and complete their homework in socially-distant settings. Scholarships are available.

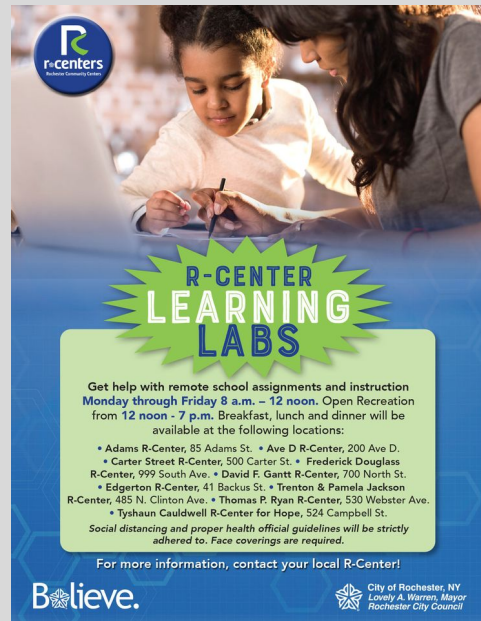
New York Forward [Business Reopening Safety Plan Template](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention summary page on COVID-19](#)

[State Department of Health COVID-19 summary](#)

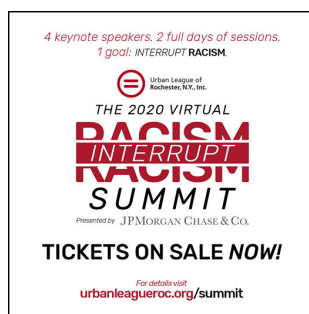
[Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for COVID-19 Disease 2019](#)

[Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19](#)



The poster features a photograph of a young girl and an adult woman looking at a book together. The text on the poster reads: "R-CENTER LEARNING LABS. Get help with remote school assignments and instruction Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 12 noon. Open Recreation from 12 noon - 7 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be available at the following locations: Adams R-Center, 85 Adams St. • Ave D R-Center, 200 Ave D. • Carter Street R-Center, 500 Carter St. • Frederick Douglass R-Center, 999 South Ave. • David F. Gantt R-Center, 700 North St. • Edgerton R-Center, 41 Backus St. • Trenton & Pamela Jackson R-Center, 485 N. Clinton Ave. • Thomas P. Ryan R-Center, 530 Webster Ave. • Tyshaun Caldwell R-Center for Hope, 524 Campbell St. Social distancing and proper health official guidelines will be strictly adhered to. Face coverings are required. For more information, contact your local R-Center! Believe. City of Rochester, NY County & Warren Mayor Rochester City Council"

COMMUNITY EVENTS



The poster includes the text: "4 keynote speakers. 2 full days of sessions. 1 goal: INTERRUPT RACISM. Urban League of Rochester, Inc. THE 2020 VIRTUAL RACISM INTERRUPT RACISM SUMMIT Presented by JPMORGAN CHASE & CO. TICKETS ON SALE NOW! For details visit urbanleagueroch.org/summit"

Interrupt Racism with the Urban League of Rochester

Tickets are now on sale for the [Urban League of Rochester's INTERRUPT RACISM](#) Summit, happening virtually on October 20 and 21. The theme of the inaugural summit is "Unmasking and Dismantling Racism."

The Summit will be an immersive learning experience for youth and adults, uniquely designed for attendees to participate and come together to:

1. Develop a deep understanding of what work needs to be done to dismantle racism
2. Develop a common language and understanding around systemic racism
3. Discuss solutions to dismantling racism
4. Understand the concept of accountability for racist practices
5. Understand race-related health disparities stemming from a "double pandemic"
6. Develop a pathway for learning and healing from race-related matters

The Summit is open to all individuals, organizations, and communities looking to develop a pathway to healing and a strategy for equity, diversity, and inclusion to interrupt and ultimately dismantle racism. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

WORK WITH US!

We're looking for a dynamic partner to work with on a new Health Foundation website.

Our goals for our new website are to increase understanding of what we do, why we do it, and how organizations may seek funding, support, or partnership with us. We've shifted our focus, strategies and priorities throughout the years and updated our mission to communicate more explicitly what we are working to accomplish.

Proposals must be received by 5 p.m., Friday, October

2. Preference will be given to M/WBE (minority/women-owned business enterprises) within our 9-county area of service.



Download (and share) the RFP (Request for Proposals) [here](#). Please direct any questions to Communications Officer, [Tiana Stephens](#).

PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES AND RESOURCES:

ROCCOVID-19

PROTECT YOUR CIRCLE
STAY HOME & SAVE LIVES



The mission of the Greater Rochester Health Foundation is to pursue and invest in solutions that build a healthier region where all people can thrive.

