April 29, 2020

Dear Partners,

As we continue to be "on pause," our thoughts are with the first responders and essential workers of our community, our colleagues, and you.

We’re proud to share with you that we’ve joined hundreds of our peers in philanthropy who have answered the Council on Foundations’ call to hold ourselves accountable by making a commitment to:

- Listen attentively – especially to those communities least heard, lifting up their voices and experiences to inform public discourse and our own decision-making.
- Support, as appropriate, partners advocating for public policy changes to fight the pandemic and deliver an equitable and just emergency response for all.
- Communicate proactively and regularly about our decision-making and response to provide helpful information while not asking more of grantee partners.
- Learn from emergency practices and share what they teach us about effective partnership and philanthropic support, so we might consider adjusting our practices more fundamentally in the future.
- Loosen or eliminate the restrictions on current grants.
- Make new grants as unrestricted as possible, so nonprofit partners have maximum flexibility to respond to this crisis.
- Reduce what we ask of our nonprofit partners, postponing reporting requirements and other demands on their time.
- Contribute to community-based emergency response funds and other efforts.

As always, being responsive and staying connected is our priority. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns that you’d like to talk about.

With Gratitude,

Matthew A. Kuhlenbeck  
President & CEO  
(585) 258-1704

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Join Nonprofit New York, the New York Council of Nonprofits, and the National Council of Nonprofits for a virtual town hall with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and U.S. Senator and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Wednesday, April 29, from 11:15 a.m. to noon.

All nonprofits in New York are welcome to join the Town Hall, which features an opportunity to hear from our senators about the CARES Act and plans for future Congressional action, and discuss specific issues and needs of nonprofits. Register for the event here.

Listen to the URMC Office of Equity & Inclusion’s podcast on Health Disparities and COVID-19. COVID-19 has had a devastating impact around the world and the toll the disease has taken will be felt for years to come. Recent reports show that the virus is killing Black and Latino Americans at disproportionately high rates. In this episode of Insights, Dr. Linda Clark, president of the Black Physicians Network and Dr. Adrienne Morgan from the Office of Equity & Inclusion discuss these health disparities and what's being done to address them. Listen to the podcast here.

The Urban League of Rochester is hosting a webinar, “Stay Safe & Healthy,” on Friday, May 1 at 2 p.m. as part of its Equity & U: Your Survival Matters series.
Hear from infectious disease specialist Dr. Nadia Kousar who will share her expertise on keeping you and your family safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Watch via Zoom (meeting ID 924 0875 5389) or at facebook.com/urochester.

The TRANSFORM Research Center invites you to join its webinar, Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect: What’s Race Got to Do With It?, Thursday, May 21 from noon to 1 p.m. Dr. Natalie A. Cort will provide information regarding the role of race in screening, assessing, referring and treating child abuse and neglect, and will share strategies for diversifying the professional landscape of adults (e.g., mental health counselors, psychologists) that children interact with. Register here.

Recommended Reading: 5 Anti-Racist Actions for White People to Take During COVID -19

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Applications for the Department of Health and Human Services' Ethnic Community Self Help Program are being accepted until May 11. The program seeks to provide refugee populations with critical services to assist them in becoming integrated members of society. Objectives include strengthening Ethnic Community-Based Organizations’ provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate services to refugees and supporting organizational development and engagement in capacity building. Click here for more.

- Applications for Rochester Area Community Foundation's Equity Grants: Closing Achievement and Opportunity Gaps close on May 18. The Rochester Area Community Foundation is interested in supporting the early childhood community in various ways, detailed here.

- Visit our resource page to explore funding opportunities that may be a fit for your organization. NEW grants are posted here each week.

- The Community Crisis Fund, activated by the United Way and Rochester Area Community Foundation, is deploying flexible resources to nonprofits disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The Health Foundation is proud to participate in this effort and work collaboratively to address both the immediate and long-lasting impact of COVID-19 in the communities we serve.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Take 5 for Yourself & Others

Monroe County wants to help people stay optimistic, connected, and healthy as we navigate this unprecedented public health crisis.

Take 5 Monroe is a new wellness campaign encouraging us all to take five minutes out of each day to care for ourselves and our loved ones.

Through a collaboration with a host of community partners, the campaign features 5-minute videos with relaxation and easy movement activities, messaging on ways to connect with others, and guidance and counseling from local faith-based leaders.

The campaign is part of a state-wide effort promoted by the New York State Association of Counties with the hashtags #Take5Monroe and #Take5ForNY.

Online Grief Circles

M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence hosts Online Grief Circles on Tuesdays and Thursdays for community members to share what’s heavy on their heart during these uncertain times. Registration fees are offered on a sliding scale from $0 to $40; select the option that works best for your budget. Click here for Grief Circle schedules and other events.

RESOURCES

NY State Emotional Support Hotline: 1-844-863-9314

Causewave Community Partners is offering free virtual consultations for any nonprofit in the Greater Rochester area to help with their COVID-19 planning and response, as an extension of its free Coffee & Consult program. Topics may cover a wide variety of topics from messaging to donors, funders and program participants, what to do about event cancellations, and a number of HR, finance and other needs. Click here to schedule a meeting.

The American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry has created a Coronavirus Center as a resource and hub for knowledge sharing for individuals, caregivers, and, in particular, health care workers serving people with Special Needs/ IDD (Intellectual & Development Disabilities).

The Democrat & Chronicle has compiled coronavirus resources for Rochester’s deaf and hard of hearing community.

Resource sheets created by Coordinated Care Services, Incorporated:

Preserving the Gains in Telehealth for Behavioral Health

Federal Tax Credits Fact Sheets

The United Way has created a volunteer and in-kind response portal where agencies can post needs and volunteers can find in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities.

Rural Health Information Hub

County Health Departments:
AMPLIFY PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES

The City of Rochester and County of Monroe are asking organizations and community members to share important public health messages to help keep people safe and slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Visit ProtectYourCircleRoc.com and SixFeetSaves.org for more information and shareable resources in multiple languages.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

LARC Initiative Makes a Big Impact

A new study from the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology shows that a University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) community outreach initiative has helped adolescents in Rochester adopt Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) at a rate far higher than in New York State and the U.S. overall.

The Greater Rochester LARC Initiative was started six years ago by the Hoekelman Center for Health Beyond Medicine, a unit of the URMC Department of Pediatrics. Primarily funded by the Health Foundation, the Initiative aims to increase access to highly effective methods of birth control, including intrauterine devices and contraceptive implants (LARCs) for adolescents in Rochester.

During the coronavirus pandemic, the Hoekelman Center's clinical partners continue to offer free and confidential birth control via telemedicine.

JOIN OUR TEAM

We're seeking a Finance and Grants Manager to join our dedicated team at the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, where we offer employees a family-friendly, ethical work environment with competitive pay and benefits.

If you, or someone you know is interested in helping us serve diverse communities and work with dynamic partners to help improve health outcomes and grow as a resource in our region, click here to learn more about this opportunity.

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.