



# Health Equity Small Grants Program

## Background

The Commonwealth Fund aims to promote a high-performing, equitable health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency in health care, particularly for society's most vulnerable, including people of color, people with low income, and people who are uninsured. The Advancing Health Equity (AHE) program at the Commonwealth Fund (the Fund) has an overall goal of advancing health equity in the U.S. health system by 1) promoting antiracism in health care delivery systems and 2) promoting antiracism in health care policy.

The Fund believes that investing in the next generation of health equity leaders is critical. In addition to research grantmaking, the Fund supports two fellowships: The Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University (CFF) and the Pozen-Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Health Equity Leadership at Yale University (PCWF).

As part of AHE's goals to support our fellowship alumni, we are launching the *Health Equity Small Grants Program* for CFF and PCWF alumni in spring 2024. Applications will open in winter 2023.

These grants will support fellowship alumni's pilot projects around health systems change, health policy and health equity. Upon completion of their projects, fellowship alumni will report their findings via a written product (e.g., blog post) and/or presented at a conference.

Awards will range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 and cover a period of up to one year.

## Eligibility

All CFF and PCWF alumni are eligible to apply for funding in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Applicants should be affiliated with a nonprofit organization. The organization's work should include a focus on health equity. The Commonwealth Fund is unable to make awards to individuals. Alumni affiliated with for-profit entities should contact [grants@cmwf.org](mailto:grants@cmwf.org) to discuss whether an application is possible.
2. The Commonwealth Fund is not able to provide funding for:
  - general support, ongoing activities, or existing deficits
  - endowment or capital costs, including construction, renovation, or equipment
  - basic biomedical research
  - attendance/registration for conferences, symposia, or classes
  - individuals or scholarships
  - activities conducted by churches or other religious organizations, unless the projects for which you are seeking funding are secular in nature.

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## Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on their 1) relevance to addressing one of the [AHE program's two key areas of focus](#) (health systems change, policy change), 2) project design and feasibility, and 3) opportunity for impact. Proposals will be reviewed and approved by a review committee at the Fund.

## Application Process and Deadline

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on March 15, 2024. All applicants will be required to apply through the Fund's grant portal and submit the following materials:

1. Applicant information form
2. Curriculum vitae (CV)
3. One- to two-page project description that must include the following components:
  - a. Statement of problem and purpose of grant
  - b. Please state explicitly how the proposed work aligns with at least one of the AHE program's areas of focus
  - c. Project design and methods, including schedule and work plan
  - d. Description of the project's target audience and planned product(s)
4. Brief description of intended use of funds (i.e. budget)