

health equity spark grants

We are pleased to announce our Health Equity Spark Grants designed to spark community learning, reflection and dialogue on the topics of equity, diversity and inclusion.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

The Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation (GWCHF) is driven by a vision of thriving communities where everyone enjoys good health and wellbeing. With a focus on health equity, we've pledged our resources to ensure all children and their families have access to the opportunities needed to achieve optimal health and wellbeing.

Recently, we have joined the growing movement to deepen our understanding of barriers to equity, diversity and inclusion. We invite community groups to learn along with us, exploring topics such as racism, bias, and discrimination among marginalized populations (see sidebar). Our goal with this grant offering is to

spark Learning Journeys across the communities to identify actions we can take to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, barriers to health equity.



What is Health Equity?

Health equity means everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments and health care.

Marginalized populations

are those excluded from mainstream social, economic, cultural, or political life due to factors such as:

- Race or ethnicity
- Immigrant, Migrant or Refugee Status
- Gender
- Mental Illness or health status
- Age
- Sexual Orientation
- Religious Affiliation
- Disability
- Incarceration
- Income
- Unemployment

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Developing Your Proposal

Health Equity Grants will provide funding for community groups of all sizes, from community book clubs to large service organizations, to host a Learning Journey related to the topics equity, diversity and inclusion. The Learning Journey will wrap up with a group discussion. The grant application process will guide you through the following steps:

1. Shape your proposal: What would your group like to learn? Below are sample questions for you to explore. This list is meant to spark ideas for a grant request. You can use any one of these to shape your proposal or come up with your own.

- » Does every individual in our community have access to the opportunities needed to achieve wellbeing? What obstacles exist?
- » How does our organization promote equity, diversity and inclusion? What could we do better? What are we doing well and how do we know?
- » What examples of systemic racism exist in our community?
- » How has a leader of a marginalized population helped shape who we are as a nation? What can we learn from them?

2. Timing: When will your Learning Journey start and when will it end?

3. Identify a learning resource:

- » What book, video, assessment or activity will you use to guide your Learning Journey?
- » Please view the grants page of our website for a [list of suggested learning resources](#).

4. Plan Your Audience: Is your Learning Journey for members of your organization or the broader community? Identify your target audience and the number of people you hope to engage.

5. Plan for Engagement: Determine if your group will hold a one-time event or a learning series. Where will it occur?

- » If applicable, what steps can you take to eliminate barriers that might prevent marginalized populations from participating? Funding can be used for food, transportation, child care or other supports needed to create a more inclusive discussion.

6. Guide Group Discussion: Your Learning Journey will wrap up with a group discussion. Who will lead this discussion?

7. Summarize Your Learnings:

- » As you wrap up your Learning Journey, we will ask your organization to submit a Grant Summary Report (see Grant Summary Report below).
- » In addition, we would like each participant to share a 1-sentence reflection on what they've learned.

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Eligibility:

Who can apply: In addition to supporting any current partners, we are looking to engage grassroots agencies we've not yet had the opportunity to work with. We encourage classrooms, civic organizations, faith communities, youth groups to apply. For-profit organizations may only apply for work that benefits the greater community. Individuals are not eligible for funding.

- » Funded projects must serve residents of Dodge and Jefferson Counties, specifically the communities served by the following school districts: Hustisford, Ixonia, Lake Mills, Jefferson, Johnson Creek, Dodge, Waterloo and Watertown.
- » All formal organizations seeking funding must have a formally adopted anti-discrimination policy. If you do not have one, the Foundation can assist in creating one.
- » If two or more organizations will be collaborating on the project, either organization may take the lead and serve as fiscal sponsor, but representatives from both organizations should participate in the application process.

Maximum Grant Value:

We anticipate requests ranging from \$50 up to \$5,000 depending on the scope and reach of the project. If partners are interested in larger, longer term systems-change efforts related to equity, diversity and inclusion, please contact us.

Timeline:

GWCHF will accept Health Equity Spark Grant applications on an ongoing basis. Applicants will be notified of their application status within two weeks of submission.

Grant Summary Report:

At the end of the Learning Journey, each grantee organization will be required to share a brief summary of what they might do differently as a result of what they've learned. This summary can be a report, slide show, video or any other creative product. In addition, we would like each participant to share a 1-sentence reflection on what they've learned.

How to Apply:

Access the online grants management system found on the Grants page of Foundation website, watertownhealthfoundation.com.

What we will fund:

- » Books and video purchases, film screenings, speakers, audits/assessments, refreshments, and supports for individuals who would not otherwise be able to participate. This includes transportation and childcare.
- » Visit our website to view [Approved Expenses for Grant Funding](#).

Questions?

We welcome your questions. Contact Andi Merfeld, Community Engagement and Grants Coordinator at amerfeld@watertownhealthfoundation.com for more information.