



Equity + Health Fellows Class Two Final Report

Equity + Health



We kicked off our first class of Equity + Health Fellows in 2016. Eighteen individuals representing diverse, mission-aligned organizations in the Richmond region came together over a nine-month period to map out a bold and actionable equity agenda for RMHF. The 2017-18 Fellows recommended four goals and ten strategies to pursue for RMHF. We have made significant progress toward these goals, including the launch of a

second class of Equity + Health Fellows in alignment with the suggested strategy to “develop and support a cohort of grassroots leaders to promote health equity.”



The 2018-19 Equity + Health Fellows are a group of twelve grassroots and community leaders working individually and collaboratively within their communities to advance health and racial equity in the spaces and places where they live and work. Not unlike our first class, these Fellows approached the Fellowship with passion, courage, and impatient optimism. We are grateful to have learned with and from them and look forward to integrating many of their recommendations over the next few years.

[SEE FULL REPORT](#)

Equity Champions: The VCIC Team

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) President & CEO, Jonathan Zur, was a 2017-18 Equity + Health Fellow and currently serves on the RMHF Program & Evaluation Committee. Two of Jonathan's team members at VCIC, Charm Bullard and Jessica Hawthorne, have been leading our Board through a series of workshops. To highlight these two equity champions, we sat down with them to discuss their experiences working with RMHF's Board and with other organizations throughout the region.



"We hold space for difficult conversations and discuss big topics related to diversity and inclusion, like unconscious bias, privilege, intersectionality, and race."

Charm Bullard, Director of Programs



"Those in our community who have experienced intergenerational trauma may be more likely to struggle with health. We need to acknowledge Richmond's history if we are to achieve health equity."

Jessica Hawthorne, Director of Programs

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Partnering for a Healthy Virginia Event

Built Environment



On September 18th, the Partnering for a Healthy Virginia Initiative (PHV) held an event “Investing in Place to Improve Health Opportunities.” We connected with Polly Raible of Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association to learn more about the initiative, the event and the impact of social determinants on health.

"Tackling the root causes of poor health has proven to yield economic and social benefits for both communities and hospitals. However, knowing where to begin and what role to play can be challenging."

Polly Raible, Senior Director for Population Health, VHHA

[READ FULL INTERVIEW](#)

2019 Profile of Virginia's Uninsured

Equity + Health

The 2019 Profile of Virginia's Uninsured, produced by the Virginia Health Care Foundation, has been released to the public. It provides an extensive amount of information about the uninsured in Virginia including:

- Estimates on the number, percentage and demographics
- Separate analyses of uninsured children and adults
- Estimates of access to primary care, behavioral health and oral health
- Detailed tables showing the uninsured at income levels relevant to the FAMIS programs, Medicaid expansion and the Marketplace across regions of the Commonwealth.

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HEArts Grantees Present

Arts + Culture





On September 13th, artists and grantee organization representatives presented their work as part of RMHF's Health Equity and Arts, or HEArts, initiative to our Board. Trustees were inspired by the passion of the individuals and the impact of the projects on the community. (Photo credit: Samia Minnicks)

On October 14th, Kendra Jones facilitated a panel conversation at the Grantmakers in the Arts conference. She was joined by HEArts, Gigi Amateau and Alfonso Perez Acosta, and evaluator, Alison McNeil. Alfonso created a [beautiful worksheet](#) for participants and a [booklet](#) was provided, which gave the background on the initiative and the speaker bios. A beautiful video created by Ovrbord Media kicked off the event.

"The most meaningful piece around this whole HEArts initiative has been to watch people grow in confidence, find their voice, express their needs, and what they want to be done differently. And really advocate, not only for themselves, but the community as a whole."

Amy Strite, President & CEO, Family Lifeline



WATCH VIDEO



New Program Open Calls Coming Soon!

Access to Care

The RMHF program team has been hard at work developing funding strategies for our next 2 years. Beginning next month, we will issue the first of our open calls for the 2019/20 funding cycle. Stay tuned!

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