

## VUMC Office of Health Equity Health Equity Innovation Awards

### Health Equity Innovation Awards Question:

*How can VUMC close the gaps for individuals who face social, cultural, geographic and economic barriers to having the best health possible?*

### Background and Purpose

VUMC's Office of Health Equity (OHE) is pleased to announce *Health Equity Innovation Awards* focused on advancing health equity. Advancing health equity ensures that all people--including VUMC employees, patients and community members--have the opportunity to attain their highest level of health, regardless of the social, cultural and/or economic conditions in which they live, work and play. These conditions, often referred to as the social determinants of health, include employment, education, financial stability, transportation, housing, English proficiency, systemic racism and exposure to violence, among others.<sup>1</sup> Examples of communities that systematically experience worse health outcomes related to these factors include racial/ethnic minorities, individuals with limited socioeconomic status, sexual and gender minorities, underserved rural residents, and others who experience discrimination or social disadvantage.

The *Health Equity Innovation Awards* support innovative ideas and solutions to advance health equity, ultimately improving health outcomes for impacted communities. The awards are built upon the principle that there are assets, opportunities and innovative ideas within VUMC and in our communities that can advance health equity. Health equity innovations at any stage of development are welcome including early concept and ideas that would benefit from feedback from health equity experts. Areas of interest and inspiration include but are not limited to:

- 1) How can VUMC help individuals find and navigate the organizations, programs and resources they need to lead healthy lives?
- 2) How can VUMC enhance internal and external partnerships to better organize and deliver care to impacted individuals?
- 3) What education or training would help VUMC conduct research and do quality improvement using a health equity lens?
- 4) How can data and technology reduce health disparities and advance health equity?
- 5) How can VUMC better understand the social and economic conditions that impact quality of life and health outcomes?
- 6) How can VUMC increase the likelihood that all employees have the best chance to be healthy?

Please see the [FAQs](#) for more about areas of interest and inspiration.

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<sup>1</sup> Social Determinants of Health. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>

## Awards Guidelines

1. **Applicants and Teams:** Awards are open to VUMC faculty, employees, residents, fellows and post-docs. VU students in medicine, nursing, public health and other disciplines may apply but awards must be directly relevant to VUMC. Submissions by teams of from different departments and areas within VUMC are encouraged.
2. **Health Equity Focus:** Proposed ideas and solutions for this award must have a strong tie to improving health outcomes in impacted communities. The focus should be on health equity, which is different from Diversity & Inclusion. See [this](#) article to learn more about Health Equity and Diversity and Inclusion.
3. **Systems Thinking:** We encourage awards that address change at the policy and/or systems level. Please see the [OHE website](#) for more information.
4. **Support and Timeline:** The OHE will provide support up to \$10,000. Project support will come directly from the OHE cost center for effort/personnel and/or non-personnel expenses. Our OHE team will be engaged in a consultative capacity as needed. The implementation period for award ideas can vary but we encourage awards that can be completed in twelve months.

## Award Pitch

Award pitches can be submitted using video or in writing. Written responses to each question should be limited to no more than 175 words. Please limit pitch videos to 3 minutes.

1. What is the challenge related to health equity at VUMC that the proposed innovation addresses?
2. How will the proposed innovation, idea or solution address this challenge?
3. Tell us about your team and plans for getting the work done.

Click [here](#) to submit written or video pitches. Award submissions will be reviewed by the OHE team.

## Questions and Consultation

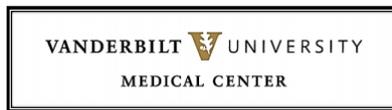
Questions about the awards should be directed to VUMC's Office of Health Equity at [OHEinfo@vumc.org](mailto:OHEinfo@vumc.org). Consult requests can be submitted [here](#). FAQs related to the awards are on the [OHE website](#).

## Key Dates

Release date: Feb 7, 2020

Pitches for Round 1 due: February 28, 2020

Individuals/teams selected for Round 2 notified: March 6, 2020



## **About the Office of Health Equity at VUMC**

The Office of Health Equity (OHE) serves as an institutional home for coordinating and catalyzing health equity initiatives across VUMC and in the community. Visit the OHE [website](#) to learn more about health equity and our work.