

The CAREs Grant Program

The COVID-19 pandemic deepened health disparities, including the gap in average life expectancy and outcomes for many chronic diseases across race, gender, and geographic location. But, health disparities have deep roots in the U.S. where it is well documented that communities of color have a higher prevalence of preventable, chronic diseaseⁱ and tend to be diagnosed and treated later than white Americans.^{ii, iii, iv}

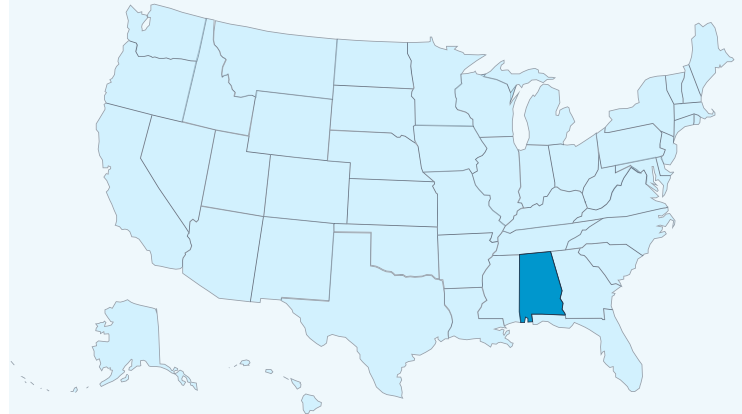
PhRMA believes that diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to the discovery of new medicines and that people of all ethnic and racial backgrounds should have equitable access to treatment.^v We are committed to addressing the many interwoven social determinants of health that allow health inequities to arise and persist.^{vi} Moreover, we believe addressing inequities requires connecting with and learning from affected communities directly.

Recognizing that each community faces unique barriers, PhRMA established the Collaborative Actions to Reach Equity (CAREs) grant program in April 2020. The CAREs grant program aims to support community-centered solutions to address health inequities through partnership with community-led organizations. These awards support local and national activities and research to drive meaningful change on the ground to advance health equity. The CAREs grant program not only supports the efforts of grantees to advance equity, it also helps support the identification of community-led best practices toward scalable, practical interventions that can be applied to other communities, disease states, or public health concerns to advance health equity.

Nina Robinson/Getty Images/Images of Empowerment
i Minority Health Profiles. Office of Minority Health. Available at: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?vl=26&vlid=26>
ii Kim G, Ford KL, Chiriboga DA, Sorkin DH. Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare Use, Delayed Care, and Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Older Adults in California. *J. Am. Geriatr. Soc.*; 2012; 60 (12). <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.12003>
iii Artiga S and Orgera K. Key Facts on Health and Health Care by Race and Ethnicity. Kaiser Family Foundation. 2019; <https://www.kff.org/report-section/key-facts-on-health-and-health-care-by-race-and-ethnicity-coverage-access-to-and-use-of-care/>



CAREs Grant Recipient for Alabama



Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination in the Black Belt Region

Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama

The Black Belt region is one of the most impoverished and rural regions in the U.S, represented by a string of counties in 11 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. These Black Belt states have some of the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates. This project will compare and contrast state vaccine policies across the Black Belt region and conduct surveys among African Americans living in the Black Belt region to document critical barriers to vaccination.

To learn more about PhRMA's equity efforts please visit phrma.org/equity.

iv Kim EJ, Kim T, Conigliaro J, Liebschutz JM, Paasche-Orlow MK, Hanchate AD. Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Diagnosis of Chronic Medical Conditions in the USA. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2018 Jul;33(7):1116-1123. doi: 10.1007/s11606-018-4471-1. Epub 2018 May 7. PMID: 29736755; PMCID: PMC6025658.

v PhRMA, "Building a Better Health Care System: PhRMA's Patient-Centered Agenda" <https://phrma.org/report/Building-a-Better-Health-Care-System-PhRMAs-Patient-Centered-Agenda>
vi PhRMA, "Building a Better Health Care System: PhRMA's Patient-Centered Agenda" <https://phrma.org/report/Building-a-Better-Health-Care-System-PhRMAs-Patient-Centered-Agenda>