



# 2026 Health Equity Innovation Awards



We strive to work with communities to create an environment of equity and access where everyone can reach their full potential with access to high quality, affordable health care. One way we do this is to partner in the community to address health disparities and improve health equity. Together we can help the people in our communities live healthier lives.

## 2026 Health Equity Innovation Awards

We are excited to announce the 2026 Health Equity Innovation Awards with the focus on addressing health disparities and improving health outcomes.

Community-based organizations, located within the eight counties of Western New York, can make a request for funding through a competitive process available online at [UniveraHealthcare.com/Community](https://UniveraHealthcare.com/Community)

Awards will recognize community partners that demonstrate a strong commitment to reducing health disparities and achieving measurable improvements in health outcomes. Proposals should include specific examples of how the program is innovative, such as:

- Introducing a novel approach or reaching a new audience
- Integrating technology to enhance impact
- Driving organizational change
- Building meaningful collaborations and partnerships

### New partnership:

This year, Univera Healthcare will partner with the Health Foundation for Western & Central New York on the Health Equity Innovation Awards, with the Health Foundation providing additional funds to enhance the impact of the program.

This collaboration is more than two decades in the making, as the Health Foundation for Western & Central New York was established back in 2002 with a multi-million-dollar endowment from Univera Healthcare. In addition to that connection in history, the two organizations have similar visions and a common goal of improving the health and quality of life in the communities they serve. Individuals in need in Western New York, and the community-based organizations that serve them, will benefit from this innovative funding initiative.

## Application rules and requirements:

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations within Univera Healthcare's service area are eligible to apply for the Health Equity Innovation Awards. We seek proposals for innovative initiatives or projects that have demonstrated success in reducing disparities, have the potential for expansion, and include clearly defined goals for reducing health disparities and improving health equity.

Health Equity Innovation Award priority areas are:

- Manage chronic conditions
- Support mental and behavioral health
- Improve maternal health
- Address social determinants of health

Please note that we generally do not provide funding for ongoing operational support, maintenance, or construction of facilities, scholarships, or loans. Our focus is on health improvement initiatives, and we encourage you to align your proposals with this goal.

## Submit an application:

The Health Equity Innovation Award application focuses on organization and program information, and intended impact.

- The application period opens at 10 a.m. on **Wednesday, January 14**, and closes at 11:59 p.m. on **Friday, March 6**.

## Review process and notification:

- **Applications will be reviewed by the Health Plan and decisions announced by the end of April.** We will prioritize proposals that have detailed scope, goals, rationale for support, and measures.
- Univera Healthcare will follow up with recipient organizations one year after funding is received to understand impact and use of funds.



### Questions?

**Scan to learn more about the Health Equity Innovation Awards**

For more information about  
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