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August 8-12, 2022



"The Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET), Lexington Kentucky, is located on the original homeland of diverse Native peoples who arrived over 10,000 years ago. The most recent among them were the Shawnee. Today, Kentucky is still home to over 25,000 Native people representing scores of tribal groups. CHET recognizes the injustices Native peoples have endured. Through this statement, we hope to begin the long process of healing."

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CHET's Weekly Communication Digest

CHET, CCTS Fund Two Projects to Address Health Disparities

The UK [Center for Health Equity Transformation](#) (CHET) and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) have awarded pilot funding to two research projects that address health disparities.

The recipients of this year's pilot awards are Makenzie Barr, PhD, RD, assistant professor in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, and Aubrey Jones, PhD, assistant professor in the College of Social Work. Each award grants up to \$25,000 for a 12-month pilot project.

To read more about the projects, [click here](#).

CHET Core Faculty Member Named Director of the Community Leadership Institute of Kentucky (CLIK)

Congratulations to Dr. Aaron Kruse-Diehr for being named director of CLIK, inheriting the role from his mentor Kathryn Cardarelli, PhD, MPH who was recently promoted to UK's Senior Associate Provost for administration and academic affairs. "Researchers have often inadvertently abused rural populations by doing research there and then pulling away—getting their data and grant funding and then leaving. That's understandably left a sour taste in many people's mouths when it comes to research," Kruse-Diehr said. "CLIK, on the other hand, aims to give ownership back to communities. It builds levels of sustainability by equipping people to do research and build programs in their own communities, which could potentially evolve into further partnership with the university or allow them to secure additional external funding."

To read more about CLIK and the incoming cohort, [click here](#).



CHET Core Faculty Members Highlighted in UKNow

Drs. Danelle Stevens-Watkins (PI) and Candice Hargons were both recently highlighted in UKNow for their study centered on Black adults' experience in drug treatment. This study, which is part of a larger National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded project, was conducted in Kentucky, where [opioid-related deaths recently more than doubled among Black populations](#). Thirty-nine Black men and women, who had used opioids within the past six months, spoke to the research team about their experiences. Researchers found three primary themes influenced participants' perceptions about substance use treatment: readiness for change, provider characteristics, and relational support. To read the manuscript, published in the *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, that resulted from this study, [click here](#).



The larger project is currently in its second year and will ultimately include survey data collected from 800 Black American adults that misuse prescription and illicit opioids, filling a dire need for data on this underserved group. [Click here](#) to read the full UKNow article.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)



NIDA and the [NIDA Racial Equity Initiative](#) have released several new **Funding Opportunity Announcements** (FOAs). These FOAs are focused on research to advance equity for racial and/or ethnic minority populations in the United States. The FOAs call for innovative, solution-oriented, community-engaged research from research teams with a commitment to broad dissemination of findings.

Applications are expected to incorporate diverse perspectives and all types of institutions are strongly encouraged to apply. There will also be a webinar on **September 26, 2022 at 3:00pm ET** during which NIDA staff will provide an overview of the FOAs and respond

to questions. Registration details for the webinar will be posted on the NIDA website.

The FOAs and webinar information can be found on the NIDA Racial Equity Initiative Funding Priority website: <https://nida.nih.gov/about-nida/racial-equity-initiative/funding-priorities>. The FOAs are also listed in the NIH Guide: <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/searchguide/index.html#/>

Call for Proposals

Policies for Action

Policy and Law Research to Build a Culture of Health

The racial wealth gap is a direct result of structural racism in America and is a root cause of other disparities in health, well-being, and survival. Any systematic approach to eliminating the racial wealth gap requires transformative policies focused on bolstering long-term family and community income streams and building and sustaining generational family and community wealth in communities of color.

Policies for Action has issued a call for proposals (CFP) to build the evidence base on how national, state, local, tribal, or private-sector policies can reduce large and growing levels of racial inequality in wealth and significantly improve the financial well-being and economic security of families and communities who have been systematically marginalized.

Letters of intent are due on September 7, 2022 at 3:00p.m. ET. [Click here](#) for more details.

New Publication- COVID-19 Vaccines: Studying Historical Successes (and Failures) for Equity-Centered Approaches to Vaccinating Indigenous Communities, Undocumented Immigrants and Communities of Color

NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences
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Medicine

Communities of color experience significantly higher rates of COVID-19 infection compared to White Americans, but have gotten vaccinated at a slower pace. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity hosted a public webinar to discuss lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and previous vaccination efforts that could improve vaccination rates among communities of color. Five participants including Indigenous tribal authorities, state public health workers, labor advocates, and academics discussed the history of vaccination and disease control efforts for minority populations during and before the COVID-19 pandemic. This Proceedings of a Workshop-In Brief summarizes the content of the workshop discussions.

[Click here](#) to read the full publication.

Collaboration Column

This weekly column provides space for any of our CHET affiliates to seek out involvement of others. We request that contributions be no more than 3 sentences and include contact information.

If considered appropriate, contributions sent to chet@uky.edu by Thursday will be included in CHET's Friday digest. Contributions will run twice, unless requested otherwise.

For more information, please contact the Communication Subcommittee
via chet@uky.edu

Biostatistics and Research Design Core

To request a consultation with the CHET Biostatistics and Research Design Core, please
click the following link: https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GlFBA9n9aPOFlb

CHET Student and Trainee Listserv

Please encourage your students and trainees to join our listserv here: bit.ly/joinchet
