



What Is Confronting Racism By Achieving Health Equity?

This campaign, endorsed by CHA's Board of Trustees, represents the Catholic health ministry's commitment to concerted and coordinated efforts to achieve equity in our own health systems, facilities and communities and to advocate systemic change in the wider health care sector and our society. The Catholic health ministry is uniquely positioned to be a leader in this effort based on our ministry's long history of caring for everyone regardless of race or socioeconomic status and our deep commitment to the social teachings and moral principles of the Catholic faith.

Health inequity is a persistent and lingering legacy of the systemic racism and social prejudices that have far too often been prevailing characteristics in our nation's history. By pledging our commitment to achieve health equity, we can defeat that harmful legacy.

Why Now?

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated the existing disparities in our health care system. Communities of color including African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and others have suffered and died disproportionately from COVID-19, only hastening the urgency of this cause and our commitment to addressing health inequities. As the nation continues to battle the pandemic and looks forward to an eventual vaccine, we must do everything we can to ensure that those who have been marginalized by our health system receive the equal care and treatment they deserve. We can no longer allow race, ethnicity, economic status, geographic distribution or other social factors to determine anyone's access to quality care.

How Do I Get Started?

We are uniquely called to this campaign as the Catholic health ministry. Many Catholic health systems and facilities are already doing work in this area and others are ready to step up their efforts. We urge all ministry health systems and facilities to publicly endorse their commitment to this campaign and to make its suggested actions an integral part of your operations plans. You can start by:

- ✦ **DESIGNATING A LEADER/COORDINATOR FOR THE CAMPAIGN FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION**
- ✦ **ASSESSING YOUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HEALTH INEQUITIES AND INCREASE DIVERSITY**
- ✦ **DEVELOPING AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**
- ✦ **REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS**
- ✦ **INTEGRATING YOUR PLAN THROUGHOUT YOUR SYSTEM OR FACILITY**
- ✦ **SHARING YOUR PROGRAMS AND PLANS WITH CHA**

TO MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS CAUSE PLEASE CONTACT KATHY CURRAN, CHA'S SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY, AT KCURRAN@CHAUSA.ORG

ENDORSED BY THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON JULY 27, 2020

