



Request for Applications
Racial Healing Revival
Applications Due June 1, 2018

CityMatCH is excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for our **Racial Healing Revival** project! With inspiration from the original Racial Healing Project (which took place in 2010 in North Nashville and Orange Mound, TN), the Revival will give three Local Health Departments (LHDs) the opportunity to take a deep dive into the history and policies that perpetuate racism and ultimately lead to health disparities, both nationally and within their jurisdiction.

Background

Public Health practitioners often speak about racial disparities in health outcomes, highlighting that certain racial groups experience worse outcomes than others. While this important information informs downstream projects that work towards mitigating these disparities, it is also paramount to understand and address the upstream factors that have contributed to these outcomes. What systems are in place that prevent individuals from obtaining healthcare? From buying healthy food? From living in safe homes? And how do these different factors and systems combine to produce poor health outcomes? More importantly, how do we *continually address* these issues amongst ourselves, as professionals, and with community members?

Through this project, teams will learn about our national history and how it affects local outcomes. Teams will also have the opportunity to engage their community to learn about their local history and its effects; the community's experience, strength, and resilience; and the current needs of the community.

Project Framework

This is a two-year project with annual in-person meetings, presentations by national experts, regular Technical Assistance provided by CityMatCH, and more. **This project requires the participation of both the Health Director (or Executive Director, CEO, etc.) of the health department and the CityMatCH Member Representative ("co-leads").** Additional representatives from the health department or community partners are welcome to participate. **The two co-leads are required to attend the in-person meetings.**

If the Director and the Member Representative are the same person, please have the Assistant Director (Deputy Director, etc.) serve as a co-lead.

In the first year, teams will receive training on national history to start conversations on systemic *and* systematic racism and how it affects the lives of people.

Armed with a broad historical knowledge, the LHD teams will then be tasked with two main items for the remainder of the project:

Oral History: Carefully choose a community in the LHD jurisdiction (for example, a certain zip code or neighborhood) and develop an oral history specific to that community through conducting interviews with residents.

This component will allow LHD teams to learn about what barriers to health equity exist in their communities. Community members are the experts on their experiences and their needs. They are a treasure trove of knowledge and insight on how racism has affected their neighborhood, their family members, their health, and their sense of self. Community members can inform the LHD team of how the community has overcome adversity. CityMatCH will provide a guide to Oral Histories and any relevant resources that are helpful to teams in obtaining these histories.

Transformative Work: Incorporating oral histories, community input, and other resources, LHDs will be asked to design and implement a project focused on transformational change within the health department.

Examples include:

- Use of neighborhood oral histories to train health department staff before community work
- Internal health department assessment for equity and inclusion in all grant applications or funded initiatives
- Stated goals to have inclusive and equitable representation at all agency levels

LHDs will be given broad latitude in selecting transformative work. The above examples are based on work of previous LHDs. Each project will be unique and tailored to the organization and community in which it takes place.

Application Components

The application process will have three requirements:

1. Responses to the questions on the following page (See page 3)
2. A Letter of Support from the LHD's Health Director (or similar)
3. An introductory conversation with CityMatCH staff

Benefits of Participation

By participating in this project, LHD teams will:

1. Have the opportunity to learn about and gain a deeper understanding of the community they serve
2. Lead an organizational change within their health department
3. Work with peer health departments as well as CityMatCH and national experts
4. Showcase their work when complete at the annual CityMatCH Conference

Selection Criteria

Teams will be selected based on need, capacity to undertake the project, and other considerations (e.g. geographic distribution, jurisdiction size, etc.).

Project Timeline

Request for Applications Announced	May 1
Q & A Call with Potential Applicants	May 8
Applications Due	June 1
Informative Call with Applicants	June 18 through July

Application: Racial Healing Revival

Please answer the questions below.

1. Please identify the co-leads for this project – provide name, credentials, contact information for your Health Director (or similar) and CityMatCH Membership Representative.
2. What projects, activities, or initiatives has your local health department participated in to relative to racism, systemic racism, systematic racism, social injustice, etc. in the past three years? Please describe them below and include date of activity (beginning and end, or ongoing), number and description of participants or audience, outcomes, and considerations for evaluation and sustainability.

What was your role in the project?

How has your local health department engaged the community?

3. Please list and describe two to three candidate communities in your jurisdiction for this project.

Please provide relevant data or facts about these communities where possible. At minimum, describe the racial and ethnic composition of the communities, recent developments in the community (gentrification, school closures, introduction of large employer in the community, etc.), and health outcomes (including social determinants of health) experienced by the community.

4. Please provide any additional comments.

Thank you for your interest in our Racial Healing Revival Project! We look forward to working together. If you have any questions, please email Lynne Le (lynne.le@unmc.edu) or Stephani Tyrance (Stephani.tyrance@unmc.edu).