

COVID-19 HEALTH EQUITY ACADEMIC/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MINI-GRANT FOR TELEHEALTH TRAIN-the-TRAINER

Background: Governor Cuomo has enlisted the support of the Gates Foundation, former Google CEO Eric Schmidt, along with other leaders in the areas of education, healthcare, and broadband to form a commission called "Reimagine New York" to advise the state on how to leverage technology during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. To start, the commission is prioritizing telehealth, K-12 remote learning and expanding broadband. Martha Pollack, a co-chair of this commission, has requested the support of the Cayuga Health System and other community partners to advance the commission's objectives.

Response: In response to President Pollack's request, Cayuga Health Partners proposes that we leverage Cornell Cooperative Extension's extensive networks in every county to provide education and support to populations disproportionately impacted by COVID, i.e., Black, Latinx and lower-income populations. Using a public health 3.0 framework, this intervention aims to improve access to and utilization of telehealth for primary care, including COVID-19 care and post COVID care, as well as chronic disease prevention and treatment, through strategic partnerships between community-based organizations, schools, healthcare and academic institutions.

Cayuga Health Partners intends to partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Cornell Master of Public Health Program (MPH) to design and implement community-based telehealth train-the-trainer intervention that can be adapted to reflect the diversity of audiences with whom Cooperative Extension community educators engage. Cayuga Health Partners will also work with the MPH Program to design a monitoring and evaluation plan so that the training modules can be continuously improved and adapted to achieve the desired outcomes of the intervention.

Funding Request: Cayuga Health Partners seeks COVID-19 Health Equity Initiative mini-grant funding (via Project 3) to conduct a demonstration project to test and measure the effects of the telehealth train-the-trainer intervention among low-income families with school-age children in the Ithaca City School District, the largest, most diverse school district in the county. Funding will cover staff time involved with the design, implementation and evaluation of the training as well as costs associated with improving access to telehealth. The results of the demonstration project will inform the content and dissemination strategy for the rest of NYS.