



INFORMATIONAL OVERVIEW

## Academy for Health Equity Advocacy & Leadership

JUNE 13, 2016

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# Connecticut Health Foundation

- Established in 1999, the Connecticut Health Foundation (CT Health) is the state's largest independent health foundation.
- Over the past 16 years, CT Health has awarded grants totaling over \$58M throughout the state.
- Our theory is that by investing in systems change, we will make a sustainable impact for more people.
- In 2005, the foundation established the Health Leadership Fellows program to train emerging leaders to be health equity advocates. After 10 successful years, we are refining our efforts and have announced the creation of the Academy for Health Equity Advocacy and Leadership.

# Academy for Health Equity Advocacy & Leadership

- A redesigned leadership development program created to strengthen the next generation of Connecticut-based advocates for health equity policy and sustained systems change
- Training strong, adaptive, and diverse leaders with experience in policy, advocacy, strategic planning, and communications who are positioned to inform, influence, and drive policy that expands health equity
- Equipping leaders with the skills needed to be a systems change leader, influence policymakers, create coalitions, and organize communities for health equity issues

# Changing Landscape for Health Equity Advocacy

- Last five years were marked by significant advances in reducing the number of uninsured in Connecticut – down to about 3% uninsured
- Ongoing battles to protect and expand coverage gains for families and improve access to quality care, especially for the disadvantaged, as health systems continue to realign and transform
- Despite significant gains in access, health inequities in Connecticut continue to exist for large numbers of racial and ethnic minorities and poor people
- Need for more diverse individuals in state government and other health policy decision-making positions

# Integrating Leadership Competencies

The Academy for Health Equity Advocacy & Leadership is designed to integrate a series of key leadership competencies:

- Health Equity Policy: Knowledge Base
- Core Competencies in Policy: Understanding Key Intervention Points
- Core Competencies in Advocacy: Developing a Plan
- Adaptive Leadership Capacity: Leading for Change

# The Program

- **18-month program**, coupled with specialized individual coaching, leadership action plans, peer-to-peer networking and hands-on, action-oriented projects and activities in the real world
- **Theory of Change Policy Institute©** providing an introduction to the core principles of the Connecticut Health Foundation's theory of change, an overview of effective strategic and advocacy planning and an in-depth exploration of the principles of equity in health
- Subsequent **multi-day seminars** will cover policymaking, understanding government health agencies and budget processes, developing effective strategies, building coalitions, and more, with **adaptive leadership integrated**

# Leadership In Practice

- Leaders develop, launch and implement a **Health Equity Policy Agenda** in alignment with their current organizational role and responsibilities
- **Training for Change**® strategic policy advocacy project designed to synthesize and integrate leaders' new knowledge and skills, and apply them to address a current health equity policy challenge
- Distinguished, experienced **strategy and policy experts serve as advisors** and provide guidance and coaching to leaders



# Advisors & Alumni Network

- Throughout the entirety of the program, **advisors will guide leaders** in their training and help them apply their new knowledge and skills to opportunities for policy change within their organizations and communities
- Upon completion of the program, the leaders will be Academy Alumni, and join the powerful collective of CT Health fellows alumni, grantees, and partners working to expand health equity
- Program alumni will remain connected, encouraged to serve as **“Ambassadors for Change”** striving to expand health equity and drive sustained systems change throughout Connecticut

# Who Should Apply

- Designed for **established leaders** in health policy and advocacy or related fields, who hold senior or executive level positions in their organization and have:
  - Demonstrated **strong commitment to reducing social and health inequities**, improving health outcomes for the underserved, and to personal growth and professional development
  - **Demonstrated leadership qualities**, a positive attitude, resourcefulness, strong communication and interpersonal skills, ability to handle conflict, and team orientation
  - A clear description of how they believe they will benefit from the program and what they **propose to do to expand health equity**, create enduring systems change, and improve the welfare of Connecticut's most underserved communities
  - **Support from their employing organization** to participate in the Academy and promote health equity in their day-to-day work

# How To Apply

- The application process will be very competitive
- Interested individuals who believe they meet the criteria can submit their resume/CV and a statement of interest to Garrick Wong (garrick@cthealth.org) by June 22
  - Statement of interest should indicate why you aspire to participate in the program, including your strengths and qualifications as they relate to the eligibility criteria; how you believe you will benefit from the program; how you think the experience will impact your career; and what you propose to do with the experience to help expand health equity and drive systems change in Connecticut. (250 words maximum)
- Individuals identified as meeting the criteria will then be invited to submit a full application

# Application Process Dates

- **June 22, 2016, 5pm ET:** Deadline to submit resume/CV and statement of interest
- **July 1, 2016, 5pm ET:** Deadline to submit full application
- **August/September 2016:** Finalist interviews
- **September 30, 2016:** Selection and notification

# Planned Seminar Dates

- **January 5-7, 2017**
- **March 24-25, 2017**
- **May 19-20, 2017**
- **July 21-22, 2017**
- **September 15-16, 2017**
- **November 17-18, 2017**
- **January 5-6, 2018**
- **March 2-3, 2018**
- **May 4-5, 2018**
- **June 26-27, 2018**

**\*Dates subject to change**



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