

THE RESTUCCIA HEALTH JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

Community Catalyst is dedicated to advancing a movement for health equity and justice by transforming a broken health system into one that is shaped by and accountable to all people. That means focusing our work more deliberately towards race equity and health justice, long-term vision setting, and power building that prioritizes the people most hurt by our current health system.

One exciting way we're delivering on this vision is the [Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship](#). This program honors the legacy and vision of Rob Restuccia, Community Catalyst's longtime and founding executive director.

Launched in the fall of 2020, the Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship focuses on building the power and capacity of emerging advocacy leaders and their organizations to reshape the health system, so it is reflective of and responsive to community needs. The Fellowship has an explicit emphasis on addressing the historically discriminatory roots of the health care system and seeks to help eradicate structural barriers by diversifying and strengthening leadership within the health equity and justice movement.

The Fellowship's framework concentrates on four overlapping areas that reflect Rob's values, respond to advocates' needs in the field, and complement Community Catalyst's existing work: advancing leadership development and teamwork, organizational transformation, powerful and unusual partnerships, and leadership through a race equity and health justice lens.

We are incredibly grateful to our partners and generous donors that have made this program possible.



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Since Community Catalyst launched the **Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship** in the fall of 2020, the program has been a significant part of our ability to grow into an even more trusted partner to hundreds of community-based organizations at the local, state, and national level—and to imagine how we can build power and unity together to advance a health system rooted in race equity and health justice.

Through our partnership with the [inaugural class of 2021](#), we have learned so much about the needs of health justice organizations and leaders and specifically about the role Community Catalyst can play in supporting leadership and organizational development. The inaugural class—which includes immigrant rights, grassroots organizing, and reproductive justice organizations—has also taught us how intersectional connections and learnings are essential to building a more powerful, united race equity and health justice

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movement.

As recognition of the program's impact to date and vision for the future, we're eager to pilot a new, exciting regional component of the Fellowship in 2022: **The Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship–New York**. As the first regionally focused individual leadership development fellowship centered on race equity and health justice, the inaugural cohort of the Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship–New York will participate in an innovative leadership training model that will provide fellows with skills and tools to effectively advocate on behalf of their communities and tackle structural racism and other inequities embedded in the U.S. health system.

The regional pilot will deepen and enhance community-led health advocacy efforts across the state and cultivate a broader network of diverse health justice and patient advocate leaders and organizations that reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of New York State.

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RESTUCCIA HEALTH JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP (NATIONAL)

Every year, Community Catalyst will select three organizational teams to participate in the **Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship**, consisting of three people per team. Its focus on **teams of organizational leaders**, rather than one leader, is meant to accelerate and sustain organizational change. Diverse teams within local, state, and **national health advocacy organizations** are encouraged to apply. The program prioritizes organizations of color and subsequently leaders of color who reflect the communities they live in and/or serve.

Applications for the second National Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship cohort will be open July, 2022.

Core elements of the **Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship** program are grounded in community discussions and needs, and include healing justice and resiliency, development and fundraising strategies, data and technology, leadership versus management, change management through race and health equity, and power building through partnerships.

Selected organizations and teams will receive the following benefits:

- ◆ Awarded a \$50,000 general operating grant to the organization to be used over twelve months to defray the costs of participation and/or to fund organizational transformation activity
- ◆ Organizational development coaching and support valued at \$25,000 (or more)
- ◆ An organizational assessment supported by a designated coach and tied to organizational transformation and racial justice
- ◆ Training and learning with top experts in organizational management, health systems, advocacy, racial justice, and leadership development
- ◆ Membership in a peer cohort with other outstanding health advocacy leaders
- ◆ Increased public profile through networking opportunities and Fellowship communications

Learn more about the **Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship** in a detailed Q&A [here](#). You can send your questions to RestucciaFellowship@CommunityCatalyst.org.

RESTUCCIA HEALTH JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP–NEW YORK (PILOT)

With catalyzing support from the New York Health Foundation (NYHealth), eight emerging advocacy leaders will be selected to participate in the **Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship–New York** regional pilot. The program seeks **individuals** that work in health advocacy, health policy, patient advocacy, and/or a community-based organization within **New York State** that prioritizes health in their work. Supporting organizations of color is a primary goal of the fellowship program. While it is not required eligibility criteria, applications from geographically diverse individuals who are located in and serving New York State, have lived experience, and work in or serve low-income communities and communities of color will be prioritized.

Applications for the Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship–New York (Pilot) are due July 8, 2022. Apply [here](#).

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The **Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship–New York** program design includes the core elements of the Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship program and will continue to be adapted to meet the needs of New York advocates. This will likely include tailored workshops on defining success, building and sustaining community coalition partners, policymaking and regulatory processes for successful change, authentic leadership, inclusive communication and relationship building, personal leadership development, strengthening health access and coverage, addressing community health needs, and navigating New York's health care landscape and new leadership in New York's political landscape.

As part of the application process, applicants and two designated colleagues, including at least one senior-level decision maker within the organization, need to identify two pressing health-related challenges and issues that they and their organization could address through a capstone advocacy project to ensure that the state's health care system is reshaped in ways that meet community and patient needs. This can include health-related challenges they are already working to address but could use additional support to propel the work forward.

Selected organizations and individuals will receive the following benefits:

- ◆ Awarded a \$20,000 grant to the organization to be used over 12 months to defray the costs of participation and/or to fund their capstone advocacy project
- ◆ Individual personal/professional development coaching and support valued at over \$25,000
- ◆ Individual and organizational assessments of advocacy knowledge/skills, leadership, racial equity, and health justice
- ◆ An individual leadership plan supported by a qualified coach and tied to the project capstone
- ◆ Membership in a peer cohort with other outstanding health advocacy leaders
- ◆ Increased public profile through networking opportunities and Fellowship communications

Learn more about the **Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship–New York** in a detailed Q&A [here](#). You can send your questions to RestucciaFellowshipNY@CommunityCatalyst.org.

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ABOUT COMMUNITY CATALYST

Community Catalyst is a national health advocacy organization dedicated to building the power of people to create a health system rooted in race equity and health justice and a society where health is a right for all. Through a mix of rigorous policy analysis, multi-state advocacy campaigns, strategic communications, and deep partnership with local and state organizations, we work towards policy change grounded in community voices and leadership. Together with our partners, we bridge advocacy strategies with power building to create a health system accountable to all. For more information, visit www.communitycatalyst.org. Follow us on Twitter @CommCatHealth.