



NEWS RELEASE

Merck Foundation Launches \$22 Million Initiative to Improve Cardiovascular Care in the U.S.

2025-11-03

Building on the Merck Foundation's longstanding commitment to advancing access to high-quality health care, new national initiative supports grants to 11 organizations across the country

RAHWAY, N.J.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- The Merck Foundation announced today the launch of the Collaborative for Equity in Cardiac Care, a \$22 million, five-year initiative aimed at enhancing access to high-quality, person-centered health care for people living with heart conditions in the U.S. Eleven organizations are receiving grants to support the development and implementation of evidence-informed, comprehensive programs to improve health outcomes in communities where access to timely care for cardiovascular disease is a challenge.

"Cardiovascular disease continues to be the number one cause of death for men and women living in the U.S., and its burden hits under-resourced communities the hardest. By addressing the medical and social needs of people living with heart conditions, the Collaborative for Equity in Cardiac Care will have a significant, lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities across the country," said Kalahn Taylor-Clark, vice president and head, Social Impact & Sustainability, Merck.

The Foundation is providing grants to select non-profit health care and public health organizations working with local community-based groups. As a Collaborative, they will help bridge gaps in the delivery of care for a range of heart conditions and advance sustainable, and potentially scalable, approaches to improve the lives of people with heart disease.

Collaborative program grantees include:

- **Capital Health System**(Trenton, New Jersey)
- **The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness**(Madison, Wisconsin)
- **Gallup Community Health**(Gallup, New Mexico)
- **Georgia State University Research Foundation/Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement**(Atlanta, Georgia)
- **La Clínica del Pueblo**(Washington, D.C.)
- **MedNorth Health Center**(New Hanover, North Carolina)
- **Providence Medical Foundation**(Sonoma County, California)
- **Public Health Institute/Population Health Innovation Lab**(Lake County, California)
- **University of Chicago**(Chicago, Illinois)
- **UPMC Center for High-Value Health Care**(McKeesport, Pennsylvania)
- **Zufall Health Center**(Morris County, New Jersey)

The Foundation is also supporting the **Johns Hopkins Center for Health Equity** as the Collaborative's National Program Office (NPO), which will provide technical assistance to grantees as they build local partnerships and implement their programs. The NPO will also foster peer-to-peer learning among grantees, conduct a cross-site evaluation and disseminate the Collaborative's results and lessons learned.

"Collaborative grantees serve a range of populations, and each one has firsthand experience in addressing the specific gaps in access to high-quality cardiac care in their communities," says Lisa A. Cooper, MD, MPH, MACP, director at Johns Hopkins Center for Health Equity and director of the Collaborative NPO. "Bringing together these outstanding organizations to strengthen local partnerships and address the social and environmental factors that influence health will not only meet immediate patient need but also pave the way for sustained improvements in the delivery of cardiac care across the U.S."

The Collaborative for Equity in Cardiac Care builds on the Foundation's legacy of investing in community-focused programs that improve access to high-quality health care in underserved communities, including the **Alliance for Equity in Cancer Care**, which is currently operating in seven states.

About the Merck Foundation

The Merck Foundation is a U.S.-based, private charitable foundation. Established in 1957 by Merck, a leading global biopharmaceutical company, the Foundation is funded entirely by the company and is Merck's chief source of funding support to qualified non-profit charitable organizations. Since its inception, the Foundation has contributed more than \$1 billion to support important initiatives that address critical global health and societal needs that are consistent with Merck's purpose: to save and improve lives around the world. For more information, visit

<https://www.merck.com/company-overview/sustainability/philanthropy/>

Media Contacts:

John Cummins

john.cummins2@merck.com

Ned Ehrbar

ned.ehrbar@merck.com

Source: Merck Sharp & Dohme