

The Health Foundation for Western and Central New York is dedicated to improving the health and health care of the people and communities of western and central New York. Our focus is on two of the most vulnerable and underserved populations in our regions: frail elders and young children living in poverty. In support of both groups we also invest in strengthening health capacity in our communities. To achieve our vision, we work with community partners to develop, implement and support innovative programs and initiatives.

Our grant process: The Health Foundation awards grants that address one of our focus areas within the 16 counties we serve. We accept requests through a formal Request for Proposals process and also through a more informal process of grantee-initiated requests and invited work. The Health Foundation reviews the proposals, and awards a limited number of grants to the organizations that best meet the requirements of the RFP or our funding priorities. To learn more, please call (716) 852-3030 or email info@hfwcnny.org.



Frail Elders

According to the AARP, 85 percent of seniors want to live out their lives at home. However, few options exist for community-based care, especially for those with low incomes and those who live in rural areas.

The Foundation is focused on not only improving the quality of care for frail elders in our communities, but also on postponing the onset of frailty and deferring its consequences.



Community Health Capacity

The Foundation recognizes that the health and health care of frail elders and children in communities of poverty cannot improve without bolstering the communities within which they live and the health care systems that serve them. Programs funded through this focus area are designed to create a positive learning climate which fosters more effective and innovative organizations and individuals.



Young Children Living in Poverty

Approximately 19 percent of families in our regions with children under five report a household income below the poverty line.

The Foundation focuses on the health of children birth to five because of their particularly high vulnerability and because of the importance of the early learning experiences and significant developmental milestones to be achieved during these years.



Current Projects



Frail Elders

The Falls Prevention Initiative engages community-based organizations and health care providers in implementing successful strategies to reduce falls and the impact of falls for older adults.

The Neighborhood Action Initiative provides neighborhood-based organizations with resources that enable them to create and test best practices that will help seniors age in place.

The Geriatric Workforce Initiative includes a series of projects aimed to increase recruitment, retention, and competence among health care professionals who currently serve frail elders and their families in western and central New York.



Young Children Living in Poverty

CHOMPERS! Bringing Dental Care To Kids applies two proven strategies to serve poor children birth to five and their families in western and central New York: Cavity Free Kids curriculum and portable dental care.

PEDALS: Positive Emotional Development and Learning Skills provides early child care educators in Erie and Niagara counties with training on how to use evidence-based emotional and social curricula and assessments in their classrooms.

The Improving Maternal and Child Health Initiative focuses on improving the health and well-being of children up to age one and women of child-bearing age living in poverty in western and central New York, with a strong emphasis in areas with a high risk of poor maternal and child health outcomes - "hot spot" neighborhoods.

Health Care Safety-Net: The Health Care Safety-Net project enables the providers of primary care safety net services to better serve at risk families and children, through collaborative efforts that improve access, improve quality of care, increase revenue and foster efficiencies.

Community Leadership and Collaborations: The Health Leadership Fellows program expand the network of skilled leaders that will learn to lead collaboratively, and will become advocates for improved health care delivery. The Fellows Action Network was formed by graduates of the first three cohorts of the Health Leadership Fellows program.

Organizational Capacity: As health and human service agencies face a growing number of changes, the Foundation is providing financial and expert support to organizations through programs such as Ready or Not, GetSET and Hitting the Mark.



Community Health Capacity

To learn more, visit www.hfwcnny.org