

BACKGROUND

The Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship ([The Fellowship](#)) is a new program dedicated to supporting the growth and reach of diverse advocacy organizations and their leadership teams situated at the intersection of health equity, racial justice, and organizational transformation. It honors the legacy and vision of Rob Restuccia, Community Catalyst's longtime and founding executive director.

At Community Catalyst, we have always believed that investing in community leadership is essential to progress. The Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship is designed to deepen that commitment, with an emphasis on supporting organizations of color.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The Fellowship's primary objective is to equip diverse teams within local, state, and national health advocacy organizations with the tools, resources, and teamwork they need to transform their organizations. From this, these organizations will be able to take greater strides towards health equity and racial justice.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES



Developing more resilient and aligned organizational leadership teams that operate with an increased sense of agency, unity, and effectiveness



Developing programmatic and operational practices and strategies that become engrained and help unlock each organization's potential



Enabling organizations to become better able to engage and identify needs that increase their ability to achieve bigger, more lasting, more equitable structural changes to the health care system



Linking racial justice to bolder solutions for health equity, access, and quality



Strengthening organizations such that they can build dynamic new partnerships that strive toward health systems change and can shift – not just navigate – the larger political landscape in which advocates operate

Unlike other fellowship programs that recruit individuals for leadership development, the Fellowship will recruit teams from within organizations who will participate collaboratively and other teams in all programming. It will provide intensive coaching and funding for select local, state, and national health advocacy organizations for nine months. Fellowship teams will define and pursue an organizational transformation goal with the support of coaching, training, and seminars delivered by outstanding faculty members.

This Fellowship has an explicit emphasis on addressing the historically discriminatory roots of the health care system and seeks to help eradicate structural racism by diversifying and strengthening the health justice movement's leadership. Its focus on teams of organizational leaders, rather than on one leader, is unique and is meant to accelerate and sustain organizational change. In addition, our targeted focus is on funding organizations of color and subsequently leaders of color. 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.

BENEFITS

The Restuccia Health Justice Fellowship will select three organizational teams, to consist of three people per team. The participating organizations will receive the following benefits:

- \$50,000 general operating grant to the organization to be used over nine months to defray the costs of participation and/or to fund organizational transformation activity
- Organizational development coaching and support valued at \$15,000 (or more)
- An organizational assessment supported by your 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

ABOUT ROB RESTUCCIA

Rob Restuccia was Community Catalyst's founding executive director and a trailblazing leader in the health advocacy movement. His life's work and commitment to rooting out injustice involved activism as a student at Harvard, work as an orderly in a public hospital, union organizing, and his role as a visionary state health care advocate, and national leader. He was an outstanding team builder, collaborator and made those around him better. Rob envisioned this Fellowship program with his family, friends, and closest professional colleagues before his death in 2019.

ABOUT COMMUNITY CATALYST

Community Catalyst is a leading non-profit national health advocacy organization dedicated to advancing a movement for health equity and justice. We partner with local, state, and national advocates to leverage community power so all people can influence decisions that affect their health. Health systems will not be accountable to people without a fully engaged and organized community voice. That's why we work every day to ensure people's interests are represented wherever important decisions about health and health care are made: in communities, statehouses, and on Capitol Hill. For more information, visit www.communitycatalyst.org. Follow us on Twitter [@CommCatHealth](https://twitter.com/CommCatHealth).