

Nursing Innovations Fund



Nurses are ready to advance health equity, but they can't do it alone. The *Campaign's* Nursing Innovations Fund incentivizes strategic community partnerships that enhance nurses' efforts to disrupt disparities and build health equity. Our small grants are leveraging big change—by cultivating equity-minded nurses, engaging them in building healthier communities, and investing in solutions that can be replicated over time.

Why Our Work Matters

Social and economic factors have a profound influence on people's ability to live healthy lives. Research shows that income and education; access to housing, food, and transportation; and racism and other forms of discrimination all influence health outcomes, leading to stark inequities.

At four million strong, the nation's nurses are integral to achieving health equity. They are well positioned to help consumers and communities overcome socio-economic barriers to health. (To learn more, see the National Academy of Medicine's *Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity*.)

How We Work

Each year, the *Campaign* invites its state-based Action Coalitions and their partners to apply for cash awards aimed at building health equity. In addition to submitting a strong proposal, applicants must commit to raising dollar-for-dollar matching funds. Awards are made to projects with the potential to engage partners from multiple sectors, catalyze sustainable change, and produce replicable solutions.

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What We've Achieved

- \$850,000 awarded and over \$2 million raised in matching funds
- 30 projects jumpstarted
- Dozens of partnerships formed

Since 2018, the Nursing Innovations Fund has spurred action in 23 states.

In Washington, *Campaign* nurses partnered with the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns to assist high-risk older adults of Filipino descent during the COVID-19 pandemic. They conducted weekly check-in calls, distributed prepaid phone cards, served 20,280 culturally appropriate meals, and delivered 75,000 pounds of groceries.

In West Virginia, nurses teamed up with the state's Small Business Development Center to stimulate the creation of nurse-led businesses, such as a primary care practice that brought much needed care to the Appalachia area—and grew to serve 1,200 patients in just 18 months. The Nurse Entrepreneur Project garnered \$1.3 million to scale the initiative across the state and beyond, benefiting, both the state's economy and the health of residents.

In Wyoming, nurses partnered with the AARP state office to decrease social isolation and increase access to care and services. Nursing students taught older adults to use their internet-enabled devices to access telehealth, make online purchases, and communicate with friends and family.

For more information, visit

<https://campaignforaction.org/nursinginnovationsfund>.

Who We Are

The Nursing Innovations Fund is an initiative of the Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action*. Backed by AARP Foundation, AARP, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the *Campaign* envisions an America where everyone can live a healthier life, advanced by equity-minded nurses as essential and valued partners in providing care and promoting health equity and well-being. Since the *Campaign's* launch, nurse leaders in every state have come together in Action Coalitions to mobilize their peers, form partnerships, and initiate projects that support the *Campaign's* goals. A decade later, members of this diverse, multi-sector network fuel our current efforts and remain committed to powering future *Campaign* endeavors.

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