



Housing and services strategies that work for people.

The Systems Alignment Innovation Hub Inaugurates its Targeted Research Funding Program with Awards to Four Innovative Community-Based Organizations

October 2023

Background

The Systems Alignment Innovation Hub (SAIH) was launched in November 2022 to help medical, social service, and public health providers in racially marginalized and historically disenfranchised communities dismantle inequities and improve health and well-being for all. After a year of working with a range of organizations doing vital work in their communities, SAIH invited selected organizations to apply for targeted research grants and more intensive technical assistance, with the goal of positioning them to successfully apply for pilot test funding at the end of the grant period.

SAIH Targeted Research Funding Awards

Each project supported with grant funds will examine an innovative systems alignment approach that engages partners from the medical, public health, and social services sectors in collaborative efforts to dismantle structural and systemic racism and improve health equity. The 18-month intensive planning grants will assist awardees in assessing and improving the feasibility, acceptability, and evaluability of their systems alignment ideas, eventually creating a strong research proposal.

SAIH's team of subject matter experts will support the awardees throughout their 18-month projects with monthly coaching calls, site visits, and a grantees community of practice that will meet for the first six months of the award period. SAIH's diverse team brings decades of experience contributing to innovative research, public health, social services, medical practices, cross-system alignment, housing justice, racial equity, and Indigenous wisdom, while also bringing lived expertise of homelessness, LGBTQA2S+ issues, mental illness, and substance use disorders.

Targeted Research Funding Recipients

The Accelerated, Accountable, Strategic and Sustainable Equity-Centered Transformation (ASSET) Initiative ([Community Connexor](#))

Community Connexor is an emerging community care hub with the primary mission to facilitate the transition of community-based social care agencies towards holistic, person-centric

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operation models. The SAIH award will allow Community Connexor to develop a plan for the Accelerated, Accountable, Strategic and Sustainable Equity-Centered Transformation initiative, or ASSET. The initiative's goal is to develop the ASSET plan, by and for African Americans, to transform North Nashville into a vibrant, healthy, resilient urban neighborhood through system changes and investments in land use; housing; eliminating health, education and income disparities; infrastructure upgrades; climate preparedness; and workforce training for the next-generation tech and energy economy.

[Mandela Yoga Project](#)

Mandela Yoga Project, based in Cambridge, MA, offers an evidence-based group practice of mindful movement paired with breathing as an integrative health intervention to treat the racially traumatized nervous systems of people of color. Mandela Yoga is peer-led, which allows participants of color to receive the benefits of group practice. The SAIH award will fund the piloting of a peer-led intervention at a Federally Qualified Health Center.

[United Indians of All Tribes Foundation](#)

Founded in 1970, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation provides an extensive array of culturally responsive services and programming to the urban Native community in Seattle and King County, WA. The SAIH grant will support a research project centered on identifying, addressing, and eliminating systemic racism and injustice in the medical, social, and public health services utilized by veterans, service members, and their families who belong to the Native American, Global Indigenous, Asian American Pacific Islander, and other People of Color/Multiracial Indigenous communities.

[Survive to Thrive: Lived Experience Coalition Gun Violence Prevention Study \(Washington State Lived Experience Coalition\)](#)

The Washington State Lived Experience Coalition is a diverse, multigenerational community of people who have endured homelessness, victimization, emotional or physical violence, or mistreatment in the criminal justice system. Launched in 2018, the coalition was formed to ensure that it sits at tables where solutions to the crisis of homelessness are being discussed. The Survive to Thrive study will focus on gun violence and the role of systemic racism in the public health, health care, and social service systems in preventing and responding to gun violence among our young BIPOC community members, especially young Black and Indigenous men.

Learn More

The [Systems Alignment Innovation Hub](#), housed within TAC's Racial Equity Action Lab and working in partnership with the [Human Services Research Institute](#), is a project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's national [Systems for Action Research Program](#). Please visit [our website](#) to learn more about SAIH's targeted research funding, peer learning network, and free systems alignment resources.

