IFDHE
AHA Institute for Diversity and Health Equity

AHA | The Carolyn Boone Lewis Equity of Care Awards 2022 Application (PDF is for reference only)

Application period: Sept. 15 – Nov. 19, 2021

Background & Directions

The Carolyn Boone Lewis Equity of Care Awards recognize hospitals and health systems that have achieved a high level of success in advancing diversity, health equity and equitable healthcare through data, leadership, governance, cultural awareness and community partnerships. Through these efforts, hospitals and the communities they serve have benefited from improved patient experiences, outcomes of care, high reliability, reduced per capita cost and improved workforce preparedness.

The American Hospital Association's vision is of a society of healthy communities, where all individuals reach their highest potential for health. It is our commitment to advance equity, diversity and inclusion in health and health care.

Application Requirements
1) Applicants must be a member of the [American Hospital Association](#)
2) Applicants must have signed the [#123forEquity pledge](#)

Hospital Size and Type
The Equity of Care (EOC) Awards Committee recognizes that efforts to advance health equity occur across the continuum of care within hospitals and health systems of varying sizes and geographic locations. As such, the committee considers the availability and effectiveness of applicants' resources, in relation to hospital size and location. For this reason, it is important that applicants answer the application's questions regarding hospital size and location.

Terms and Definitions to Consider
Diversity is defined as a workforce and patient population composed of varying characteristics including, but not limited to, groups of varied race, ethnicity, language preference, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, physical and mental disabilities, and faith or religious beliefs.

Health equity means everyone has a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health. This requires removing not just obstacles to health such as poverty and discrimination, but also their consequences, including powerlessness, and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.

Leadership refers to individuals in the hospital or health system at the level of director, vice president, the c-suite or executive office.

Governance is defined as the board of directors and its role within the organization in relation to accountability, evaluation, policy development, compliance and implementation.

Factors to Consider

The review committee values applications that highlight *outcomes, metrics, descriptions of the results of success and the impact to equity for patients and communities*. It is important for applications to highlight the following:

1. The *quantifiable impact* that your diversity, inclusion, and health equity work has made in your hospital, health care system and in the communities you serve.
2. Describe the *integration* of your work in diversity and health equity into the organization's business strategy and plans.
3. Clearly identify *how and why greater equity was achieved* on behalf of your organization and community because of the work and strategies enacted.

Submission Deadline:

Please submit your online application and optional supplements by **Friday, Nov. 19, 2021 at 5 p.m. ET.**

Questions can be directed to equityofcare@aha.org

Application Questions

Please answer the application questions to describe your organization's efforts related to health equity. Responses to each question are limited to 500 words. You may also submit supplemental materials with your application, such as dashboards and score cards. Brief reports, no longer than two pages in length, may also be submitted. Please limit supplemental documents to *a total* of 15 additional pages. All supplemental materials should be uploaded with your application. All applications MUST be submitted using this online application form.

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Data Collection & Application: Provide the organization's *results or metrics* on collecting, validating, and using race, ethnicity and language preference (REaL) data, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) and other socio-demographic characteristics to address disparities, address patients' social needs, or to improve patient quality, safety or satisfaction outcomes for diverse populations. Particular attention will be given to evidence supporting how the utilization of the data is advancing equity.

Cultural Humility: Describe the organization's results with regard to advancing cultural humility. When describing programs and progress, ensure that the outcomes are clearly identified. If obstacles have been encountered in the process, articulate how the organization overcame them and specify the outcome and achievement.

Please include efforts related to the Office of Minority National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (CLAS Standards), scorecards, dashboards and results as evidence of your effort. (500 words or fewer; directions for attachments are below)

Leadership: Describe the organization's results related to increasing diversity and inclusion in leadership and hospital management. In particular, note diversity and inclusion strategies, pipeline development, and quantifiable information pertaining to senior and executive leadership for the organization. If you are describing a program's goals, barriers and progress, please ensure that responses highlight the impact and outcomes of actions taken. (500 words or fewer)

Governance: Describe the organization's results related to advancing diversity and inclusion in board governance. Responses should include descriptions of how governance supports and advances equity. If describing program goals, barriers and progress, ensure that responses highlight measurable outcomes of actions taken. (500 words or fewer)

Community Engagement & Alliances: Describe how the organization engages with its local community on equity-of-care initiatives, including community partnerships and innovative approaches to solve health equity challenges. Examples may focus on efforts to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; or programs that focus on improving societal factors that impact health, such as housing, transportation, food insecurity, workforce development and similar topics; or examples of how community health needs assessments are incorporated into a population health strategy. (500 words or fewer)

Action: Other than the examples already cited in previous questions, describe the organization's most significant progress over the last 12 months to advance any of the six priority goals of the upcoming

AHA [Health Equity Transformation Model](#), currently in development. You are encouraged in your response to include outcomes and the impact of strategies enacted by the organization. (500 words or fewer)