# Health Disparities Health Information Technology Upgrades

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Notice of Funding Opportunity Release Date: August 25, 2023**
**Application Due Date:  October 31, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**
**Earliest Anticipated Project Start Date: Two weeks upon application approval**

## Background

In the United States and South Carolina, there are known health disparities for racial and ethnic minorities.  These disparities are in part attributable to an inequitable healthcare system.  The COVID-19 pandemic brought many of these existing disparities front and center, as patient of racial and ethnic minorities experience different access to prevention and treatment as well as different outcomes for patients with COVID-19.  To effectively design and deploy strategies to reduce health disparities requires the use of patient data that includes race, ethnicity, language, and other patient demographic characteristics.  This data allows healthcare organizations to identify and address health inequities as well as implement targeted interventions to reduce disparities in their patient population.  To begin understanding the causes of disparities, healthcare organization must be able to stratify their clinical data using demographic patient data.  Many healthcare organizations are unable to stratify patients due to either not collecting the demographic patient data in a standardized method or difficulty generating these queries from their electronic health records.

## Program Aims

This program aims to assist rural ambulatory practices in generating stratified clinical data reports that assist them in identifying health disparities within their patient population.  This program will support practices in acquiring the needed skills, and/or health information technology capability to generate these data reports.  This program will support training costs, software acquisition, electronic health record upgrades, electronic health record modules, reporting software or external consultation.

## Application Process

To apply for support, applicants must complete the assessment (use the survey monkey link) and application for the *Health Disparities Health Information Technology Upgrades* initiative posted on scorh.net. You will be required to create an account if you have not already done so to begin the application process. SCORH leadership and staff will review the applications and select awardees.

## Overview of Funding Opportunity

The Center expects to award approximately 20 proposals. Programs may request funding with total costs up to $10,000 for the project.

**Funding can be requested for the following:**

We aim to fund organizations that seek to upgrade or enhance their clinical data reporting capabilities to allow for stratified reporting and tracking:

- Training
- Electronic Health Record Module or Application
- Data Reporting and Analytics Tool(s)
- Health Information Technology Software
- External Consultation

## Important Dates

*August 25, 2023:* Online application available via Blackbaud

**October 31*, 2023:*** Online application due by 5:00 p.m.

Projects support begins two weeks upon application approval.

## Eligibility Criteria

- Healthcare providers serving rural communities

If you are uncertain if you are eligible, please contact us, so we can assist you in determining your eligibility

APPLICATION

I.    **Project Need**: Outline the need for the proposed goods and/or services. Current limitations to generating stratified clinical quality data.

II.   **Methods**:  Outline how the proposed goods and/or services will assist practice in generating stratified clinical quality data.

III.  Outcomes:  Describe how the practice will utilize data to identify health disparities and process they will use to develop strategies to address disparities.

IV.   **Detailed Budget and Budget Justification (if purchasing hardware or software, please include vendor quote).**