Asian Health Services Receives $250,000 Grant Award from Direct Relief's Fund for Health Equity

Oakland, California, Sept 22, 2021— Asian Health Services today announced it is among 40 awardees across 20 U.S. states that received a grant from [Direct Relief’s Fund for Health Equity](https://www.directrelief.org/direct-reliefs-fund-for-health-equity-awards-8-1-million-to-40-organizations), which mobilizes financial resources for organizations focused on non-clinical interventions that affect a person's health. Commonly known as the social determinants of health, these factors include an individual’s physical, social, political, cultural, and economic environment.

The 40 awardees included in today's announcement received funding for a wide range of initiatives, including efforts to diversify the healthcare workforce, serve people experiencing homelessness, sustain and restore Indigenous health practices, and reduce infant mortality rates that fall disproportionally along racial and ethnic lines.

Asian Health Services received $250,000 from the Fund for Health Equity to establish an Innovation Hub that will advance creative solutions in the virtual care and digital tools space to address digital divide barriers and other factors that negatively impact health equity. Direct Relief’s Fund for Health Equity grant award will support Asian Health Services’ expansion of the Smart Hypertension Improvement Project, understanding and addressing the digital divide, and establishment of partnerships focused on innovative solutions.

"We are pleased to bolster the indispensable work of these grassroots organizations striving to reduce disparities and increase equity among vulnerable populations," said Dr. Byron Scott, MD, MBA, Co-Chair of the Fund for Health Equity and Board Director of Direct Relief and Chair of its Medical Advisory Council. "With their deep ties and particular insights into the people and communities they serve, these groups are best suited and most acutely aware of what can make a difference – and it’s a privilege to be able to enable them to do more of it with philanthropic funding that is often difficult to secure within their local communities."

The awardees were selected by the [Fund for Health Equity's Advisory Council,](https://www.directrelief.org/issue/health-equity/) which includes the following members:

* Co-Chair Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA, 18th U.S. Surgeon General of the United States, Founder Bayou Clinic, Inc.
* Co-Chair Byron Scott, MD, MBA, Board Director of Direct Relief and Chair of its Medical Advisory Council
* Martha Dawson, DNP, MSN, RN, FACHE, President of the National Black Nurses Association, Associate Professor the University of Alabama at Birmingham
* Jane Delgado, Ph.D., MS, President and CEO of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health
* Gail Small, JD, Head Chief Woman, a citizen of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe

The grants announced today follow[$1.8 million](https://www.directrelief.org/2021/08/direct-reliefs-fund-for-health-equity-awards-1-8-million-to-10-healthcare-organizations/) in funding issued by Direct Relief’s Fund for Health Equity last month, with support from the AbbVie Foundation.

[Direct Relief](https://www.directrelief.org/) will announce additional grant awards this year.