

The nccPA Health Foundation designs initiatives to equip and empower Board Certified PAs and PA students to improve health for all. Our work builds PA capacity, competencies, and skills through grant, education, and research activities. Below, we have highlighted resources for educators and students.

PAs Lead Grant-Funded Grassroots Outreach

Across its six [grant programs](#), the Health Foundation has invested over \$285,000 to support more than 145 outreach projects. With more than 70% of these seed grants supporting PA faculty and PA student projects, we invite you to apply for our year-round grants and join this movement for better health!

The grant portfolio is led by the [Be the CHANGE grant](#), our most popular offering with 66 grants (45%) awarded. This \$2,500 award equips you and your students to address a need of your choosing. Recipients have tackled a host of community needs, including health fairs; diversity education; blood pressure monitoring; diabetes education; sun exposure risk; eye care; pediatric and health literacy; breast cancer detection; health promotion with elementary, high school and college students; foot care; smoking cessation; global health; street medicine; care to underserved and Indigenous communities; and more.

The Health Foundation's [PAs STEP Up grant](#), which supports PAs in **S**tanding **T**ogether for **E**quity in the **P**rofession, was launched in 2022. The \$2,500 grant provides funding for activities that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion as strategies to expand PA pipelines and foster a diverse PA workforce. PA programs who are striving to reach underrepresented students interested in the PA profession have received six of the first seven PAs STEP Up grants. Funded projects have offered targeted pre-PA workshops for high school and undergraduate students; mentorship programs; and community college outreach. We encourage PA programs to continue efforts to raise awareness across all age groups.

This year, the Health Foundation increased funding for our [mental health](#) and [oral health](#) outreach grants to \$2,500. Our goal is to support PA and student efforts to raise awareness, promote prevention, and foster education and treatment for these two often overlooked health care needs. Moreover, these grants can help facilitate interprofessional education opportunities with dental and mental health colleagues. Our



hope is that the additional funding will encourage applicants to help their communities connect mental health and oral health to overall health. PA programs seeking to incorporate or expand oral health curricula may also apply for up to \$3,000 to integrate curriculum and track the impact of your efforts. The integration grant is a wonderful opportunity for PA faculty scholarship and presentation/publication too.



These seed grants provide valuable grant-writing experience, especially for first-time applicants; offer a learning lab for new projects; and help faculty and students stand out among their peers. Please email questions to our staff at Grants@nccPAHealthFoundation.net; they are ready to assist you and provide feedback to help applicants refine their proposals. In most cases, funding that builds partnerships, promotes equitable care, improves health, supports service-learning, and encourages faculty and student leaders is just four to six weeks away after submitting your application.

In addition to the year-round grants, the Health Foundation supports the \$5,000 [Kathy J. Pedersen Grant to Promote Equitable Care](#). This year's applicant pool reflected the grant's spirit of social accountability as well as the breadth of PA efforts to develop models for equitable and inclusive care and to address the needs of underserved populations. Proposed projects include raising awareness of PAs to Spanish-speaking patients; supporting community development and health in Sri Lanka; providing lung cancer screenings; identifying how to bridge the gap between primary care and hematology for pediatric patients with sickle cell disease; building a home for a family; promoting exercise and nutrition; and improving access to ostomy supplies. The programs include collaborative and interprofessional partnerships that showcase the many ways PAs are striving to improve health. Since this competitive program launched in 2016, the Health Foundation has received nearly 60 applications from 25 states. With three grantees anticipated this year, the Health Foundation will have funded 14 projects, approximately \$70,000. **The next cycle opens in 2024, so learn about past recipients and begin planning your program's proposal.**

Mental Health Initiative Remains Timely; Find Resources & Opportunities

In June, the Health Foundation convened its PArtners in Mental Health Steering Committee. Along with the Health Foundation, the committee included PAEA and PA organization leaders; PA champions from psychiatry, other disciplines, and PA education; and two PA-psychiatrist teams. Participants shared lived experiences, underscoring that mental wellness is integral to the practice of medicine, in education, and beyond. The meeting adopted a future-focused orientation and identified common themes influencing this effort, including opportunities for collaboration and partnership; branding and advocacy for the PA role; the importance of wellbeing/wellness and fulfillment; reducing stigma; and how mental health intersects with a host of challenges. The steering committee suggested ideas to expand education, strengthen the practice environment, and raise awareness. There was a palpable sense of enthusiasm and a continued commitment to individual and collaborative efforts to address patient and provider mental health concerns, including addiction. Please learn more about this [collective impact movement](#).

The Health Foundation also continues to raise mental health awareness. PAs and PA students are invited to join PA educator Julie Thomas, DMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA, in lending their voices to important efforts to reduce stigma by sharing their perspectives in our [mental health spotlight](#).



In addition, we encourage you to apply for our mental health [outreach grant](#) and connect with [resources](#). Please also invite your students to utilize these resources, not only to emphasize the importance of mental health but also to explore future practice areas and how mental health is integral across all disciplines.

Enhanced Online Resource Center Ready for You

Earlier this year, the Health Foundation released a new website and online resource center with more than 250 resources, including articles, toolkits, podcasts, and more. With search and filter capabilities, the center equips PA faculty and students to quickly find resources across the Health Foundation’s programming areas, including mental and behavioral health, oral health, professional practice, equitable care, and grants. The center’s goal is to help PAs who are lifelong learners refresh their knowledge as well as be inspired by the efforts of their peers. We look forward to expanding the center with additional resources for educators and students as well as for clinicians and interprofessional partners.



Vision: A diverse PA workforce providing equitable, accessible health care for all communities.

Mission: To equip and empower Board Certified PAs and PA students to improve health for all.

DEI: The nccPA Health Foundation is committed to fostering a community of Board members, volunteers, Certified PAs, and PA students who, through a diverse workforce, raise awareness of health disparities and champion access to care.

Revised Strategic Framework Better Captures Enduring Commitment

While the Health Foundation has long embraced opportunities to address health disparities, to expand access to care, and to engage and equip all PAs on cross cutting issues where they can make an impact, the Board recently identified opportunities to better concretize the organization’s commitment to these themes and the role of diversity and inclusion in these efforts. The Board clarified the Health Foundation’s vision and mission statements and adopted a DEI statement to publicly declare and underscore its support for and recognition of how a diverse and inclusive workforce contributes to equitable, accessible health care for all communities. We strive for the Health Foundation’s programming to support all PAs and PA students in shared efforts to build a better future.

Looking Ahead

Improving health for all communities requires collaboration; and we hope PAEA as well as PA faculty, preceptors, and students continue to look to the Health Foundation for grants and resources. To that end, we are excited about connecting with you and your colleagues at the Education Forum in New Orleans, Louisiana. The future is bright, and we look forward to supporting grassroots PA and PA student efforts to be the change for better health.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin C. Crown, MHSPAS, PA-C, CAQ-Psychiatry Board Chair, 2023-2024

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