



## Informational Webinar: New Funding Opportunity by DASH for Past Grantees

Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH) is a national initiative that helps organizations across sectors share data with each other and with the communities they serve so that every person can reach their full potential for health.

Since 2015, DASH has worked toward this mission by supporting data-sharing collaborations as they build trust, shared vision, and shared power across their member organizations and between member organizations and their communities. Now, with this essential groundwork in place for many past grantees, DASH is moving on to a new phase in advancing health equity.

Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH) is excited to introduce the Incubator, a unique grant and support program for past grantees interested in advancing equity in data ecosystems. With the Incubator, DASH aims to support past grantees who are a part of effective data-sharing collaborations and who seek to strengthen equity and center community in their data governance practices. DASH also seeks to discover, test, and model equity in grantmaking through this collaborative funding and support initiative.

### What is equity in data ecosystems?

Currently, public health and healthcare are prone to working hard for their communities, but not always with them, even as the importance of centering equity and engaging community is increasingly recognized.

Collecting, sharing, and using data without meaningful input from the people and communities whose lives are represented by that data erodes trust and perpetuates and protects racist and oppressive systems. In an equitable data ecosystem, people with lived experiences, especially lived experiences of inequity, have a deciding role in data-sharing practices, and the potential for harm is alleviated.

Equitable data ecosystems hold states, public health, healthcare, and social services systems accountable to community members. This looks like:

- shifting power from organizations to the communities and individuals they are meant to serve;
- advancing equitable community-level data-sharing work (i.e., authentically including the input of people with lived experience at all phases of data-sharing initiatives);
- building capacity at the implementation level to directly inform policy; and
- developing sustainable equitable data governance models for dissemination and potential adaptation by other organizations and collaborations, no matter the sector.

DASH believes that organizations and entities seeking to build equitable data ecosystems must include community members as stakeholders with meaningful decision-making power. Those who are most impacted by racism and by health and resource inequities have essential insight into the factors that affect their lives and have untapped potential to lead data-sharing initiatives.



By supporting equitable and inclusive community-level data-sharing work, DASH hopes to help build capacity at the implementation level to directly inform policy, and to develop sustainable data governance models for dissemination and replication by others.

### [What is equity in the grantmaking process?](#)

DASH aims to support the development of equitable governance in data-driven initiatives, with the ultimate goal of large-scale systems change.

Yet, asking grantees to work toward equity and change will have limited impact if we do not ask the same of ourselves as funders. With the Incubator, DASH aims to advance equity both through program impact and through the grantmaking process.

To that end, the Incubator is not a conventional grant, where grantees receive resources and expertise in exchange for specific parameters, timelines, and deliverables. Instead, participating organizations are funded and supported in codesigning meaningful work that they then implement.

### [How does the Incubator work?](#)

The Incubator will virtually house participating organizations, (paid) community members invited by those organizations, and DASH staff. Working together, the group will co-plan and codesign programming to forward the data-equity goals of each participating organization within their local context.

As part of their work, Incubator members will share and discuss recommendations for centering equity in community data ecosystems and in the grant-making process, including ensuring community members have decision-making power in the work DASH does or supports.

We hope participation in the Incubator will provide member organizations with an unmatched opportunity for peer learning as well as an exciting and meaningful program development opportunity.

### [Who are the technical assistance advisors?](#)

Throughout the planning and design phases, Incubator members will have access to technical assistance advisors, convened and managed by DASH. These are national thought partners and trusted organizations who can provide guidance and networking around specific subjects such as Medicaid, community power building, data capacity, privacy/consent, and more.



What will the work of the Incubator look like?

Following are the phases of the 18-month program:



Throughout all phases, members will regularly reflect, shore up, modify, and share.



The planning phase is expected to take place over the course of six months. During this time, Incubator members will meet (remotely) once a month, for about 90 minutes each time. During and between meetings, members will share ideas, expertise, and goals with each other, meet in subgroups, and engage with support offered by technical assistance advisors. A total of 25.25 hours of work per member is anticipated.

### Which organizations might be the best fit for this program?

The Incubator is intended for past DASH awardees who are participating in well-established collaborations and are ready to explore equitable data governance and/or systems change through advancing policy and advocacy efforts.

Applicants will be invited to share the impact they have had on the abilities of individuals and families in their communities to achieve substantive improvement in their health and well-being.

Applicants should also have an existing and well-established relationship with the community where their efforts are focused. Applicants will be asked to bring a community member on board, who will, like the rest of the Incubator members, play an active role in program planning, design, implementation, and reflection.

Along with the opportunity to co-create meaningful data equity work, participation in a network of resourceful and visionary peers, and access to an array of technical assistance on relevant topics, Incubator members will receive monetary support sufficient to carry the program from planning through to post-implementation reflection. This will include compensation for the community members.

### What are the next steps?

Organizations/collaborations interested in learning more about the Incubator can register to attend the introductory webinar on September 14, 2023. Afterward, webinar attendees who wish to join the Incubator will work with DASH staff to determine whether participation is a mutually suitable fit.

### Referenced resources

The information contained in the list of publications and references below have informed our Incubator program design:

#### Publications

[Rising Equitable Community Data Ecosystems \(RECoDE\)](#)

[National Inventory 2.0 Report](#) (draft)

[Interconnected: Data, Knowledge, and Action for Community Health](#)

#### Other

[Learning and Action in Policy and Partnerships \(LAPP\)](#) (program page)

[Asset-Based Community Development \(ABCD\)](#) (program page)

[DASH Framework](#) (image)

[DASH Framework](#) (webinar series)