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LOCAL HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL RECEIVED \$10,000 GRANT FOR RACIAL HEALING as part of W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION \$75 MILLION EFFORT TO TACKLE STRUCTURAL RACISM AND PROMOTE RACIAL HEALING

America Healing Initiative will Expand Opportunities for Vulnerable Children

New York City – The human services field is uniquely positioned to address the problems of structural racism. Not only is the field dedicated to the task of addressing problems that are the result of historical, institutionalized racism, but its front-line staff often are the mediators and organizers of people in need and society.

This grant to support the Human Services Council of New York City (HSC) is one of 119 awarded across the United States by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support racial equity and healing. “I’m delighted that HSC has been recognized out of the almost 1,000 grant submissions addressing structural racism,” said Michael Stoller, Executive Director of HSC.

In an unprecedented effort to address the devastating impact of racial inequities on communities across the country, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation launched recently a five-year, \$75 million initiative – *America Healing* – that aims to improve life outcomes for vulnerable children and their families by promoting racial healing and eliminating barriers to opportunities.

HSC has recognized its responsibility to be an antiracist leader in the human services sector. Together with other key human services leaders in New York – such as Asian American Federation, Black Equity Alliance, Black Veterans for Social Justice, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Institute for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services, the NYC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and United Way of New York City – we have begun to address the pressing issue of institutionalized racism in our sector. We worked with the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond through its Undoing Racism™ workshops to provide sector leaders with an understanding of institutionalized racism, a common language to speak about it, a safe forum to begin to heal from it, and the motivation to organize to “undo” its ill effects.

Children of color are over-represented among the 29 million low-income children and families in this country, particularly among families living in concentrated poverty. According to data from the National Center for Children in Poverty, about 61 percent of African American, 62 percent of Latino, 57 percent of Native American, 58 percent of children with immigrant parents, 30 percent of Asian American children and 26 percent of white children live in low-income families.

The goal of the *America Healing* initiative is to help make that vision a reality by engaging communities and supporting them in the hard work of racial healing and addressing the effects of historic and contemporary structural issues, such as residential segregation and concentrated poverty.

During the first phase of *America Healing*, 119 organizations will receive grants totaling \$14,613,709 specifically to support community-based organizations' healing efforts among racial and ethnic groups that address historic burdens, disparities and barriers to opportunity. Their efforts will focus within local communities to increase opportunities for children in education, health and economic areas. Grantees represent 29 states and the District of Columbia and all racial and ethnic population groups. To highlight the desire of communities to work together on racial healing, the foundation created a signature video, capturing the spirit of the initiative. The video can be viewed at www.AmericaHealing.org.

Moreover, the *America Healing* initiative complements the racial equity approach in all of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant-making directed at supporting vulnerable children, their families and communities. The new initiative will continue to focus on issues at the core of structural racism and will align with the foundation's program areas: Education and Learning; Food, Health and Well-being; and Family Economic Security.

To learn more about *America Healing*, please visit <http://www.americahealing.org>.

About the Human Services Council of New York City

Since 1991, the Human Services Council of New York City (www.humanservicescouncil.org) has offered its diverse membership what no other organization can: a platform for all types and sizes of human services organizations to come together, share concerns, and discuss ideas, combined with unparalleled access to City and State government. With the support of members and funders, we work to remove obstacles so that New York City's thousands of human services providers can deliver their often life-saving help unobstructed.

About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Established in 1930, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (www.wkkf.org) supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The foundation is based in Battle Creek, Mich.

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