

## Consumer Health Foundation

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Consumer Health Foundation (CHF) was established in 1994 as a result of the sale of Group Health Association, one of the nation's first health maintenance organizations created in 1937 to provide preventive, prepaid, quality health care to workers in a racially integrated environment. The mission of CHF is to advocate for health and racial equity through programs and investments that advance the health and well-being of low-income communities and communities of color. CHF's grantmaking addresses the health concerns for the Washington metropolitan region, which includes the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and suburban Maryland. The foundation envisions a region and a nation in which all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, education, or income—have an equal opportunity to live a healthy and dignified life.

**Program Information:** CHF has three grantmaking portfolios: Health Care Access, Health Justice, and Innovations/Special Projects. The Health Care Access portfolio focuses on advocacy for health reform, which includes support for policies that promote health equity, health care coverage, and access. This area also addresses health care program financing, sustainability, cost of care, and budget and revenue. The Health Justice portfolio demonstrates the foundation's commitment to addressing the social determinants of health, specifically economic justice. This includes support for policies related to workers' rights, such as labor laws, wage and hour laws, living wage standards, and benefits, as well as workforce development and career advancement for members in the community who are unemployed or underemployed. The Innovations/Special Projects portfolio includes support for grants related to racial equity and community wealth building.

### ➤ Financial Information:

Total Assets: \$28 million (FY 2013)

Amount Dedicated to Health-Related Grants: \$1.2 million (FY 2013)

### ➤ Special Initiatives and/or Representative Health and Human Services Grants:

- **Community Wealth Building Initiative (CWBI)** – CWBI is a bold new approach to create wealth-building jobs in the Washington, DC region in response to the growth of low-wage work and rising income inequality. The initiative is creating environmentally and financially sustainable employee-owned businesses located in disinvested communities. CWBI's theory of change is that market-driven partnerships between local anchor

institutions and employee-owned businesses will provide the economic and social investment in these communities that will lead to financial stability. CWBI is committed to providing workers with above-market compensation; benefits, including health insurance and paid leave; full-time and predictable work hours; increased decisionmaking participation in the workplace; and a culture of respect and dignity for all employees (\$80,000).

- **Health and Racial Equity (HERE) Initiative** – CHF will launch HERE in 2015. The vision for this initiative is to build healthy communities anchored by a regional economy that provides meaningful work and living wages, and creates community wealth. Our goal is to invest in a network of social and business enterprises and wealth-building ventures that benefit low-income communities and communities of color. We are calling this the HERE Opportunity Network. We will also invest in the advocacy infrastructure to strengthen fair and equitable employment practices and support this network of opportunity. Additional components include a communications infrastructure for media and narrative change that will promote racial and economic justice, as well as data and research capacity to understand how these various components are working to improve outcomes in the region (\$200,000).

### Role of Philanthropy in Meeting Pressing Needs:

*"The role of philanthropy, especially for nimble organizations like CHF, is to lean into innovation and communities in order to discover the solutions to our most pressing social challenges. Health foundations have a particular opportunity to innovate at the intersection of health and its social determinants. At CHF, we believe that individual and community health can only be achieved when we address the intersection of health, economic justice, and racial equity. And when we get asked, 'Are you still a health foundation?' To that we say, 'Absolutely!'"*

**Yanique Redwood**  
President and CEO

