

Executive Summary
RAPHC-C

Background/Purpose:

The Racism as a Public Health Crisis Coalition is a group of cross-sector partners that came together to address Racism as a Public Health Crisis in Cleveland. This initiative, known as RAPHC-C, convened to determine strategies and recommendations that can address structural racism and, in the process, reduce racial disparities for sectors impacting public health in Cleveland, including criminal justice, education, health, housing, the environment, infrastructure, workforce development, economic mobility, and wealth creation.

After the Cleveland City Council declared racism as a public health crisis in June of 2020, the RAPHC-C was launched. The declaration acknowledges that racism is not just a social or moral issue but also a public health concern. It highlights the pervasive nature of racism across various sectors of society, including housing, education, employment, criminal justice, and healthcare. In Cleveland, as in many other cities, communities of color face disproportionate barriers and inequities in access to resources and opportunities, leading to significant health disparities. The Urban League facilitates the coalitions, schedules meetings, provides project support and performs administrative functions.

The term for this legislation is for two years, October 1, 2025 ending September 30, 2027. The RAPHC-C contract will represent 1 year of service at \$200,000, October 1, 2025 –September 30, 2026. The one-year contract will have the option to renew for one additional year.

Goals:

- Develop RAPHC-C framework into broader strategies and recommendations to reduce racial disparities and improve Social Determinants of Health for City of Cleveland Residents
- Facilitate the implementation of strategies to residents. Partners and systems
- Serve as an advocate and critical resource to assist in implementation of equity strategies
- Partner with the City of Cleveland ensuring alignment with internal Equity strategies and with the work of the Division of Health Equity & Social Justice.

Accomplishments:

- Established an executive body comprised of elected officials and community leaders
- The development of the operating structure and essential foundational documents
- Establishment of subcommittees (pillar groups) in alignment with RAPHC-C's 5 areas of focus
- Community engagement sessions to share RAPHC-C's work and findings
- The development of a final report detailing Phase I and its outcomes

Contract Amount: \$400,000 and any additional funding that becomes available

Funding Source: 2025 General Fund & 2026 General Fund