

C19 RRT Member Commitment Letter

The COVID-19 Regional Response Team (RRT) is a collaboration of non-profit, public and philanthropic organizations that are creating a centralized system of response to meet the social needs of community members most adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Greater St. Louis region. The RRT recognizes that those most endangered by COVID-19 have also been imperiled by longstanding racial and economic inequalities, including African Americans, People of Color, older adults, people with disabilities, medically vulnerable and underserved populations, low-income individuals, essential workers, frontline healthcare providers and others. Advancing the health and well-being of these groups in a five county area, which includes the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and St. Charles County in Missouri and Madison and St. Clair Counties in Illinois, is the principal work of the RRT both within and beyond the COVID-19 crisis.

Our Vision

We envision a Greater St. Louis region that responds collaboratively, equitably, and effectively to the needs of our most impacted neighbors and communities in the context of the immediate COVID-19 pandemic and the long-standing pandemic of systemic racism.

We evolve through these crises by undertaking new approaches to partnership and advancing changes in values, relationships, and structures that remove race as a predictor of people's life outcomes.

Our Principles

- ⚙️ We Center Racial Equity and a Commitment to Anti-Racism in All of Our Work
- ⚙️ We Partner Intentionally with Impacted Individuals and Communities
- ⚙️ We Orient Toward Urgency, Solutions, and Coordinated Regional Action
- ⚙️ We Adopt the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health Equity Principles

(My Organization) is committed to be an active member of the COVID 19 Regional Response Team Collaborative Action Network (RRT CAN). Our organization is committed to the Vision and Principles. We are committed to the planning and collaboration that this coalition undertakes and understand that it will take time. We agree to participate in RRT Campaigns, doing our part to see them through, Capacity Building in accordance with the RRT Principles and abiding by the following commitments. We acknowledge the contributions and expectations of the other members of the RRT CAN.

As general evidence of our commitment, I/we agree to the following:

- Appoint a representative(s) to attend CAN meetings and participate in Campaigns as appropriate
- Authorize that representative to make decisions on our behalf, except for decisions regarding

(specify exceptions, if appropriate)

- Read minutes, reports and newsletters to keep abreast of coalition decisions/activities
- Disseminate relevant information to organizational members or employees through listservs, websites and newsletters
- Keep coalition informed of our organization's related activities

RRT Coordination Team will provide you with newsletters, access to coalition website, data and resources, educational events, and connection to other members.

The benefits of active RRT CAN membership include opportunities to improve the resilience and recovery of the populations most affected by COVID-19 and the structural inequalities that amplify its adverse impacts by:

- Identifying the needs and top priorities of most vulnerable community members
- Sharing information about emerging and evolving conditions on the ground as well as effective solutions and approaches
- Connecting funder investment to the needs and priorities that the RRT is uncovering
- Deploying resources to meet needs quickly and in coordinated ways
- Building awareness, across sectors, of the needs, priorities and coordinated response efforts that are underway
- Transforming systems to engender a more effective and equitable delivery of services and resources across the region

By completing this agreement, I commit my organization to be an official RRT CAN member and agree to the commitments in this letter. Organizational commitments will be revisited annually in June.

Please complete the below information:

(Yes or No) I give permission for my organization's name to be placed on printed materials, literature, and website.

Organization:

Name of Organizational Leader:

Date:

RRT CAN Representative's Names (Multiple Allowed):

COVID-19 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM VISION

We envision a Greater St. Louis region that responds collaboratively, equitably, and effectively to the needs of our most impacted neighbors and communities in the context of the immediate COVID-19 pandemic and the long-standing pandemic of systemic racism.

We evolve through these crises by undertaking new approaches to partnership and advancing changes in values, relationships, and structures that remove race as a predictor of people's life outcomes.

PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS

Center Racial Equity and Commitment to Anti-Racism

- ⚙️ Mere recovery from COVID-19 to an unjust baseline is inadequate.
- ⚙️ Individuals and communities most impacted by long-standing racial discrimination and disinvestment must be the focus of our regional transformation.
- ⚙️ Economic development in historically disinvested communities must be prioritized.
- ⚙️ We identify and change white supremacy culture in our organizations (e.g., power hoarding; either/or thinking; perfectionism) identified by anti-racism frameworks like those offered by Tema Okun and others.

Partner Intentionally with Impacted Individuals and Communities

- ⚙️ Impacted individuals and representatives of impacted communities are part of the decision-making process.

- ⚙️ We recognize and respect the strengths, assets, wisdom, and resilience in impacted communities and acknowledge the need for resources to support community-based organizations.
- ⚙️ We hold ourselves accountable for inclusion and make meaningful changes when we fall short.
- ⚙️ We share our work with impacted individuals and communities broadly and transparently.

Orient Towards Urgency, Solutions, and Coordinated Regional Action

- ⚙️ We bridge the bi-state region in our activities, recognizing that no single jurisdiction, sector, institution or organization can create systemic change alone.
- ⚙️ We leverage the unique strengths of individual organizations to contribute to shared goals.

- ⚙️ We align with existing disaster response (e.g., SLARCC, COADs) in times of crisis. We act with urgency to address needs in and out of moments of crisis.
- ⚙️ We share our work with impacted individuals and communities broadly and transparently.

Adopt Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Equity Principles

- ⚙️ Disaggregate data by race, ethnicity, age, disability, and other demographics.
- ⚙️ Identify and address policy gaps while advocating for federal support.
- ⚙️ Invest in healthcare, public health, and social infrastructure to foster resilience.
- ⚙️ Establish and empower teams dedicated to promoting racial equity in response and recovery efforts.
- ⚙️ Include in decision-making the people most affected by health and economic challenges, and benchmark progress based on their outcomes.

STEERING COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION:

Grassroots Community Experts & Change Agents, Service Providers, Municipal Decision-Makers, Regional Actors, Funders

PURPOSE:

Ensure that the strategic direction of the RRT aligns with community priorities and needs

FUNCTIONS:

1. Mobilize resources and responses for RRT campaigns
2. Advance cross-sector action and engagement on community priorities
3. Pursue policy and systems transformations in concert with other regional efforts
4. Maintain a regional focus on racial equity

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP:

Chairpersons

STAFF LEADERSHIP:

Managing Director

COORDINATED CAMPAIGNS

COMPOSITION:

Social Service Providers, Impacted Community Members

PURPOSE:

Co-create and implement solutions to systems failures and structural gaps that threaten the well-being of vulnerable populations

FUNCTIONS:

1. Assess available resources to undertake coordinated action on needs and priorities
2. Facilitate relationships, within and across sectors and jurisdictions, that drive collective action
3. Leverage assets, including funding, expertise, and material supports to advance campaign efforts
4. Activate solutions that effectively address needs

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP:

Strike Teams supported by RRT campaign managers

STAFF LEADERSHIP:

Campaign Director

OUR STRUCTURE

COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK

COMPOSITION:

Social Service Providers, Community Organizations

PURPOSE:

Leverage the RRT's membership base to build a critical mass of service providers able to respond collaboratively, equitably and effectively to the needs of the region's most vulnerable residents in and beyond times of crisis

FUNCTIONS:

1. Hold the vision, mission and principles of the RRT
2. Identify the region's infrastructure, capacity and resource gaps and pressing community needs
3. Set campaign priorities based upon gaps and needs
4. Mobilize people and expertise to help execute RRT campaigns
5. Build the collective capacity necessary to advance racial equity, systems change and community collaboration

NETWORK LEADERSHIP:

TBD

STAFF LEADERSHIP:

CAN Director