FORESIGHT Designing a Future for Health

The Initiative

The U.S. health system is broken. Americans pay too much for poor health outcomes and the health inequities within our country are glaring. While politicians respond by quibbling about who's going to pay for our current system of care, what we really need is a radical rethinking of health that goes beyond health care to include all of the factors that contribute to a person's well-being.

FORESIGHT is a nationwide, collaborative effort to equitably envision and create a new future for health and well-being. We have looked at the big forces that will impact our health in the future. Game changing trends tell us that things like climate change, pandemics, and powerful technologies will continue to change our world in unexpected ways. Now, we are listening to thousands of people—especially those whose voices are rarely heard—who are looking at these trends to identify a fresh vision and bold new ideas for shaping the best possible outcomes, starting right now.

With a better understanding of possible futures, a clearer sense of priorities, and a set of bold ideas, FORESIGHT will work with people and organizations across the United States to start making their vision for health and well-being a reality. This will require new partnerships and mindsets, a different allocation of resources, and a radical openness to experimentation. It will also require us to recognize that communities are different and therefore how they need to implement the vision will be different.

FORESIGHT is an initiative of 17 philanthropic partners led by The Rippel Foundation, created in partnership with Blue Shield of California Foundation, and closely advised by people representing a diversity of sectors who are ready to uncover and implement new ideas to address our nation's growing challenges around health and well-being.

Map of Philanthropic Partners



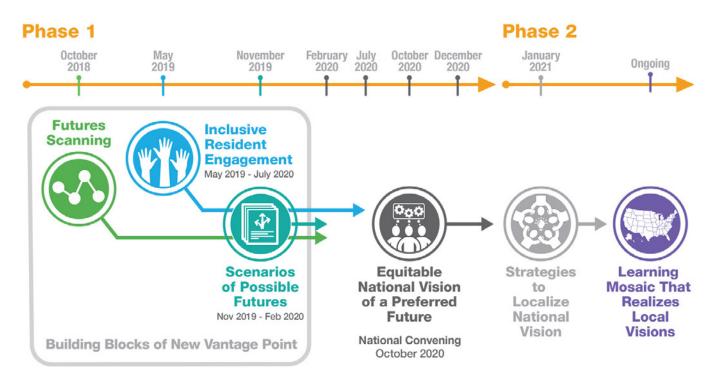


The Approach

While we should certainly work to make health care more accessible and affordable today, we also need to think bigger and bolder about what the future of health looks like in the United States. Our system hasn't changed in decades and is painfully slow to respond to present-day realities, never mind the future. But powerful technologies as well as environmental and social forces are already rendering it obsolete.

FORESIGHT uses a futuring process with Futures Scanning and Scenario Planning techniques. These help us develop a shared understanding of what forces will impact our system for health and what actions we can take to obtain the desired future. Our team of futurists has identified nine "Game Changers" that could alter the future of health—including the infusion of machines into all aspects of life, the simultaneous rises of authoritarianism and citizen-led movements, and the breakdown of our environment due to climate change.

FORESIGHT's Emergent Process



In summer 2019, we started by gathering health stories from people in four areas: San Diego, CA; Allentown, PA, Kearny County, KS; and Minneapolis, MN. In fall 2019, our local partners conducted listening sessions with more than 150 people, collecting their stories of health hopes and challenges. They reached out to groups that are traditionally excluded from these conversations like communities of color, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness.



Next, we brought together two groups of about 30 people each to build several different scenarios of possible futures. These groups included racially and ethnically diverse members. The scenarios build on futurist insights that we've collected. These possible futures are intended to be provocative; we ask people to imagine radical new possibilities.

Starting this spring and into the summer, we will ask up to 8,000 people to explore the scenarios and react to them, telling us what excites and concerns them. We will collect a diversity of perspectives, continuing to prioritize groups that have traditionally been excluded.

We will then bring together a group of 150 people representing a diversity of perspectives to engage in a design process to



make sense of what we have heard, to incorporate the emerging trends and forces, and to explore what we might do to shape the future in a way that better serves us all. Our goal is to unearth a new vision and bold action ideas for a more equitable future for health. This will bring people across the country together—because they will see themselves in it.

With the vision and bold ideas created by more than 8,000 Americans in place, communities across the country to grab hold and start testing out new ideas, mindsets, and approaches to see what takes root. This will require community leaders—corporations, policy leaders, residents, and more—to bring about new partnerships and mindsets, a different allocation of resources, and a radical openness to experimentation.

The world is changing fast. It's time we design a future for health together. Our work begins with FORESIGHT.

Learn More www.ForesightForHealth.org

CONTACT: Katy Evans Pritchard, Project Manager PHONE: (513) 659-2105 EMAIL: kpritchard@rippelfoundation.org

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