



Making New York City the Healthiest City in 2015

The enormous public health legacy of the Bloomberg administration under the leadership of Tom Frieden and Tom Farley has armed the city with a public health infrastructure and related regulations that powerfully influence behavior and healthy choices across all communities.

Our new Mayor, Bill de Blasio, is eager to dig down beneath the surface to foster programs and activities that will reduce health disparities within and between communities. The challenge for public health is to shape the city's infrastructure, regulations, and health system so that healthy choices are the easy choices for all.

Mayor de Blasio's appointment of Dr. Mary Bassett as Health Commissioner brings fresh eyes and perspective to the problems of inequalities in health for individuals and communities. They share a strong commitment to population health which has important implications for community health, not just those who access and use the healthcare system.

We invite you to suggest the critical innovations in public health that will help Commissioner Bassett and the Mayor to achieve their ambitious agenda of health for all. With the enthusiastic support of Commissioner Bassett, we are announcing a competition to garner the best ideas for improving New York City's health in the coming years. The question we ask is:

What are the priority actions for New York to maximally reduce disparities and reach the goal of good health for all New Yorkers?

Format

We invite submissions from faculty, students and staff. There is a one-page format for submissions. There is no limit to the number of submissions from any individual, and individuals may team up for a joint submission, such as a class project.

The criteria for the award are:

- 1) Focuses on reducing one or more community or socio-economic health disparities
- 2) Innovative strategy, including new programs, activities, or regulations or re-configurations of existing city public health infrastructure

Review Panel

A review panel led by Michael Sparer, chair of Health Policy and Management, and Sally Findley, professor of Population and Family Health and Sociomedical Sciences, will include 3 senior faculty, 2 junior faculty, and 2 students.

Awards

Cash prizes of up to \$1,500 will be awarded to the top proposals. The winning entries will be invited to present their proposals directly to Commissioner Bassett. Prize winners will be announced in early May.

Deadline for Submissions

April 15. Please email submissions to msphdeansoffice@cumc.columbia.edu.