Funding Available to Increase Vaccine Awareness

The BlueCross Foundation has issued a challenge grant to support COVID-19 vaccine awareness, education, and outreach efforts. The grant is part of the foundation’s larger initiative to combat the spread of COVID-19 and improve health equity in East Tennessee. The funding will be awarded to organizations and programs that can effectively engage communities of color, Spanish-speaking citizens, and other underserved populations. The BlueCross Foundation is looking for innovative and creative approaches to reach these populations and empower them to take action to protect their health. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. If you plan to apply, please contact Jill Passano at jpassano@utfi.org. Applications are due on September 15.

Campus Updates

UT to Offer Satellite Vaccination Clinics Within Schools

The Office of Community Engagement (OCEO) and the Knox County Department of Community Development (KCDC) are partnering to offer satellite COVID-19 vaccination clinics within local schools. This initiative aims to increase access to vaccination for students, families, and community members. The clinics will be held in partnership with local pharmacies and will provide vaccines at no cost to participants. The goal is to reach underserved populations and increase vaccine confidence. Community members are encouraged to take advantage of these clinics to protect their health and support community health.

New Opportunities and Funding

The Lawson Family Foundation is accepting proposals from charities in the East Tennessee region to apply for grant funding to support their efforts in the areas of racial justice and equity, economic equity, criminal justice reform, and anti-human trafficking. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis. Proposals are due on September 15, and the foundation has dedicated $1.7 million for this initiative.

UTK partners with organizations to provide a professional development library

The Office of Community Engagement (OCEO) at the University of Tennessee is collaborating with local organizations to provide a professional development library. This library will offer a wide range of resources and training opportunities for community partners and organizations. The library is designed to support the professional development of individuals and organizations working in the field of community engagement. The goal is to provide high-quality, affordable, and accessible training and resources to help organizations achieve their missions.

Campus Updates

Fall Professional Development Opportunities

UT’s three social work campuses—Knoxville, Nashville, and online—are offering fall professional development opportunities. These opportunities include workshops, webinars, and in-person training sessions. The workshops will cover topics such as leadership, data-driven decision-making, and evidence-based practice. The event is designed to help social workers develop and refine their skills. For more information, please visit the OCEO website.

OCEO Welcomes New Coordinator & Faculty Fellow

The Office of Community Engagement (OCEO) at the University of Tennessee is pleased to welcome Quannah Washington, Coordinator of Community Engagement, and Deadric Willams, assistant professor of sociology, as the new faculty fellow. Quannah Washington is an accomplished community engagement professional with extensive experience in community development and partnership building. Deadric Willams is an accomplished scholar and community engagement advocate. Please join us in welcoming them to the team. For more information, please visit the OCEO website.