



Board of Trustees of The City University of New York

RESOLUTION TO

**Recertify The CUNY Institute for Health Equity
at Lehman College
for a Five-Year Period**

June 3, 2024

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the City University of New York (the “Board of Trustees”) has revised Policy 1.09 - Guidelines for Centers, Institutes, Consortia, and Special Initiatives at The City University of New York on October 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The current policy guidelines have introduced a new requirement, hitherto not existing, for centers, institutes, and consortia to be recertified every five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, In preparation for recertification, colleges and schools have been engaged in a thorough assessment and evaluation of all existing centers, institutes, and consortia, including any applicable governance approval; and

WHEREAS, The City University of New York (the “University”)’s Office of Academic Affairs is in receipt of recertification materials of existing centers, institutes, and consortia; and

WHEREAS, Recertification requests have undergone a rigorous review, guided by the criteria stated in the new Board of Trustees policy, including reports on the fiscal viability, governance, and continued value of a specific center, institute, or consortium, and have followed the approval process; and

WHEREAS, Lehman College has requested the recertification of the CUNY Institute for Health Equity; and

WHEREAS, The CUNY Institute for Health Equity (“CIHE”) was established by the University Board of Trustees in 2009 as a CUNY-wide research institute housed at Lehman College under the directive and guidance of the Office of the Provost; and

WHEREAS, Since its beginnings, CIHE has focused on the social determinants that affect the physical and mental health of New York City’s poor and underserved racial and ethnic populations; and

WHEREAS, In the Fall of 2020, a revisioning process resulted in a strengthened leadership team and a reinvigorated Strategic Plan rooted in applied research, community capacity building, training, and the translation of research for application; and

WHEREAS, The Core Functions of CIHE are: 1) Research Core (RC), 2) Community Capacity Building Core (CCBC), and 3) Knowledge Transfer Core (KTC); and

WHEREAS, The CUNY Institute for Health Equity currently works with twenty-one (21) affiliated faculty and nine (9) contributing faculty system-wide, and continues involving more CUNY-wide faculty in CIHE activities without relying on tax-levy funds; and

WHEREAS, With a reinvigorated Strategic Plan, since 2021 CIHE has established community partnerships and strategic alliances with such institutions as, but not limited to: Charities Archdiocese of New York, Herbert H. Lehman College Foundation, Inc; BronxCare Health System; Institute of Family Medicine; New York City Department of Health Bronx Office of Community Initiatives; and the Bronx Borough Office; and

WHEREAS, The goals of these partnerships are to: 1) create programs and projects for community engagement to improve population health outcomes and quality of life, 2) facilitate health care educational opportunities, 3) foster the creation of a Health Data Hub to inform programs, policy and community outreach and improve decision-making and population health, 4) promote

the dissemination of subject matter expertise, scholarship and advances of scientific knowledge in benefit of New York City at large; and

WHEREAS, CIHE's first Community Advisory Board was launched in 2021, as the first step toward building the CIHE Healthy-Bronx Research Collaborative to address the Bronx's health disparities; and

WHEREAS, CIHE's activities and initiatives are supported with grants, which in the period since 2021 have included a sub-award from the National Science Foundation for \$171,000 and a contracting service with the Institute for Family Health from the Centers for Disease Control for the project Bronx REACH for \$123,000; and

WHEREAS, CIHE's proposals that are pending review include a) National Institutes of Health R25 - Opportunity: PAR-23-137- with a budget of \$1.292 M; b) a letter of intent for an initiative from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Center for the Medicare and Medicaid Services Minority Research Grant Program; and c) other grant proposals from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF); and

WHEREAS, At present there is a pending application for a multi-year research grant of \$2.3 Million from the NIH, prepared jointly with Hunter College on addressing health disparities and advancing health equity that would include over \$500,000 to Lehman College as indirect costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorizes that the CUNY Institute of Health Equity at Lehman College be considered recertified for a five-year period, effective June 25, 2024.

EXPLANATION: This action is carried out in agreement with the current University Board of Trustees policy on Centers and Institutes requiring such entities to be recertified every five (5) years. Through this Institute, the University will continue to conduct research, teaching, service, and community collaboration using data analytics to eliminate health inequalities and advance the science of health disparities. The recertification of this CUNY Institute for Health Equity is in the best interest of the University.