

# Achieving Health Equity Through Community Prevention Funding Opportunities

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institute advancing economic and  
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# CONVERGENCE PARTNERSHIP

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# Prevention & Equity Recommendations



- Convergence Partnership released set of recommendations for supporting health equity and community prevention
  - **Maintain equity as a core outcome**
  - **Emphasize community level changes, momentum and leadership**
- Funding opportunities critical to advancing the foundational principles already put in place by previous initiatives.

# What is Equity?

**Equity means *just and fair inclusion***

- An equitable society is one in which all can participate and prosper. The goals of equity must be to create conditions that allow all to reach their full potential. In short, equity creates a path from hope to change.

# Why Equity?

- Heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and overall life expectancy, are disproportionately affecting low-income people and people of color
- Despite decades of efforts to address and close the gap in disparities, they persist and in some communities worsening
- Disparities will continue to add to our already alarmingly high healthcare costs

# Why Equity?

- Those who were already the furthest behind were hit first and worst by the recession and are still struggling to recover
- Increasing economic and racial residential segregation
- Places where everyone can thrive is essential for our nation's health, growth and prosperity.

# Healthy Communities=Equitable Communities

- Communities are healthy and equitable when all residents – regardless of their race/ethnicity/nativity, neighborhood of residence, or other characteristics – are fully able to:
  - participate in the area's *economic vitality*,
  - contribute to the area's *readiness for the future*, and
  - *connect* to the area's assets and resources.

# Achieving Equity through Prevention Grants

- **Assessing Equity Context**

- Sophisticated analysis for understanding and changing the web of policies, practices and power structures that create and perpetuate health inequities

- **Strategy Development & Evaluation**

- Multiple, integrated strategies that get to the “triple bottom line” of people, place, and economy (co-benefits)

- **Community Engagement**

- Enable community members to build power and pride, lead, and play a central role in shaping the policies and programs that affect their lives

# Assessing Equity Context

- What data collection and analysis has been or is currently being undertaken to understand community conditions?
- What indicators are you using in your analysis to better understand health inequities in your communities?
- How are community assets being identified?
- What learning has come from community residents?
- ***Who and how are people impacted by inequities? Where are these inequities most severe?***

# Strategy Development

- Identify policies that are important to low-income communities, communities of color and other vulnerable populations specifically
- Target benefits to vulnerable populations
- Prioritize the provision of resources to areas that need it most
- Identify any necessary provisions to improve PSE strategy in order to ensure equitable, effective outcomes
- ***Equity is a criteria for inclusion and/or prioritization of all PSE strategies***

# Strategy Evaluation

- Articulation AND implementation of PSE strategies must be carefully thought of to ensure equitable outcomes
- Clear equity outcomes will inform the strategy development and implementation process
- Monitor outcomes to ensure distribution of benefits are equitable and serve those most impacted by poor health
- How will the strategies help to achieve greater equity ***such that it will expand opportunity and access for those most impacted by the inequities?***

# Community Engagement

- Who is at the table? What table is it?
- Equity established as a shared priority and value
- Conduct and contribute to equity analysis
- Transparency and accountability
- Requires participation in governance and decision-making
- ***Putting people and their barriers to opportunity at the center of the work.***

# Equity Considerations in your Application

- Who will benefit from each strategy? How do you ensure that they will reach those are most impacted by health inequities?
- How might your proposed strategy do further harm to low-income communities and communities of color?
- What equity outcomes are you seeking to achieve through the proposed strategy?
- How is a commitment to equity reflected in your goals, objectives, and strategies? In our evaluation measures?
- How is your work responsive to demographic changes in our community?

# Equity Considerations in your Application

- What is the level of diversity of the partnership?
- Is your partnership structured to succeed on advancing equity? Are there ways it can be strengthened to benefit and reflect communities most impacted by health inequities?
- How will those most impacted by inequities be involved in the development and implementation of your CAP?
- What opportunities are you creating to ensure that community members will actively participate in the decision-making process for executing the CAP?

# The Opportunity

Exciting opportunities to advance equity:

- Improve health of *people*,
- Transform communities into healthy *places*
- Become a *strong and prosperous nation*.

# PolicyLink Tools

[www.policylink.org](http://www.policylink.org)

- *Why Place and Race Matter Executive Summary & Report*
- *America's Tomorrow: Equity in a Changing Nation*
- *Regional Equity Profiles*
- *Community Engagement Checklist*
- *Healthy Food Access Portal*
- *Infrastructure Equity*

