



Because Everyone Deserves a Fair Chance at a Healthy Life

Health Equity Policy Definition

Health equity means actively working to increase the opportunity for all communities to be healthier. It means removing obstacles to health such as poverty levels, discrimination, and their consequences including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, healthy food, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care. This equity approach prioritizes the goals set by communities that are most impacted by health inequities, provides mechanisms for the co-production of strategies, and encourages the co-implementation of projects to improve health and wellness.

Health Equity Policy Criteria

- **Solve the Problem**
 - Does the solution address the health problem(s) identified?
 - Does the policy fairly share the burden of funding?
- **Reduce Health Inequities**
 - Does the policy reduce health inequities in communities of color or areas experiencing deep disinvestment?
- **Provide Health and Wellness Opportunities**
 - Does the policy provide opportunities for health for everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, language, gender, identity or income?
- **Change the Environment**
 - Does the policy change environments and practices to reduce inequities in the opportunities and resources needed to be healthier?

- **Build Community Capacity**
 - Does the policy provide for technical assistance and building organizational capacity, community infrastructure and resilience in the communities that are the intended beneficiaries of the policy?
- **Engage Impacted Community**
 - Does the policy authentically engage those affected by disparities in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the policy solution?
- **Protective Revenue Strategies**
 - If this is a revenue bill, will the funding mechanism be progressive?
 - Are there protective measures in place for economically disadvantaged communities?
- **Fund Community Efforts**
 - If this is a revenue bill, does the policy dedicate funding to support the community that is directly impacted, considering costs and benefits of implementation?
- **Fund Community Programs**
 - If this is a revenue bill, does the policy dedicate funding to support community programs/local government programs that community members themselves have identified as key areas to improve their health and overall well-being (good paying jobs, housing, etc.)?
- **Fund Trusted Messengers**
 - Does the policy establish an outreach and education strategy and funding, including for trusted messengers (community-based organizations directly working with community members)?
- **Assess the Strategy**
 - Does the policy focus on health outcomes and include a measurement component to assess whether the strategy is working, to continuously evaluate the policy alongside evolving circumstances?