

HealthyNJ 2030 Health Communities – Equitable Access



Priority Areas

- Goals from Phase I are broad but also well developed. Could be adopted for Healthy NJ as a whole.
- Phase 1 group came up with 11 areas as focus for Health Communities
- Need to decide which of the 11 areas should “healthy communities: equitable access” group should focus on.
- Some recommendations – might consider -- community services and resources; civic engagement; arts& culture; resources and community services; transportation; recreation and opportunities to socialize. Group to discuss.
- Need to think through how to ensure racial justice is interwoven throughout. Use a racial equity impact analysis as a strategy screen for recommendations?
- We need to align with other teams to make sure all 11 areas are covered.
- Goal is to narrow down to three:
 - o Community Services and Resources
 - o Transportation Access and Mobility
 - o Civic Engagement/Public Education
 - o Arts& Culture/Opportunities to Socialize
- Weave community engagement and racial justice into everything we develop. Suggestion – use a tool to assess how well the committee recommendations address equity and racial justices as well as community engagement. Katie Bisaha will look for a community engagement tool. Karen will forward REIA tool.
- Jackie and Christine will take these 4 areas back to core group to ensure everyone’s categories are aligned.
- Will need to come up with goal statements once “orange buckets” are defined.

Community Conversations

- <https://www.njymca.org/communityconversations>
- Important to look at report and integrate into strategies

The screenshot shows a PDF document with the following content:

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Community-Informed Needs:

- Inclusive and just systems, resources, and policies will help to decrease racial bias and disparities, and improve the health of marginalized and under-resourced populations.
- Critical to ensure equitable access to resources, jobs, and food, and address social determinants of health.
- Increase and expand social services, including resources and programs to decrease food insecurity, increase broadband/internet access, increase investment and development of safe housing and shelters, and enhance public transportation infrastructure and provision of options for affordable and accessible transportation, including bus cards.
- Improve future virtual education capacity and infrastructure, including updated computers/devices and trainings, and increase attention and support for those with learning disabilities and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).
- Government agencies and public health organizations must center health equity for all at the core of programs, policies, and protections.

Alignment of HNJ2030 ACT Goals with Community Conversations Themes

| Draft Priority Area/Goal | Community Conversations Theme | Quote |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Equitable access to resources and conditions</p> <p>Goal: Provide all residents with equitable access to resources and conditions that support optimal health and well-being consistent with the principles of the World Health Organization's constitution which commits to "the highest attainable standard</p> | <p>Theme: Social & Economic Factors</p> <p>Subtheme(s): Economic Factors - Financial/Economic Instability & Inability to Meet Basic Needs; Loss of Jobs & Business</p> <p>Summary: Economic upheaval due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in homelessness among residents</p> | <p>"In the past, low-income families may have been able to sustain a single unexpected blow such as an illness or a broken-down car - in the pandemic environment, these events are now catastrophic. [...] There are formerly moderate-income families who are now sliding into poverty for the first time as well." (Participant 335, pg. 44)</p> <p>"I got laid off from my job, and it hasn't been good. All of my bills have been backed up. I'm struggling. I don't qualify for anything, and it's sad, because you would think a working person would qualify for something, minimum. [...] Keeping this roof over my head is a struggle. [...] If they extended it, the bills are coming at this moment.</p> |

- Suggestion to have Julia to be involved in committee conversation to see how we can leverage it for HealthyNJ 2030

Next Steps:

- Confirm "orange buckets" with Healthy Communities and DOH Team
- Develop draft goals for each bucket
 - o Data will be shared from HealthyNJ2020, NJSHA and we may need to collect data/information as well.
 - o Goal is to complete by the end of May.
- Next Meeting: 5/26 – 1pm