Achieving Environmental Health Equity: Opportunities for Public Health Action

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

ASSESS & MONITOR

Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health and community needs and assets

- Actvely engage communities
- Practice cultural competency
- Ensure accessible events and services
- Formally acknowledge structural racism and public health's role
- Use cuturally and linguistically appropriate approaches
- Use SDOH measures and partner with communities when assessing community health

INVESTIGATE & DIAGNOSE

Investigate, diagnose and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

- Support racial transformation through organizational change
- Study and share cumulative risks and impacts
- Practice organizational transparency
- Actively engage communities
- Partner with social justice organizations and communities impacted by environmental injustice
- Use targeted and equitable practices to allocate resources
- Require environmental justice criteria in funding opportunities

COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it and how to improve it

- Study and share cumulative risks and impacts
- Assess and improve effectiveness and impact of communications
- Ensure communications reach is targeted and comprehensive
- Publicly share organization's demographics and anti- oppression initiatives
- Co-create culturally appropriate, effective, and bias-free communications
- Identify and use preferred community terms and language
- Comply with ADA and 508 requirements

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

Strengthen, support and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health

- Actively engage
- Share visibility with community organizations
- Design interventions centered on the impacted community
- Fund community-based organizations
- Partner with social justice organizations and communities impacted by environmental injustice
- Support initiatives to address structural racism and promote health equity

CHAMPION POLICIES

Strengthen, support and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health

- Provide a mechanism for communities to influence policy
- Support efforts to address structural racism and advance health equity
- Promote Health in All Policies
- Use targeted and equitable practices to allocate resources
- Require environmental justice criteria in funding opportunities

UTILIZE LEGAL ACTIONS

Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health

- Promote inclusion of healthy equity in all policies
- Issue statements of support for public health workers
- Ensure legal support for residents
- Help communities find policy solutions
- Use SDOH measures and partner with communities when assessing community health

ASSURE EFFECTIVE SYSTEM

Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy

- Actvely engage communities
- Practice cultural competency
- Ensure accessible events and services
- Formally acknowledge structural racism and public health's role
- Use culturally and linguistically appropriate approaches

BUILD DIVERSE & SKILLED WORKFORCE

Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

- Require justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion training
- Encourage diversity in hiring practices
- Implement strong retention strategies
- Report diversity goals annually
- Build pathways for growth
- Ensure supervisor training
- Build workforce pipeline
- Promote employee development
- Ensure accreditation requires understanding environmental injustice
- Ensure equitable staff access to health care

EVALUATION & RESEARCH

Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research and continuous quality improvement

- Value and integrate culturally appropriate feedback styles and mechanisms
- Collect qualitative data
- Develop health metrics together with the community
- Evaluate staff needs and make improvement plan
- Convert research findings into practice
- Partner with social justice organizations

BUILD STRONG INFRASTRUCTURE

Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

- Support organizational racial healing, racial justice, and transformation
- Promote advocating for funded, supported, and diverse public health agencies
- Encourage legislation that supports the workforce
- Support initiatives to address structural racism and promote health equity
- Partner with communities impacted by environmental injustice

* The actions in this document are organized according to the Essential Public Health Services. Many of these actions will support activities under more than one service and are therefore listed under the opportunities in multiple categories.