Policies to Advance Health Equity

Not everyone has a fair opportunity for good health. Pro-equity policies address root causes of health inequities and strengthen community resilience. These 10 pro-equity policy areas are community-informed and evidence-based:

- Behavioral and physical healthcare access.
- COVID-19 specific care.
- Economic stability.
- Housing affordability and accessibility.
- Youth behavioral health.
- Health community planning and built environment.
- Early childhood development.
- Education access.
- Food affordability and accessibility.
- Social connectedness.

Learn more about:
- Evidence-based and local policy strategies.
- COVID-19 and health equity.

CARES Act funding received through Pierce County funded this project through Dec. 30, 2020.
Example strategies for local governments and agency partners:

**Behavioral and physical healthcare access.**
- Invest in a robust network of healthcare navigators.
- Co-locate healthcare services in community settings.
- Coordinate multiple systems to support healthcare priorities.
- Hire more Black, Indigenous, and People of Color providers.

**COVID-19 specific care.**
- Strengthen existing healthcare systems and vaccine access.
- Support flexible workplace strategies.
- Strengthen the social capital of communities experiencing inequities.

**Economic stability.**
- Provide employment flexibility.
- Offer job training programs.
- Increase local minimum wage.
- Provide cash assistance.

**Housing affordability and accessibility.**
- Implement rental policy and subsidies.
- Support land trusts and inclusionary zoning laws.
- Establish housing first policies.

**Youth behavioral health.**
- Partner with school districts to establish school-based health centers.
- Support the implementation of parent interventions.

**Healthy community planning and built environment.**
- Establish more green spaces.
- Provide accessible food and transportation options.
- Set fast food density regulation policies.

**Early childhood development.**
- Establish accessible, full-day early childhood education centers.
- Support the quality of care for early childhood and childcare programs.
- Provide full-day kindergarten.

**Education access.**
- Implement high school completion programs.
- End zero tolerance policies in schools.
- Teach ethnic studies in schools.
- Invest in youth diversion programs.

**Food affordability and accessibility:**
- Set incentive policies for SNAP beneficiaries.
- Require corner and convenience stores to stock more fruits and vegetables.
- Invest in spaces for communities to practice community or sustainable farming.

**Social connectedness.**
- Promote social prescriptions.
- Provide more community gardens.

Learn more and find out how you can collaborate with us. Email Health Equity at healthequity@tpchd.org.