
Health Equity Zones

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles were developed by the Community Advisory Council and Community Workgroup. Members of both leadership groups were asked to describe what it looks like to achieve health equity and what principles they want to guide the HEZ Initiative.

- Ensuring all people can achieve their full health potential and thrive, regardless of their identity, environment, or experiences.
- Recognizing, not centering, the systemic impacts of generational trauma, racism, oppression, and colonialism, and leading with truth, care, and reconciliation.
- Identifying our own complicity, bias, and privilege within oppressive structures and confronting power dynamics and institutional harms that perpetuate systemic inequity and lateral oppression.
- Fostering systems-change by transforming conditions and health care institutions to be responsive, accessible, and inclusive.
- Creating communities of support and care through collective action and collaboration.
- Committing to put community first and look beyond the needs or goals of individuals, policies, or institutions.
- Centering communities and their diverse voices, experiences, histories, and cultural knowledge.
- Applying a data-informed approach that values various forms of data, including individual stories and ancestral wisdom.
- Prioritizing communities who have been disproportionately affected by inequities, historically marginalized by systems, and excluded from data.
- Demonstrating the values of equity, integrity, accountability, and transparency.
- Catalyzing community leadership, ownership, and power.
- Balancing a visionary perspective to change the status quo with creating reasonable, attainable, measurable, and scalable goals and strategies.

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