Equity-Based Decision-Making for Health

PA Training Center for Health Equity ● www.paahec.org/patche

What Is Health Equity?

"Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible."
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Advancing health equity means addressing and reducing **health disparities**, which are preventable differences in the burdens of disease, injury, violence, or opportunity to achieve optimal health.

Four Steps to Making Decisions with Health Equity in Mind

Step #1

Make a commitment to health equity

Include health equity in your organizational values and make it a visible priority in communications and meetings

Step #2

Identify vulnerable groups up front

Make a list of at-risk populations you serve or in your community and reach out to learn what matters in their health

Step #3

Design and build *with* vulnerable groups

Ask how changes you are considering would impact the people on your list and involve them in your decision-making

Step #4

Invest in health equity, even if it costs a little more

One size does not fit all... what is most efficient may not be equitable and may unintentionally cause harm rather than promote health

Building a Healthier Community for All

Addressing health equity means (1) adopting an attitude that values all people and wants to do better, (2) expanding knowledge of the health disparities that exist in your communiy and the vulnerable populations affected, (3) enhancing skills through training and practice, and (4) taking action to listen, learn, and lead the way toward a healthier community for all.

Attitude → Knowledge → Skills → Action

Host a Health Equity Decision-Making Workshop

The workshop teaches participants about health equity, describes the key elements of health equity decision-making, and provides instruction and practice using the Health Equity Planning Tool.

To learn more about this workshop, please email ataylor6@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

For additional information on health equity and what PA AHEC is doing across the state, please visit: www.paahec.org