

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION: PATHWAYS TO HEALTH EQUITY

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE



THE REPORT IN BRIEF...

- REVIEWS THE STATE OF **HEALTH DISPARITIES** IN THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR ROOT CAUSES...

- ID'S **COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS** TO ADDRESS THEM...

- ID'S MAJOR ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS...

- RECOMMENDS KEY RESEARCH NEEDS TO **REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES** AND **PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY**.



A. HEALTH EQUITY IS CRUCIAL FOR THE **WELLBEING** AND **VIBRANCY** OF COMMUNITIES.

B. HEALTH IS A PRODUCT OF MULTIPLE DETERMINANTS.

C. HEALTH INEQUALITIES ARE IN LARGE PART A RESULT OF **POVERTY, STRUCTURAL RACISM, AND DISCRIMINATION**.

D. **COMMUNITIES** HAVE AGENCY TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY.

E. SUPPORTIVE **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS** FACILITATE COMMUNITY ACTION.

F. THE **COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT** OF NEW AND **DIVERSE PARTNERS** IS ESSENTIAL TO PROMOTING HEALTH EQUITY.

G. **TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE** EXIST TO TRANSLATE KNOWLEDGE INTO **ACTION** AND TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY...

H. RECOMMENDATIONS PROMOTE A **CULTURE OF HEALTH**.



COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY IN THE U.S.

THE CONCEPTUAL MODEL...



Structural Inequities and Biases, Socioeconomic and Political Drivers

Community-Driven Solutions

MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION INCLUDES **DIVERSE ALLIES!**

KEY ELEMENTS OF SOLUTIONS

Making health equity a shared vision and value

Increasing community capacity to shape outcomes

Healthier, more equitable communities in which individuals and families live, learn, work, and play

DESIRED OUTCOME

CAUSES OF INEQUITY - NON-LINEAR

Fostering multi-sector collaboration

Social Determinants of Health

EQUALITY AND **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY** ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN OUR NATIONAL VALUES, WHEREIN EVERYONE HAS A FAIR SHOT TO SUCCEED WITH HARD WORK.

COMMUNITY EXAMPLES...

THE STRUGGLE FOR HEALTH EQUITY BEGINS WHERE PEOPLE **LIVE, WORK, LEARN** AND **PLAY.**



PEOPLE UNITED FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING, BUFFALO, NY



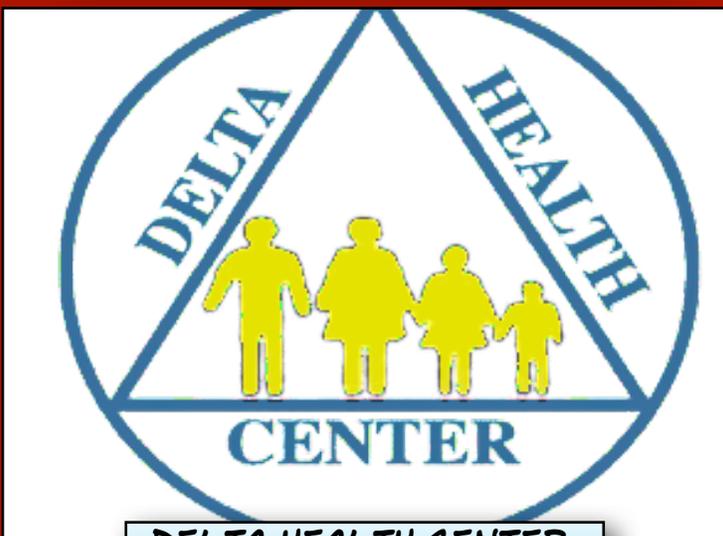
MANDELA MARKETPLACE, OAKLAND, CA



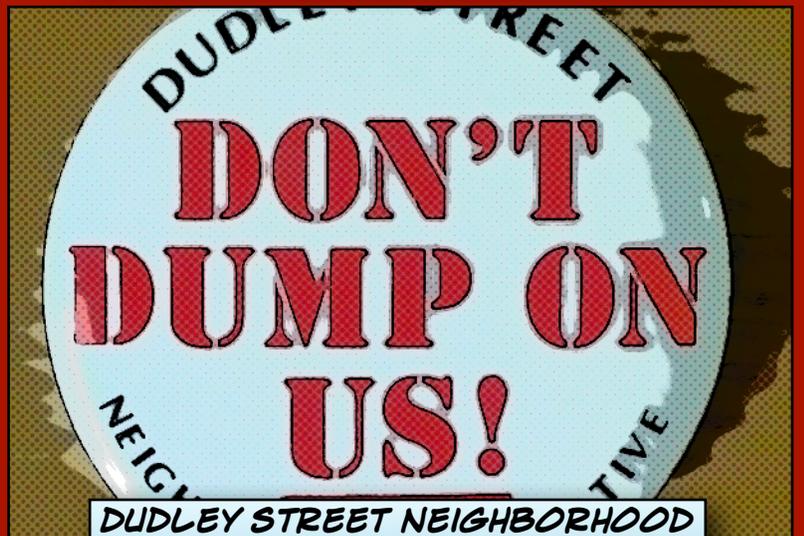
INDIANAPOLIS CONGREGATION ACTION NETWORK, IN



MAGNOLIA COMMUNITY INITIATIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA



DELTA HEALTH CENTER, MOUNT BAYOU, MS



DUDLEY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE, BOSTON, MA

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR COMMUNITIES...

WHAM!
COMMUNITIES PROMOTE
 HEALTH EQUITY!



Communities
 have **power**
 to promote
 health equity.

*Supportive policies and programs
 help facilitate community action.*

#PromoteHealthEquity

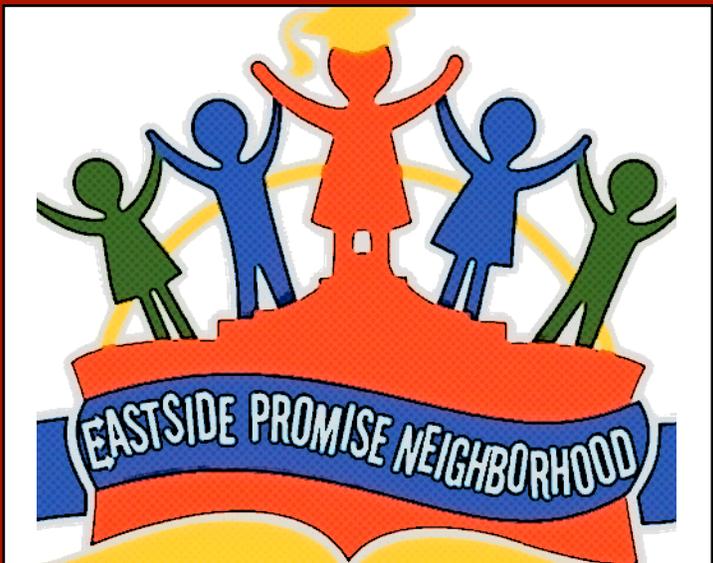


- LEVERAGE EXISTING EFFORTS WHEREVER POSSIBLE.
- ADOPT STRATEGIES FOR AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OWNERSHIP, INVOLVEMENT, AND INPUT.
- NURTURE THE **NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP.**
- FOSTER FLEXIBILITY, CREATIVITY, AND RESILIENCE.
- CONSIDER NON-TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS.
- COMMIT TO RESULTS, SYSTEMATIC LEARNING, CROSS-BOUNDARY COLLABORATION, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND SUSTAINABILITY.
- PARTNER WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES.

2 MORE COMMUNITY EXAMPLES!



BRYAN MARKET MURAL... A COMMUNITY MOSAIC DESIGNED BY SHARRA FRANK. BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION, MINNEAPOLIS, MN



EASTSIDE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD, SAN ANTONIO, TX

HEALTH EQUITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS...



WE ACT RALLIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL + CLIMATE JUSTICE USING CIVIL RIGHTS TOOLS.

FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER FUNDERS SHOULD SUPPORT COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY BY SUPPORTING EDUCATION, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT RELATED TO **CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.**

CIVIL RIGHTS APPROACHES HAVE HELPED MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF DISCRIMINATION, **PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY,** AND **GUARD AGAINST UNJUSTIFIED DISCRIMINATORY IMPACTS** THAT AFFECT HEALTH.

GUIDING EQUITY ANALYSIS...

- DESCRIBE THE PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY.
- ANALYZE THE BURDENS AND BENEFITS FOR **ALL PEOPLE.**
- ANALYZE ALTERNATIVES.
- INCLUDE STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING **PEOPLE OF COLOR** AND **LOW-INCOME PEOPLE** IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.
- IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO **PROMOTE EQUITY,** **ADDRESS DISPARITIES,** AND **AVOID DISCRIMINATION.**



RECOMMENDATIONS...

- SUPPORT RESEARCH THAT EXAMINES THE EFFECTS OF **IMPLICIT + EXPLICIT BIAS** AND **STRUCTURAL RACISM** ON **HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY**.

- GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHOULD ENSURE **ROBUST AND AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION** IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT, ENSURE THAT **BENEFITS AND BURDENS** ARE DISTRIBUTED EQUALLY, PRIORITIZE **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**, AND **AVOID DISPLACEMENT**.

- **STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION** SHOULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS ON HOW TO CONDUCT ASSESSMENTS OF **STUDENT HEALTH NEEDS**.

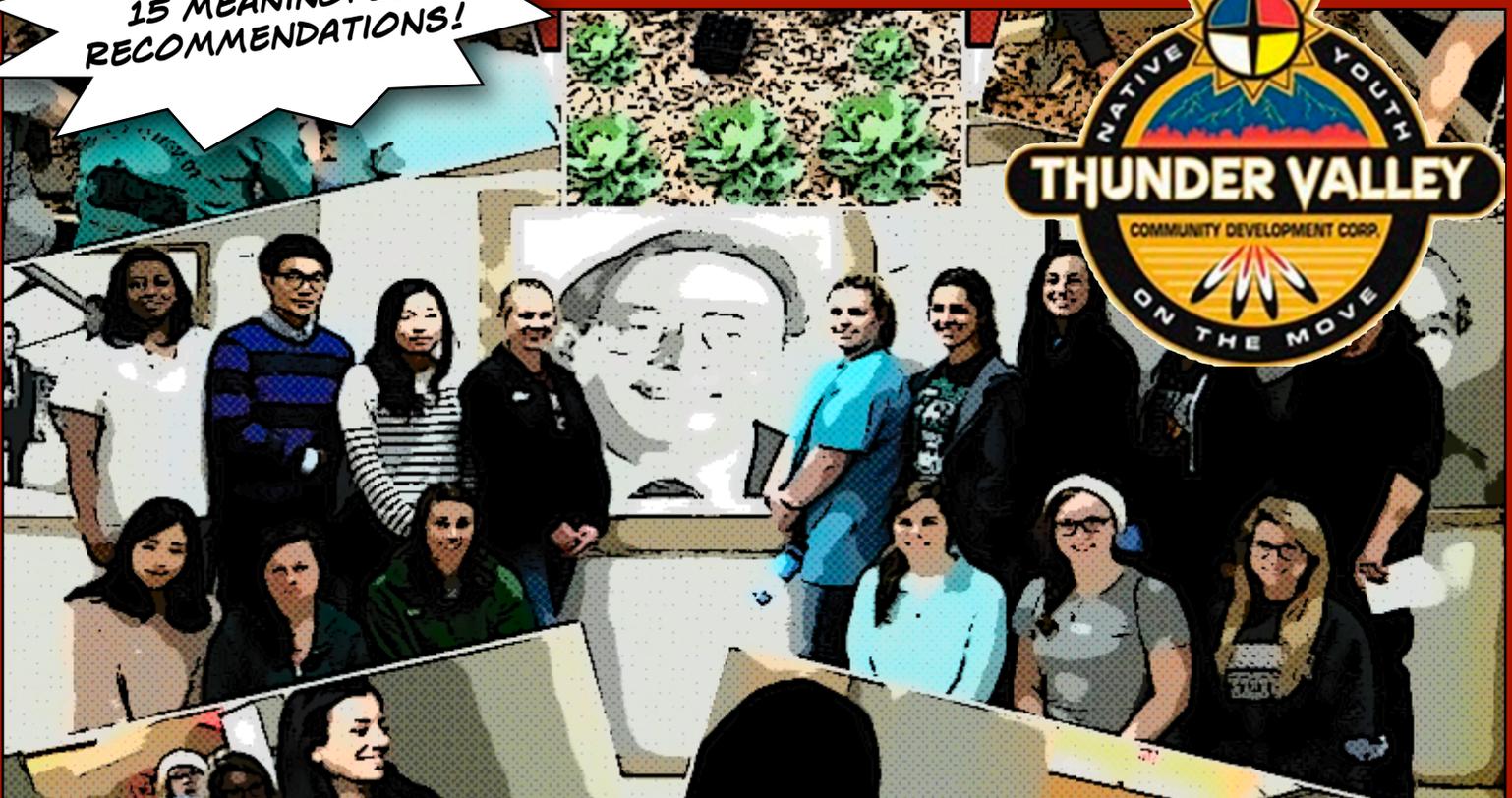
- **LOCAL POLICY MAKERS** SHOULD ASSESS **POLICIES, PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, AND FUNDING ALLOCATIONS** FOR THEIR POTENTIAL TO CREATE OR INCREASE HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

- **HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS** SHOULD FOCUS COMMUNITY BENEFIT DOLLARS TO **ERADICATE THE ROOT CAUSES OF POOR HEALTH**.

- CREATE A REPOSITORY OF EVIDENCE ON HEALTH EQUITY AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL.

AND MORE...

POW!
**15 MEANINGFUL
RECOMMENDATIONS!**



ABOVE: MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WORK ON COMMUNITY GARDENS WITH DELTA FRESH FOODS...

*The National
Academies of*

SCIENCES
ENGINEERING
MEDICINE

**COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO
PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY IN THE UNITED STATES...**

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AMY GELLER, STUDY DIRECTOR

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FIRST IN A SERIES OF
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COMIC BY SAMUEL GARCIA BASED ON THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES REPORT...
SAMUEL, STANFORD '18, IS THE CREATOR OF **TAKE ACTION COMICS.**