

Center for Health Equity: Living our mission

The Center for Health Equity works to **connect**, **strengthen** and **amplify** health equity efforts within the Minnesota Department of Health and across the state of Minnesota. This handout shares examples of how we live that mission through our programs, partnerships and grants.

CONNECT

We are a **network hub** – leading, connecting and strengthening networks of health equity leaders and partners across MDH and Minnesota communities.

STRENGTHEN

We provide **leadership in advancing health equity** and cultivate health equity leaders within MDH and across Minnesota communities.

AMPLIFY

We **amplify the work of communities** most impacted by health inequities and support them to drive their own solutions.

our work **within** the department of health

INTERNAL HEALTH EQUITY ADVISORY LEADERSHIP TEAM HUB (I-HEALTH)

We convene an internal team of staff from all divisions who help streamline coordination and foster greater collaboration of health equity efforts within the agency.

We help strengthen the capacity of MDH programs and staff to **work through an equity lens** – to build the muscles of equity through training, conversation, technical assistance and modeling of best practices.



SHOWCASING CHAMPIONS

We collect and highlight stories of how programs and units across the agency are embedding equity into their work. These stories are shared through an internal website, events and town hall meetings and through community of practice groups.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & COACHING

We support a team of health equity coaches who provide technical assistance and program and policy assessments to teams across the department. These coaches are available to help build capacity to advance equity within topic areas identified by an individual or team within MDH.

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

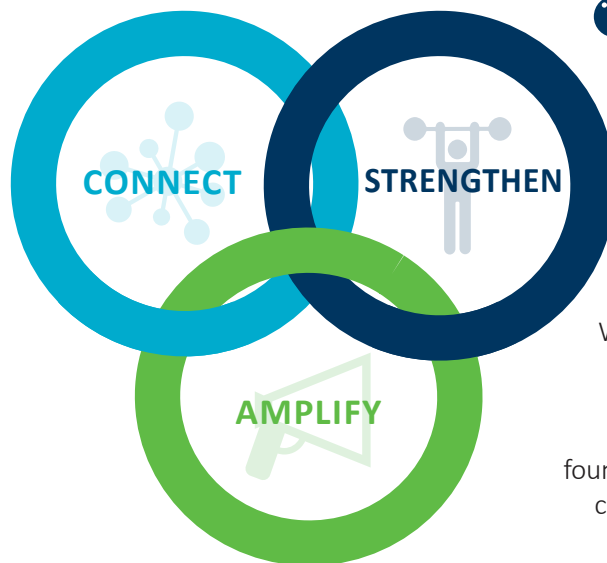
We host regular gatherings that welcome all MDH staff seeking opportunities for hands-on learning and discussion related to equity and our work at MDH.

TRAINING

We coordinate trainings on health and racial equity for staff from across the agency. In doing so, we are creating common language and building a foundation of equity practices that teams can take back and tailor to their work.

EQUITY IN GRANTS

MDH distributes nearly \$250 million in grants throughout the state annually. We support an agency-wide work group in examining our grant-making processes and policies through an equity lens and developing tools, resources and recommendations for improving grants at MDH.



our work **with community**

HEALTH EQUITY LEADERSHIP NETWORK

We bring together health equity leaders, organizations and institutions from across the state and across sectors to strategize, share best practices, and identify common goals to advance health equity in Minnesota.

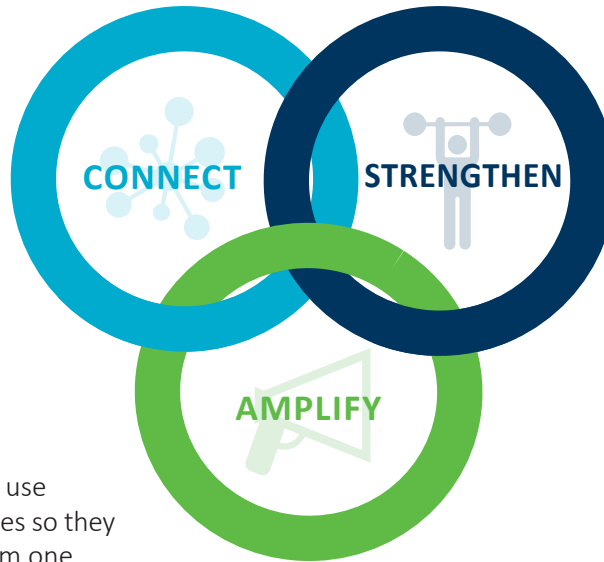


COMMUNITY VOICES TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY

Using a community engagement model of shared leadership and decision-making, we work with community leaders and partners to develop and implement policy and systems solutions to reduce infant mortality among U.S.-born African Americans in Hennepin County.

COMMUNICATIONS

We use a variety of tools – including an e-bulletin and a quarterly e-newsletter – to connect health equity leaders and champions with funding, trainings and other opportunities to support their work in advancing health equity.



GRANTEE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Through trainings, webinars and one-on-one support, we support the capacity-building of grantee staff and organizations in areas such as evaluation, advocacy and communication.



GRANTEE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

We host in-person gatherings and use online platforms to connect grantees so they can share best practices, learn from one another and explore ways to improve their work to address inequities in their communities.

We partner with health equity champions across Minnesota to **connect** ideas and initiatives, **strengthen** relationships and partnerships and **amplify** the voices and work of community throughout the state.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

We host community conversations throughout the state to connect with and listen to the needs, concerns and ideas of community members and leaders from Minnesota's diverse communities. Through these conversations, we strive to amplify the voices of communities in government and engage in collaborative problem solving around the inequities that plague our state.



GRANT-MAKING

Through more than \$6 million in grants each year, we amplify the work that community organizations, tribal governments and others are doing to advance health equity in their communities. Across our grants and programs, we honor tribal sovereignty and value indigenous and cultural ways of healing.



HEALTH EQUITY ADVISORY AND LEADERSHIP (HEAL) COUNCIL

Our statewide advisory council is comprised of leaders representative of communities most impacted by health inequities. The council provides guidance to MDH on how to advance health equity across MDH systems, policies and programs.

Want to connect with us?

web: www.health.state.mn.us/communities/equity | **phone:** 651.201.5813 | **email:** health.equity@state.mn.us