

Lead Agency: Health Department

Program Contact: Sonali Balajee

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The mission of Multnomah County’s Health Equity Initiative (HEI) is to eliminate the root causes of social injustices leading to racial and ethnic health inequities. The definition of health equity that grounds HEI’s mission is the fair/just distribution of resources and power that supports the achievement of full health potential. HEI engages community members and policy makers in understanding the root causes of health inequities experienced by people of color, immigrants, and refugees, highlighting current efforts, and advancing policy and practice solutions. HEI integrates findings from research in racial justice, social justice, and community empowerment, community priorities, and local data to advance immediate and long-term solutions to address the root causes of inequities.

Program Description

In Multnomah County people of color, immigrants, and refugees experience lower life expectancy, higher rates of disease, higher rates of poverty, lower education and economic attainment, and over-representation in the criminal justice and mental health systems. This program advocates addressing racial and ethnic health inequities with an explicit focus on justice and equity. To eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities by addressing root inequities, HEI analyzes, educates, and advocates for equitable social policies.

This program offer will continue HEI’s work on three fronts: organizational development, public policy, and community engagement and empowerment. HEI makes change in these areas in two key ways: as a leader (framing policy issues and ensuring a common understanding of key health equity definitions and practices) and as an educator (being a resource in terms of providing education/training on best practices, connections between the '-isms,' social determinants of health, and programs). To advance organizational development, HEI is piloting the use of an Equity and Empowerment Assessment (EEA) and accompanying training in several service areas in the Health Department. Countywide, HEI has a seat on the Countywide Equity Council, assisting in the implementation of an Undoing Institutionalized Racism Training, an overall Equity Initiative, and in departmental equity actions. To advance public policy, HEI will use policy options generated by HEI and other community policy initiatives to support policy advocacy with local elected officials, community based organizations, and community members promoting an equity policy agenda. To advance community empowerment, the HEI will support health promotion, health equity, and quality improvement trainings for County staff and community members to create common understanding on health equity and disparities, and to provide information on how best to connect with current efforts and conduct policy advocacy.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY08-09)	Current Year Purchased (FY09-10)	Current Year Estimate (FY09-10)	Next Year Offer (FY10-11)
Output	Community members and organizations engaged in overall HEI strategies	313	200	350	500
Outcome	Doc. evals of EEQ processes of int./ext. partner use	0	0	0	10
Output	Internal and external partners trained to use EEA	0	0	0	200
Quality	Policy building towards increased collab between Quality, H.Prom, Hlth Eq, BPAD	0	0	0	0

Performance Measure - Description

 **Measure Changed**

1) Community engagement is a valid initial measure of health promotion. These are key to maintaining cultural factors that protect against health risks. In FY2011, the Initiative will move beyond community dialogues to community empowerment through community education and policy advocacy training. 2),3),4) Equity tool adapted from Seattle/King County tool and several other health equity processes across country. FY2011 will focus on strengthening our health equity policy agenda, organizational development changes, and building on existing and potential partnerships within and external to the County. HEI will focus on conducting and evaluating key pilots internal to the Health Department, leading to greater future use of EEA principles and processes, as well as documented research on equity strategies to be used by County-wide Equity efforts.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2010	2010	2011	2011
Personnel	\$255,971	\$1,166	\$288,834	\$0
Contracts	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$19,277	\$906	\$5,607	\$0
Internal Services	\$30,557	\$193	\$37,762	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$309,305	\$2,265	\$332,203	\$0
Program Total:	\$311,570		\$332,203	
Program FTE	2.80	0.00	3.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$137	\$0	\$0	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$2,265	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$137	\$2,265	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #40045A, Health Equity Initiative