

Lead Agency: Health Department

Program Contact: Sonali Balajee

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: In Target

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, 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, less access to power and decision-making, 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 continuing to pilot the use of an Equity and Empowerment Lens (racial justice focus, E&E Lens) and accompanying training in several service areas in the Health Department, in strong partnership with Business Services. Countywide, HEI provides technical assistance as needed to County leadership and efforts focusing on social justice and equity. 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 (FY09-10)	Current Year Purchased (FY10-11)	Current Year Estimate (FY10-11)	Next Year Offer (FY11-12)
Output	Community members & organizations engaged in learning about & utilizing the Lens	0	500	300	500
Outcome	Doc. evals of EEQ processes of int./ext. partner use	0	10	8	15
Output	% of curriculum and training materials supporting use of E&E Lens completed	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Quality	%of defined goals toward incr. integration among Quality, H.Prom, HEI,BPAD,&DQT	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	60.0%

Performance Measure - Description

 **Measure Changed**

1) Community engagement is a valid initial measure of health promotion. These measures are key to maintaining cultural factors that protect against health risks. In FY12, the Initiative will move to community empowerment through community education, policy advocacy training, and community-led policy creation. 2),3) Equity tool adapted from Seattle/King County tool and several other health equity processes across the country. FY12 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 based on Foundational Principles and main Questions of E&E Lens. 4)Via greater integration of organizational change initiatives, HEI will continue to advocate for greater and more widespread use of Lens principles and practices in the department, as well as County-wide.

Legal/Contractual Obligation**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2011	2011	2012	2012
Personnel	\$288,834	\$0	\$293,307	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$5,607	\$0	\$10,689	\$0
Internal Services	\$37,762	\$0	\$30,317	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$332,203	\$0	\$334,313	\$0
Program Total:	\$332,203		\$334,313	
Program FTE	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Health Equity Initiative (racial justice focus) is funded with county general fund, \$334,313.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #40045, Health Equity Initiative (racial justice focus)