

## PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH EQUITY

### Health equity requires:

- 1. Focusing on the needs of marginalized community members** who face persistent barriers to health and targeting solutions that enable them to live healthier lives.
- 2. Creating a fair social environment** that allows people of different backgrounds and in all places to thrive. This means addressing inequities through policy, systems, practice, and environmental changes that incorporate community input, best available evidence, and culturally appropriate strategies.
- 3. Recognizing the intersection of issues** that contribute to social inequities. That means prioritizing the social determinants of health that include economic security; education; housing; transportation; criminal justice; the built, natural and social environments; food access; and health care access and quality.
- 4. Valuing all human life.** This means prioritizing diversity and inclusion; investing time, resources, and effort in supporting people and places that have



been frequently overlooked; and acknowledging, discussing, overcoming, and addressing racism, sexism, classism, and other dehumanizing forms of systemic oppression.



- 5. Establishing and maintaining authentic relationships with community members** who face persistent barriers to health and working collaboratively with them to solve the challenges that contribute to inequities. These relationships must involve regular communication and be based on mutual respect, trust, and recognition of each other's knowledge, talent, and common interests.
- 6. Recognizing and leveraging community power** to advocate for policy, systems, practice, and environmental changes that improve living conditions and expand access to health-promoting opportunities.
- 7. Working with community members across sectors, issues, and social groups** to engage in mutually reinforcing activities that support the common goal of creating a culture of health.



Allies for Reaching  
Community  
Health Equity

A project of the Center for Global Policy Solutions

[healthequity.globalpolicysolutions.org](http://healthequity.globalpolicysolutions.org)

### WHAT IS HEALTH EQUITY?

Health equity means ensuring fair opportunities for everyone to lead healthy and long lives by eliminating the barriers to, or addressing the fundamental conditions necessary for, achieving good health, especially among populations that have experienced cumulative disadvantage or stigma.



**Allies for Reaching Community Health Equity (ARCHE) advances equity-centered strategies that strengthen families and communities and build a culture of health.**

Led by the Center for Global Policy Solutions (CGPS), ARCHE envisions a diverse and inclusive society that promotes health, opportunity and economic and social wellbeing for everyone. Realizing this vision requires us to work collectively to transform systems, policies and practices, at every societal level as well as environments that systemically prevent disadvantaged communities and populations from experiencing good health. From

ensuring quality housing, transportation, and access to healthy foods or education and jobs, equity is the key to creating the conditions for people and communities to thrive.

ARCHE promotes resources, learning, thought leadership, collaboration, and innovative solutions that advance health equity. Through ARCHE activities and partnerships, CGPS aims to strengthen the skills and capacity of practitioners, community leaders and policymakers to combat disparities by race, gender, geography, and income while building a culture that supports healthier people, families and communities.



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