



A COMMUNITY-INFORMED PLAN FOR RACIAL EQUITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Built by Community.
Focused on Change.

What Is This Plan?

This is a roadmap that represents the first step toward ending racial health inequities in Connecticut.

It recognizes that health is influenced by far more than healthcare alone and thus focuses on tackling systemic unequal access to resources that support health and well-being.

Education, economic stability, housing, environment, and the criminal legal system all play a critical role in determining health outcomes and ultimately, life expectancy.

No matter your race, ethnicity, or zip code, everyone deserves to live a healthy life.

Why This Plan Matters

Health inequities stem from racial inequities - which were calcified into systems over time - impacting everything from housing, education, jobs, healthcare, and the criminal legal system.

As a result of the stark disparities we witnessed after the COVID-19 pandemic, the Connecticut General Assembly created the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health to help fix this. But instead of decisions being made by a select few, this plan was shaped by the people closest to the issues.

Through a statewide process led by the Health Disparities Institute at UConn Health, community members shared their experiences, ideas, and solutions. Their voices shaped the plan, which was then strengthened with feedback from the broader community and policy leaders.

This plan reflects what communities know and experience in their daily lives, and what decision-makers must act on.

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Community-Driven Priorities

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Make healthcare more affordable and reduce medical debt:

- Reduce medical debt
- Strengthen hospital financial assistance programs
- Increase Medicaid/HUSKY reimbursement rates to reflect the true cost of care

"I still have some... skepticism and fear when dealing with healthcare professionals and trying to figure out what something is going to cost me when I walk in the door, which often prevents from me from going to the doctors."

– Bridgeport Community Member

HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, AND COMMUNITIES

Everyone needs a safe place to live:

- Invest in affordable housing
- Expand rental assistance and community land banks

"Increase investment in affordable housing, provide housing subsidies, tax incentives, and other policies to help low- and middle-income families afford housing, and reduce the economic pressure and health risks caused by high housing costs."

– Survey Respondent

EDUCATION & ECONOMIC SECURITY

Affordable childcare supports families and workers:

- Expand Care4Kids
- Invest in local childcare centers

"Affordable childcare. We expect these families to work without resources to take care of their children."

– Survey Respondent

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Ensure access to safe, affordable housing for people impacted by the criminal legal system:

- Hold landlords accountable
- Expand housing support for people returning to the community

"How can anyone thrive if they are released from prison to absolutely nothing. No housing, no clothes, no food, no job, and no money. That is a disservice. It's a punishment greater than jail time."

– Survey Respondent

WHERE YOU COME IN

Health equity won't happen without community power and policy change.

Take action by:

- Sharing this plan with family and neighbors
- Paying attention to bills at the Capitol
- Contacting your state legislators
- Speaking up for policies that support health equity.
- Register to vote and get to the polls for every election

When communities and systems move together, real change happens.

This plan is our roadmap. Now it's time to act.

Find the strategic plan reports here:

<https://wp.cga.ct.gov/creph/strategic-plan/>

"We don't need just initiatives, we need explicit policy, removal of bureaucratic systems...that must give approval to allow things like land access..."

– Survey Respondent

PRESENTED BY



**UConn
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HEALTH DISPARITIES
INSTITUTE