

See Full Strategic Plan

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COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health (CREPH) strategic planning process centered on community voices every step of the way. Community members helped identify priority areas, shape the statewide

assessment, and guide strategic planning discussions.

The process was collaborative and ongoing, using feedback from community members, subcommittees, and the Community Research Team (CRT)

to inform decisions. Through prioritization and consensus-building activities, the process resulted in a strategic plan with community-informed priorities, goals, and recommendations for legislative action.

PHASE 1: UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

Community Survey

UConn Health Disparities Institute (HDI) conducted a community engagement survey to better understand Connecticut residents' experiences, concerns, and ideas for solutions related to:

- Food access
- Neighborhood safety
- Healthcare access and costs
- Housing

A total of 95 Connecticut residents participated in the survey. The survey was developed with support from the Community Engagement Subcommittee and distributed in partnership with Access Health CT.

Focus Groups

The Community Research Team (CRT) used a participatory approach to design and lead focus groups across Connecticut. These conversations explored how racial inequity impacts health and everyday life, and what solutions community members want to see.

Topics included:

- Healthcare and mental health
- Housing and living conditions
- Financial stability
- Education

In Fall 2024, the CRT conducted 9 focus groups and engaged 69 residents statewide.

Subcommittee Engagement

CREPH Advisory Body members and subject matter experts formed subcommittees to review findings and provide recommendations.

Subcommittees:

- Reviewed survey and focus group findings
- Identified key community priorities
- Discussed potential policy solutions
- Helped determine areas for deeper exploration in Phase 2

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PHASE 2: EXPLORING COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Using what was learned in Phase 1, the CRT designed a second phase of community engagement to better understand the acceptability, feasibility, and sustainability of proposed solutions.

The assessment focused on solutions related to:

- Health
- Housing
- Education
- Economic opportunity
- Criminal justice
- Environmental conditions

Community Survey

The Phase 2 survey explored how community members viewed proposed solutions aimed at addressing racial health inequities.

A total of 397 Connecticut residents completed the survey.

Focus Groups & Key Informant Interviews

The CRT also conducted virtual focus groups and interviews with community leaders and experts to get their feedback and better understand how proposed solutions could work in practice.

The CRT engaged 19 leaders and experts from areas including:

- Healthcare
- Education
- Government and public sector
- Nonprofits
- Faith-based organizations
- Direct service providers

These discussions explored:

- Feasibility of proposed solutions
- Long-term sustainability
- Local opportunities and barriers to implementation

Final Subcommittee Review

After Phase 2, subcommittees reviewed updated findings and recommendations informed by surveys, focus groups, and interviews.

Subcommittees then identified the solutions that were:

- Most acceptable to communities
- Most feasible to implement
- Most sustainable over time

These recommendations helped shape the final CREPH strategic plan. Learn more about the recommendations in our strategic plan reports: <https://wp.cga.ct.gov/creph/strategic-plan/>



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