



# THE EQUITYSCOOP



October 2025

A newsletter for Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) brought to you by the Equity Technical Assistance (TA) Team, Office of Health Equity, CDPH, every first Friday of the month.

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Want to offer us a recommendation or be an LHJ spotlight? Please submit an inquiry via the [Equity Portal](#).

Best viewed in your browser or the latest version of Outlook.

## Invaluable Perspectives, Meaningful Collaboration: The CDPH Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee



Pictured: Past and present members of the Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee

Actively engaging communities is vital for achieving health equity. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee \(OHE AC\)](#) brings together diverse experts, passionate advocates, and representatives dedicated to underserved communities. They work together with the Health in All Policies Task Force to address health inequities by improving social and environmental factors and aim to eliminate health disparities to improve overall health status.

The role of the OHE Advisory Committee, [as outlined here](#), is all about driving impactful change. The committee champions goals and plays a crucial role in shaping policy recommendations, strategic plans, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. Meeting quarterly, the members regularly connect with OHE to share their insights and stay updated on cutting-edge policy proposals, strategic initiatives, pressing issues, and exciting growth opportunities. These dynamic meetings welcome both online and in-person attendees and delve into reviewing updates, budget allocations, and strategic efforts dedicated to advancing health equity in California. There's always a segment for public comments, ensuring attendees have a platform to voice their opinions and provide valuable feedback on a range of topics.

The Office of Health Equity (OHE) held an Advisory Committee (AC) meeting on September 11, 2025, on the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. A 30-second moment of silence was observed to remember the lives lost on this day and its impact on health due to long-term effects, with 3,063 deaths reported as of 2021. The budget process, from the Governor's Budget in January to the final Budget Act in June, was outlined. Key initiatives and fiscal changes were detailed, with significant funding for health equity projects highlighted. The committee reviewed past milestones, including selecting new AC members, designing recommendations for the California Reducing Disparities Project, providing input on COVID impacts, touring Skid Row, and supporting the confirmation of past OHE Deputy Directors. Towards the end of the meeting, AC members shared their thoughts on various topics such as the increasing importance of transparency with communities, allowing translation of these meetings to improve language justice, the power of storytelling in health equity messaging as well as enhancing psychological safety within internal workgroups and committees in order to foster a culture

centered on equity. Through shared insight and action, the OHE AC continues to shape a healthier California.

For more information on the OHE Advisory Committee, including upcoming meetings, please visit the [CDPH OHE Advisory Committee webpage](#).

## Latest News & Program Reminders



### **Request for Application for Non-Profit Organizations: Increasing Capacity, Training & Care for LGBTQ Foster Youth**



The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) works to protect the public's health in the Golden State and helps shape positive health outcomes for individuals, families and communities. CDPH is dedicated to public service and our mission is to advance the health and well-being of California's diverse people and communities. The Office of Health Equity (OHE) was established to provide a leadership role within CDPH to reduce health and mental health disparities experienced by vulnerable communities in California. As part of CDPH and OHE, the Gender Health Equity Section (GHES) plays a leadership role in the development of programs and policies intended to eliminate gender-based health disparities in California.

CDPH is implementing a new program to fund projects that demonstrate improved capacity to provide affirming and culturally responsive care for LGBTQ foster youth and transitional aged youth (TAY), emphasizing vulnerable and marginalized youth populations. LGBTQ youth in the foster care system experience severe health disparities compared to LGBTQ youth in stable housing as well as heterosexual or cisgender youth in foster care. This includes worse mental health outcomes, verbal, and physical harassment. Additionally, LGBTQ youth in the foster care system experience higher rates of out-of-home placement, higher numbers of foster care placements, and a higher likelihood of living in a group home. Experiences of homophobic and transphobic harassment and violence also result in LGBTQ youth comprising a disproportionately high percentage of youth experiencing homelessness.

There is a good deal of evidence about what kinds of activities reduce health inequities experienced by LGBTQ youth. Protective factors such as social support (accepting and affirming parents, teachers and other adults) and the implementation of inclusive and affirming policies in school, healthcare and social settings have been demonstrated to increase resilience and have significant, life-changing impacts on wellbeing among LGBTQ youth.

**This Request for Application (RFA) provides an opportunity for local organizations to apply for funds to strengthen systems and services for LGBTQ foster youth/TAY.**

The RFA document and both required templates will be posted to the [LGBTQ Foster Youth Capacity Building Program webpage](#) soon. Please check back regularly for updates.

**Stay Tuned! More Equity Learning Ahead**

**Coming November 2025**



**Did September's Equity Learning Collaborative spark ideas for your local equity work?** If you found value in the conversations or shared strategies—get ready for more!

Another Equity Learning Collaborative is coming this November! The Equity Technical Assistance (TA) team is building on the momentum from September with a session designed to support Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) in advancing equity across California communities. Stay tuned for the date, agenda, and registration details in the coming weeks.

Want to revisit the September session?

Check out the recording here: [The Role of Community Health Workers/Promotores in Advancing Health Equity](#)

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## Resilient Together: Wellness for LHJ Staff



Prioritizing You: Tools for Well-Being in Equity Work

Now more than ever, Equity work is powerful and demanding. As we continue supporting communities across California, it is essential to care for ourselves, too. This month, we are spotlighting a few free resources to help Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) program staff build resilience and prevent burnout:

**Joy in Work Toolkit and Implementation Guide (NACCHO):** Adapted for local public health teams, this toolkit helps identify what brings meaning to your work and how to protect it. The new Implementation Guide is a companion to NACCHO's 2022 Joy in Work Toolkit and will help managers put into practice steps to transform their health departments.

- [Explore the Toolkit](#)
- [Explore the Implementation Guide](#)

**Psychological First Aid for Leaders:** A free 2-hour course on supporting your team through stress and crisis. [Access the training](#)

**Caring for Your Mental Health (NIMH):** Simple, research-backed self-care tips from the National Institute of Mental Health. [View the self-care tips](#)

**PH-HERO Resource Center (ASTHO):** A curated collection of resources to address moral injury, burnout, resilience, and retention for public health agency leaders, supervisors, and team members. [Browse resources](#)

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## Training of the Month

### An Overview of Public Health Reaching Across Sectors



Courtesy of the [Region IV Public Health Training Center](#)

This online course is an overview of **Public Health Reaching Across Sectors or PHRASES**, a compilation of communication strategies and tools for public health professionals to use to foster a better understanding of public health and the greater willingness of other sectors to engage in cross-sector partnerships. It will provide an introduction to how productive framing and messaging can improve partnerships and overall health outcomes, and an overview of the tools and strategies PHRASES provides to improve communication to other sectors.

#### Learning Objectives

By the end of this training, participants will be able to:

- Describe the importance of cross-sector partnerships to improve health outcomes
- Describe public health for audiences outside of public health
- Define what framing is and why it matters for communication
- Identify language barriers for cross-sector understanding
- Brainstorm ways to bridge gaps in communication between public health professionals and professionals in other sectors

- Discuss recommendations from the research findings/Map the Gaps from FrameWorks Institutes research to understand other sectors' needs and perceptions
- Describe recommendations from the research findings from Hattaway Communications about communicating about public health to general audiences
- Select communication strategies to combat stereotypes and failures in communication between public health and other sectors

**Course Enrollment:** [An Overview of Public Health Reaching Across Sectors](#)

## Equity Essentials



### Building Your Public Health Comms Toolkit: Communications Planning on a Budget (Webinar)



In this webinar, public health and communications experts will provide practical tools, tips, and stories that support effective public health campaigns on small or non-existent budgets.

#### Viewers will learn more about:

- Building a free and low-cost toolkit for content planning, organization, and distribution of key public health messages.
- How new partnership approaches can amplify your messages where people need to hear them.
- Free and low-cost communications channels that can provide clarity, connection, and better community health outcomes.

Watch the recorded webinar: [Building Your Public Health Comms Toolkit: Communications Planning on a Budget](#)

## The Dignity Index by UNITE



UNITE is a national initiative aimed at reducing divisions, preventing violence, and promoting civil discourse. UNITE created the **Dignity Index** and worked with team members from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah to [pilot](#) it in Utah. The Dignity Index is an eight-point scale that measures the level of contempt or dignity in a passage of speech (e.g., debates, social media posts, candidate speeches etc.). Lower scores (1-4) indicate less dignity and more contempt, with 1 representing the highest level of contempt. Higher scores (5-8) indicate more dignity, with 8 representing the highest level of dignity. The Dignity Index evaluates speech content instead of the speaker, in an effort to reduce partisan bias and promoting constructive dialogue and national unity.

To learn more about the Dignity Index and to access supplemental resources, please visit the [Dignity Index webpage](#).

**Technical Assistance (TA) Services Available:**

For general inquiries or to schedule a 1:1 consultation, submit an inquiry to your Equity TA Specialist (below) via the [Equity Technical Assistance Portal](#):

**Rural North** | Haley Ni  
**Greater Sierra-Sacramento** | Claudia Medina  
**Central California** | TBD  
**Bay Area** | Salina Ramachhita  
**Southern California/ Los Angeles** | Jessica Medina

To share an event, resource, job opportunity, or highlight a success story from your LHJ, please contact us through the [Equity Portal](#) by the 20th of the month.

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