



THE EQUITYSCOOP



September 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.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month:

Meet OHE's Latino/e Health Equity Specialist



Written by Dey Nava, Latino/e Health Equity Specialist in the Office of Health Equity (OHE)

Hello! My name is Dey Nava, and I am honored to serve as the Latino/e Health Equity Specialist in the Office of Health Equity (OHE). I am a proud daughter of Mexican immigrants, and a public health advocate deeply committed to advancing health and wellness in my community. In this role, I lead efforts, including community relationship-building, project guidance, training, and technical assistance to support CDPH programs and policies. A key part of my work is to partner with community-based organizations to build trust and pathways for bidirectional communication and collaboration. My goal is to ensure that Latine communities across California are not only represented in public health efforts but are actively shaping them.

[Latine and Hispanic Heritage Month in California](#) is a time to celebrate the history, resilience, and cultural contributions of the Latine community. It is also a moment to acknowledge how structural inequities and fear continue to shape the lived experiences and health outcomes of this community. This year, staff from the OHE Advancing Community Equity Branch are teaming up to plan a department-wide webinar and in-person cultural event for CDPH staff. The webinar will offer staff an opportunity to learn more about Latin America and connect with fellow staff. The cultural event will bring CDPH staff together in community to enjoy Latin American cuisine, music, and games.

For more information or to connect directly, please reach out at Deyanira.Nava@cdph.ca.gov.

Honoring Heritage and Resilience:

California Native American Day



California Native American Day, observed on the fourth Friday of September, is a day dedicated to honoring the rich cultural heritage, deep-rooted history, and contributions of Native American communities in California. Established in 1968 by Governor Ronald Reagan and made a California state holiday in 1988 by Governor Pete Wilson, this day serves as a reminder of the enduring presence and significance of Native American tribes in the state.

California is home to the largest Native American population in the country with 110 federally recognized Tribes and 62 unrecognized Tribes, each with their own unique traditions, languages, and histories. These Tribes have played a crucial role in shaping the state's history and continue to contribute to its cultural diversity. Celebrations on this day often include cultural events, traditional dances, storytelling, and educational programs. These activities not only highlight the rich traditions of Native American tribes but also promotes awareness and appreciation of their contributions to society.

As we celebrate California Native American Day, let us reflect on the importance of preserving and honoring the diverse cultures that make up our state. By doing so, we can build a more inclusive and respectful community for all.

Check out the free events below open to the public to celebrate California Native American Day this month:

Friday, September 26th, 2025, 10 AM to 2 PM | [California State Capitol – Sacramento, CA](#)

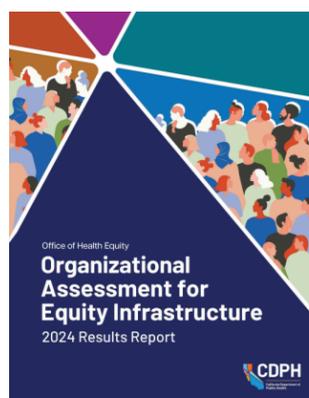
Friday, September 26th, 2025, 6 PM to 9 PM | [California State University, San Bernardino](#)

Latest News & Program Reminders



2024 Organizational Assessment for Equity Infrastructure Results Report

Now Available on the CDPH Webpage!



The Equity Technical Assistance (TA) Team is thrilled to announce that the ADA compliant version of the results report for the 2024 Organizational Assessment for Equity Infrastructure is now available on the [CDPH Office of Health Equity](#) website. Building on the insights from our 2022 baseline and 2023 results reports, the 2024 organizational assessment for equity infrastructure results report provides the most comprehensive look yet at statewide and regional equity infrastructure across California's Local Health Jurisdictions.

In 2024, 57 out of the 61 LHJs participated in the assessment, contributing to a robust dataset. This year's findings show how progress is being made, where challenges remain, and how our collective efforts are shaping a stronger foundation for health equity. We encourage you to explore the data, reflect on the trends, and use this report to spark dialogue and collaboration across your local health department.

Read the full report: [Organizational Assessment for Equity Infrastructure 2024 Results Report](#)

If you are interested in having your Equity TA Specialist present statewide and regional equity data tailored to your LHD, please connect directly with your assigned specialist to coordinate a session.

Save the Date!

September 23rd, 2025



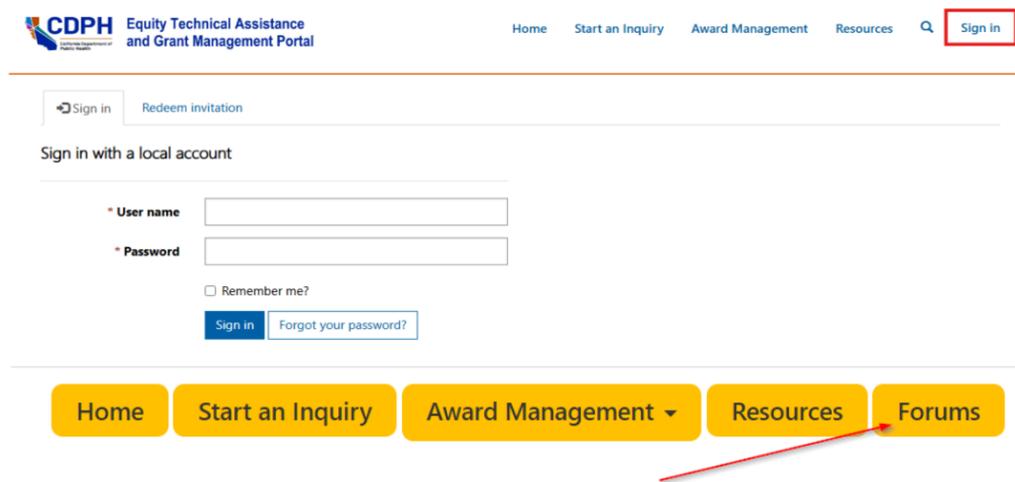
The Equity Technical Assistance (TA) team is preparing the next session of the Equity Learning Collaborative scheduled for **Tuesday, September 23, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:15 PM**. While the session topic will be shared soon, we encourage you to mark the calendar and plan to join us.

This session will offer space for reflection and shared learning around equity-centered practices that support meaningful engagement and impact. Keep an eye on your inbox for the official invitation and session details.

Interested in presenting?

The Equity Learning Collaborative invites individuals interested in sharing how they are advancing equity in their work. If you have a project, practice, or insight to spotlight, please contact Claudia.Medina@cdph.ca.gov to learn more.

The Statewide Equity Forums Have Officially Returned!



The Equity Technical Assistance (TA) team is pleased to share that the **Statewide Equity Forums** have officially returned. Created specifically for Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) equity program staff, the forums offer a dedicated space to stay connected, exchange ideas, and support one another in advancing equity across California.

Use the forums to:

- Ask questions and learn from others doing similar work
- Share tools, resources, and promising practices
- Highlight local successes and discuss common challenges
- Build relationships with peers across jurisdictions

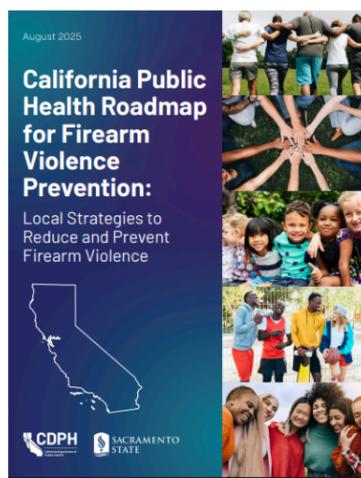
As equity work continues to evolve, staying connected is essential. The forums are here to help foster collaboration, spark new ideas, and strengthen our collective efforts.

Once you have access, we invite you to take a moment to explore the forums, engage with existing threads, and start your own conversations. Subscribe to threads you want to follow to receive post updates.

Please note: Access to the forums requires an account through the Equity Portal. If you are interested in joining or need help getting started, please [submit an inquiry via the portal](#).

California Public Health Roadmap for Firearm Violence Prevention:

Local Strategies to Reduce and Prevent Firearm Violence



On **August 29, 2025**, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Violence Prevention Initiative \(VPI\)](#), in partnership with the Institute for Social Research at California State University, Sacramento, released the [California Public Health Roadmap for Firearm Violence Prevention: Local Strategies to Reduce and Prevent Firearm Violence](#) (Roadmap).

This groundbreaking report recognizes **racism—especially structural racism—as a root cause of firearm violence** and elevates it as one of two transformative strategies for prevention. The roadmap outlines how historical trauma, systemic disinvestment, and inequities in housing, education, and economic opportunity have created conditions that increase the risk of violence in communities of color. The roadmap is intended as a tool for local public health organizations as they address these inequities through healing-centered, community-driven approaches.

Developed through extensive formative research—including 45 Key Informant Interviews, 165 participants in Community Listening Sessions, and a statewide survey of local health and behavioral health departments—the Roadmap presents a flexible “menu” of eight evidence-informed strategies. These include addressing racism, reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), strengthening social supports, improving neighborhood conditions, and implementing community violence intervention programs.

The roadmap can serve as a resource for public health leaders as they work to center equity, elevate community voices, and elevate upstream solutions that prevent violence before it occurs.

For more information, please contact the VPI at violence.prevention@cdph.ca.gov.

Funding Opportunities



Explore a curated list of funding opportunities from a range of private to public organizations to support your health equity initiatives.

California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank [Infrastructure State Revolving Fund Program](#)

Application Due: Ongoing

The Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) Program is authorized to directly provide low-cost public financing to state and local government entities. ISRF financing is available in amounts ranging from \$1 million to \$65 million with loan terms for the useful life of the project up to a maximum of 30 years.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development [Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program in California](#)

Application Due: Open Year Round

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.

Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development [California Community Reinvestment Grants Program](#)

Application Due: September 8th, 2025

The CalCRG program awards grants to Local Health Departments and qualified Community-based Nonprofit Organizations to support job placement, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, system navigation services, legal services to address barriers to reentry, and linkages to medical care for communities disproportionately affected by past federal and state drug policies, also known as the War on Drugs.

California Department of Health Care Services [Elevate Youth California: Cohort 7 Standard Track](#)

Application Due: September 26th, 2025

Through this round of Elevate Youth California (EYC) funding, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is making approximately \$46.98 million available to community-based, Tribal, and county behavioral health organizations throughout California to expand youth and young adult substance use prevention through policy, systems, and environmental change.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

[Rapid Response: Reinvesting in Racial and Indigenous Health Equity Research](#)

Application Due: October 1st, 2025

The purpose of this call for proposals is to meet the current moment by supporting timely, actionable health equity research that has been interrupted by shifts in federal funding. Rapid Response Research funding is exclusively available to applicants who have already received federal funding (e.g., from the NIH, CDC, NSF, etc.) for their health equity research, but have since had their funding partially or fully rescinded due to federal administrative actions

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

[Exploring Equitable Futures](#)

Application Due: October 15th, 2025, at 12 PST

The purpose of this Exploring Equitable Futures call for proposals (CFP) is to support projects that seed new and unconventional ideas that could radically advance health equity for generations to come.

California Department of Health Care Services

[Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program](#)

Application Due: October 28th, 2025, at 5 PM PST

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is pleased to announce the release of its Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 2: Unmet Needs grant Request for Applications (RFA). Through this final round of Bond BHCIP funding, DHCS will award \$800+ million statewide. DHCS aims to distribute grant funds to rural or remote areas with outstanding behavioral health needs or insufficient behavioral health infrastructure, projects with a campus model and regional collaborations, and geographic areas with no prior BHCIP infrastructure award.

NDN Collective

[Community Action Fund](#)

Application Due: October 31st, at 3 PST (or until funds are expended)

The Community Action Fund (CAF) grants support direct actions and organizing efforts that are often urgent and time sensitive. CAF prioritizes frontline, grassroots and community-based efforts that defend Indigenous peoples rights, communities and nations, including responses to climate disasters.

Training of the Month

Serving Diverse Communities: Building Cultural Competence and Humility into the Workplace



Courtesy of the [Public Health Learning Navigator](#)

This course offers introductions to culture, cultural competence, cultural humility. Also included are resource demonstrations that you can use to help build a more culturally competent and humble workplace. The training is a robust learning opportunity and provides an extensive list of additional resources.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this training module, you will be able to:

- Define culture, cultural competence, and cultural humility
- Describe the differences between cultural competence and humility; and
- Utilize three online resources that you can use to help build a more culturally competent and humble workplace.

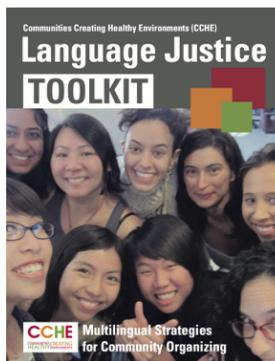
Course Enrollment: [Serving Diverse Communities: Building Cultural Competence and Humility into the Workplace](#)

Equity Essentials



Communities Creating Healthy Environments (CCHÉ): Language Justice Toolkit

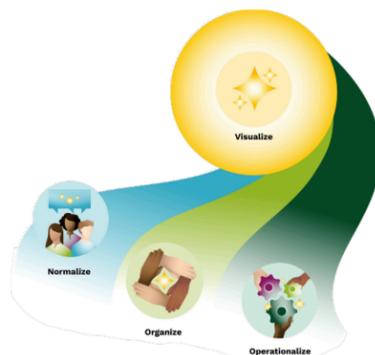
Multilingual Strategies for Community Organizing



The Language Justice Toolkit is a resource for organizers, popular educators, community leaders and activists, and anyone who is committed to building movements where people can communicate across languages.

Visit the [Praxis Project](#) webpage to download the Language Justice Toolkit in English and Spanish.

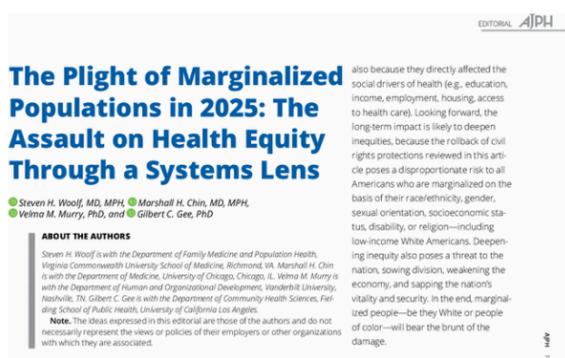
The GARE Approach: Visualize, Normalize, Organize, and Operationalize



The [GARE](#) Approach is an organizational change framework with four elements: **Visualize**, **Normalize**, **Organize**, and **Operationalize**. It guides government staff in advancing racial equity outcomes and integrates racial equity into daily operations and decision-making.

The new framework is available on the [Government Alliance on Race and Equity \(GARE\) website](#)

American Journal of Public Health (AJPH) Article: The Plight of Marginalized Populations in 2025: The Assault on Health Equity Through a Systems Lens



This article explores the obstacles that marginalized populations encounter in attaining health equity. It argues that disparities are linked to systemic factors, not just individual decisions. It identifies unique challenges for marginalized populations in 2025, such as the erosion of civil rights, intensified climate change impacts, and a persistent digital divide.

Read the article on the [American Journal of Public Health \(AJPH\) website](#).

**Please note that a paid APHA membership is required to access the full article.*

Technical Assistance (TA) Services Available:

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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](#):
1600 Capitol Avenue, MS 0022, Sacramento, CA

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.