

Community Health — Goal and Objectives

Goal - Improve the health of communities, particularly underserved populations, by expanding access to services, promoting prevention to reduce illness, and advancing health policy reform.

Objective: Improve access to healthcare, services, and treatment for those who are low-income, uninsured, and/or underinsured.

Strategies:

- Support efforts to increase the number of people who participate (enrolled and retained) in publicly funded health insurance programs.
- Support efforts that strengthen home- and community-based long-term care systems for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Support efforts that seek to integrate the provision of health, mental health, and substance abuse services in a comprehensive delivery system as a mechanism to improve individual health status.

Objective: Foster efforts to prevent poor health status, disease, and disability through investments in health promotion and health education.

Strategies:

- Increase opportunities for residents to promote and protect the health and well-being of their communities.
- Support efforts that prevent the spread of communicable diseases and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Support efforts that address the health needs of persons with disabilities.
- Support efforts that reduce the prevalence of chronic illnesses and the resulting morbidity and disability.

Objective: Ensure access to the health services safety net.

Strategies:

- Strengthen the capacity of safety net providers to deliver services.
- Support access to food to eliminate hunger.
- Support access to services for individual and families in crisis.

Objective: Support local efforts designed to reduce and/or eliminate disparities in health status due to poverty, disproportionate exposure to environmental agents/hazards, and/or race.

Strategies:

- Support regional environmental health initiatives.
- Support efforts designed to address the underlying socio-economic causes of reduced health status.

Objective: Advance policy reform efforts that improve access to health services.

Strategies:

- Foster working relationships with community-based organizations, advocacy leaders, funders, and other interested stakeholders.
- Convene interested stakeholders to outline community needs, and develop common advocacy/policy agendas and strategies and educational materials.
- Support locally based health advocacy collaboratives in their advocacy and policy work.
- Initiate and participate in regional and/or statewide advocacy and policy reform collaboratives.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of advocacy and policy reform activities.
- Disseminate best practices and lessons learned.