HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE LIBRARY

Over the last few decades, there has been a growing consensus among healthcare providers and policy makers that advancing health equity is critically important for the nation. With health equity, every person has equal opportunity to reach their full health potential, regardless of social position or other socially determined circumstances.

Although the term sounds simple enough, health equity can be very complex, and many factors stand in the way of every person attaining their full health potential. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently published an updated Framework for Health Equity. In this 2022-2032 Framework (available at https://www.cms.gov/media/529636), the agency has identified five national priorities for improving health equity. These priorities reflect key areas that are critical to advancing health equity.

1. Expand the collection, reporting, and analysis of standardized data.
2. Assess causes of disparities within CMS programs, and address inequities in policies and operations to close gaps.
3. Build capacity of health care organizations and the workforce to reduce health and health care disparities.
4. Advance language access, health literacy, and the provision of culturally tailored services.
5. Increase all forms of accessibility to health care services and coverage.

The resources in this document include helpful websites, reports, toolkits, and other materials on a range of topics related to health equity.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Disparities Reports, Chartbooks, and Data

https://www.ahrq.gov/topics/disparities.html

Health Literacy Professional Education and Training

https://www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/professional-training/index.html

Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit, 2nd Edition

https://www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/improve/precautions/toolkit.html

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

CMS Framework for Health Equity

https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/agency-information/omh/health-equity-programs/cms-framework-for-health-equity

CMS Framework for Health Equity 2022–2032

English: https://www.cms.gov/media/529636

Spanish: https://www.cms.gov/media/540686

CMS Strategic Plan Pillar: Health Equity

https://www.cms.gov/files/document/health-equity-fact-sheet.pdf

From Data to Action: How CMS and Stakeholders are Addressing Inequities in Healthcare

https://mmshub.cms.gov/sites/default/files/Public-Webinar-CMS-Health-Equity.pdf

Mapping Medicare Disparities (MDD) Tool

https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/agency-information/omh/research-and-data/omh-mapping-medicare-disparities-tool

Rural Health

https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/agency-information/omh/health-equity-programs/rural-health

The Path Forward: Improving Data to Advance Health Equity Solutions

https://www.cms.gov/files/document/path-forwardhe-data-paper.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Health Equity Resources

https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/health-equity/health-equity-resources.html

What is Health Equity?

https://www.cdc.gov/healthequity/whatis/index.html

Food & Drug Administration (FDA)

Minority Health and Health Equity Resources

https://www.fda.gov/consumers/minority-health-and-health-equity/minority-health-and-health-equity-resources#Cancer

General Services Administration (GSA)

Checklist for Plain Language

https://www.plainlanguage.gov/resources/checklists/checklist/

Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)

Office of Health Equity

https://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/ohe

National Institute of Health (NIH)

Clear & Simple

https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/clear-communication/clear-simple

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP)

Healthy People 2030
https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/health-equity-healthy-people-2030

Social Determinants of Health
https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health

Office of Minority Health (OMH)

CLAS Behavioral Health Implementation Guide
https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=11

National CLAS Standards
https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/clas

Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Behavioral Health Equity Resources
https://www.samhsa.gov/behavioral-health-equity/resources

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

Rural Action Plan
https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/hhs-rural-action-plan.pdf