

Policy

Centering community needs through advocacy and equitable policy

Effective policy solutions must be proactive, inclusive, and multifaceted. Engaging directly with communities helps policymakers identify challenges and craft targeted solutions—helping to ensure access to healthcare, affordable housing, quality education and jobs, and strong community infrastructure. When equity is embedded at every stage of the policymaking process, we lay the foundation for transformative changes that advance justice, fairness, and healthier outcomes for all.

Priority Actions to Center Community Needs

Community-based leadership, equitable funding opportunities, and consideration of patient and community voices by policymakers are essential to advance healthcare quality and access.

Drive comprehensive policy solutions: It is necessary to look at the myriads of interconnected and complex factors that impact an individual's health, beyond just healthcare and incorporate them into policymaking.

- Improve health outcomes and combat environmental injustice through community-centered policy efforts addressing air and water pollution.
- Leverage whole-of-society solutions to advance the health of families, environmental resiliency, and economic mobility by applying a [Triple Bottom Line Justice approach](#) to community partnerships.
- Replicate beneficial policies by further studying existing healthcare policy efforts in the U.S.

Prioritize community-led initiatives: Community-based participatory research and collaborative governance models are instrumental in shaping policies that resonate with the lived experience of those affected.

- Allocate funds from various funding streams to community-led groups working to eliminate racial disparities in healthcare.
- Enhance capacity building by creating a framework for greater technical assistance in application and implementation, streamlined application processes, and un-restricted funding for community-based organizations.
- Prioritize inclusion of community-based organizations, tribal communities, and grassroots groups in the policy process.
- Invest in community mobilization efforts.

Protect and expand Medicaid: For health coverage and care to be equitable, both need to be affordable.

- Streamline access to Medicaid, CHIP, and Marketplace coverage by reducing waiting periods and removing barriers, in line with updated federal policies and initiatives.
- Ensure availability of quality care by sufficiently increasing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Focus on maternal health: Addressing maternal health is central to health equity not only due to glaring racial disparities but also because of its solvability.

- Mandate extended coverage during postpartum recovery for people enrolled in Medicaid across all states to reduce maternal mortality rates.
- Ensure access to the full spectrum of reproductive health, including abortion care.
- Concentrate attention on maternal mental health to decrease the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

- Ensure inclusion of coverage of, and access to, mental health treatment in any conversations about policy for health equity.

Key Community Resources*

Disclaimer: Links in this document to sites outside of Pfizer are provided as a resource to the viewer. Pfizer accepts no responsibility for the content of linked sites.

- Read about the [Health Equity and Accountability Act \(HEAA\)](#), which serves as a compendium of federal legislation which focuses on health equity and is reintroduced each Congress by a member of the Tri-Caucus.
- See how The Century Foundation's [framework for health equity](#) identifies five key pillars to health policy: affordability, sustainability, accountability, comprehensiveness, and inclusivity.
- Read more about "[Raising the Bar](#)", supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and explore how it "provides an actionable framework for the entire healthcare sector to embed equity and excellence throughout its work and help achieve optimal health for all."
- Refer to the [Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act](#) and related legislation to use as a supporting model in addressing the many causes of maternal health crisis.

To learn more about drivers of inequity and practical solutions, go to [An Action Guide to Disrupt Inequitable Health Outcomes](#).

**Resources linked in this document are third-party examples not owned by Pfizer. Pfizer accepts no responsibility for the content of linked sites.*