

Co-creating policy with Community Navigators 2023-2024

PHSKC

- Serves about 2.3 million people
- Staff: about 1,500
- Budget: \$1 B biennially

Policy and Government Affairs

- Three dedicated government affairs staff
- Three dedicated policy staff
- 90+ subject matter experts across the department

Why work with Community Navigators

- Changed landscape after Covid-19
- Wanted to hear from folks deeply embedded in community on what we should **focus on** post-covid



“We speak your language; your voice will be heard” –

Alan Lai (PHSKC Community Navigator)

Community Navigators

- Program was formed and driven by trusted community leaders most impacted by Covid-19 and racial inequities
- Navigators are trusted messengers and community leaders serving over 45 different communities
- They provide guidance to Public Health and focus on the social determinants of health
- Existing long-term relationship with Policy team and Navigator program

Three Policy Areas



Climate Change &
Health



Racism's Impact on
Health



Housing
homelessness &
health

Policy Area: Racism Impact on Health



- Better access to high quality, affordable, and culturally-appropriate food
- Ensure health care coverage is accessible and affordable to all residents
- Improve demographic data
- Improve access to high quality, affordable, and culturally-appropriate mental health services
- King County youth live in healthy and vibrant communities with access to housing, whole foods, health care, and quality education

Policy Area: Housing, Homelessness & Health



- Make the public health case for increasing the supply of **affordable housing** in King County
- Ensure long-term, dedicated **funding** to meet health needs of people living homeless and unstably housed

Policy Area: Climate Change & Health



- Pursue opportunities for **community-based** and public health practitioners to participate in **policymaking** and advisory groups
- Secure sustainable **funding** for public health technical support and **community collaboration**
- **Reduce** existing and new environmental **hazards** impacting health in **communities of color**
- Promote direct **investment** in frontline **communities**.

2024-2029 Strategic Plan Goal: Serve as a bold leader in policy development and change



Develop the **ability among staff in all areas of subject-matter expertise to assess the impact of proposed policy** changes and propose new policies, including antiracist policies and policies that address racial inequities.



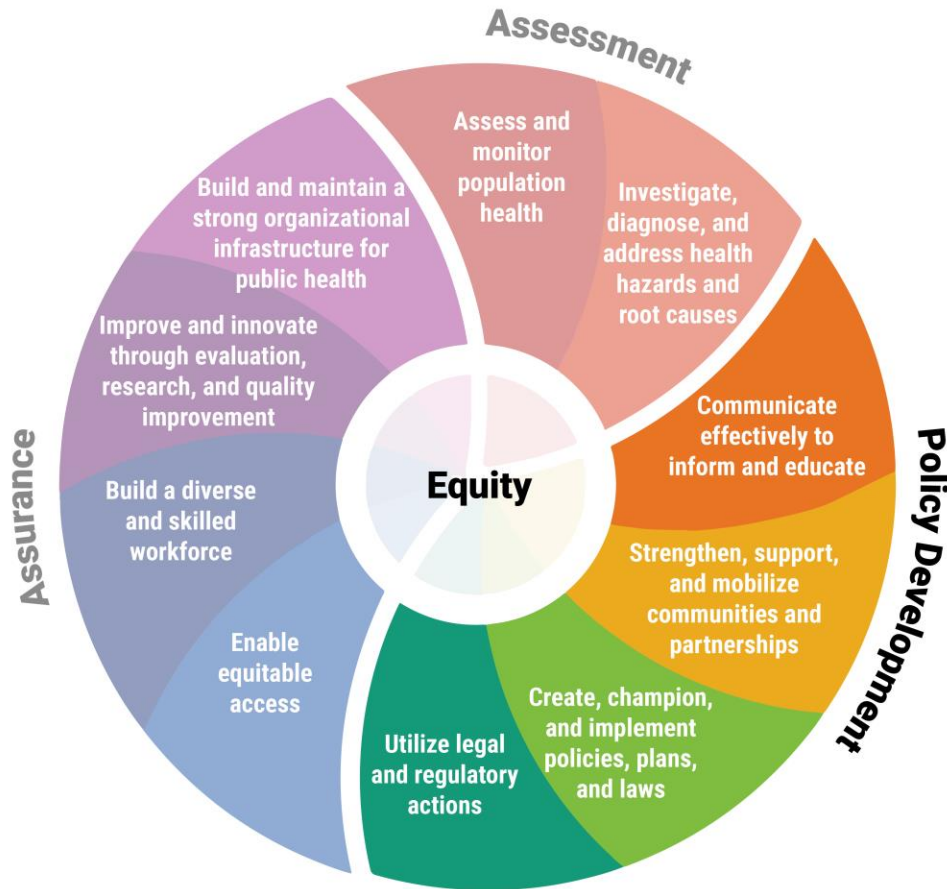
Use **data and community input to guide policy** development and change for all priority policy areas by building internal infrastructure and process to support policy staff in utilizing data products.



Public Health has a **public-facing policy presence** focused on sharing antiracist and health equity-focused policy information by creating a website with a policy dashboard, producing 2 policy briefs per year.



Public Health is effectively **advocating for sustainable and flexible funding** by building internal coordination and communication pathways across policy and budget teams and acting on opportunities within legislative processes.



Source: CDC 10 Essential PH Services

Next Level of
Engagement:

Policy CoDesign with
the University of
Washington Policy
Colab

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Please take this survey to evaluate conference sessions.



THANK YOU