



Executive Summary, Hillsborough County Health Equity Plan: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2027

Health Equity is achieved when everyone can attain optimal health.

The Hillsborough County Health Equity Plan (Plan) serves as a guide and resource for improving systems and opportunities to achieve optimal health for all residents. This Plan is not a county health department plan; it is a county-wide plan through which the Health Equity Task Force and Coalition were established. These groups include representatives from a variety of government, nonprofit, and local community organizations. Through a collaboration with the University of South Florida, College of Public Health, the Task Force developed a visioning process to conceptualize a Health Equity Plan. The Health Equity Plan will guide Hillsborough County in improving systems and opportunities to achieve optimal health for all residents, especially priority populations, or groups historically marginalized, such as racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ communities, people with disabilities, immigrants, and others. The Plan outlines specific activities to address social determinants of health (SDOH), or the conditions in which we are born, live, work, play, age, and worship, to improve health outcomes of racial/ethnic minorities and other vulnerable populations.

The early stages of the initiative led to the development of the plan, and related activities in April 2022 highlighting the National Minority Health Month. Based on a review of data, available resources, and existing capacities, the Health Equity Plan identified Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) rates, and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) usage for HIV prevention, as the health disparities to address. Healthcare quality and access was found to be a root cause of these health disparities.

Moving forward, the Plan serves as a guide, outlining specific projects that will pave the way toward improving health care quality and access for populations experiencing these health disparities. Stakeholders, subject matter experts, and community members will develop and implement the projects, which will involve social marketing to raise awareness for addressing barriers to health care quality and access.

The DOH-Hillsborough will provide funding, assessments, and training for the project implementation to occur. The SMM and PrEP projects are being led by Task Force members from the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County and the Family Healthcare Foundation respectively. USF will be engaged again for the social marketing efforts. Along with guidance from the Health Equity team at DOH-Hillsborough, project teams will develop and implement their projects utilizing the approaches described above. It is the desire of the Task Force, Coalition, and the Health Department at large to make this plan both a community-focused & community-centered plan and, to invite those with lived experience to the table as subject matter experts for both projects and for the greater plan as a whole.

The Health Equity Plan will span a total period of five years, from July 2022 to June 2027. Additionally, there will be set deliverables to include goals, objectives, and specific activities as they pertain to each health disparity. As projects are implemented, these activities may evolve and be updated over time based on new data, feedback and the community's needs and plan goals. We will conduct ongoing evaluation and annual reports assessing progress towards reaching goals and objectives and identify achievements, obstacles and necessary revisions to the Plan. These revisions will additionally outline strengths, opportunities for improvement, and lessons learned. For more information, and the detailed plan, please visit our website:

<https://hillsborough.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/community-health-planning-statistics/health-equity/index.html>.