

Helpful Definitions

Community: A broad term used to define groups of people. A community may be found in a geographic location (community of place), a community of similar interest (community of practice), or a community of affiliation, need, or identity (*adapted from* Department of Environment and Primary Industries).

Community Engagement: Not just a set of activities and methods confined to a particular project, policy, or process; but rather, a way of communication, decision-making, and governance that gives community members the power to own the change they want to see, leading to equitable outcomes. (*adapted from* Community Engagement Guide for Sustainable Communities).

Equity: *The Health Foundation approaches equity to achieve justice and fairness in health resources and outcomes; we seek to disrupt the conditions that result in racial and other health inequities in our nine-county region.* Different from the concept of *equality* which provides the same to all, **equity** is an ongoing process that overcomes intentional and unintentional barriers arising from systemic structures (*adapted from* George Washington University).

Health: A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (World Health Organization).

Health equity: A public health concept that describes equity of access to health resources. It occurs when everyone has fair and just opportunities to reach their health potential. Because factors outside of a person's control can prevent them from achieving their highest level of health, working toward health equity is a way to correct or change these factors (*adapted from* World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control).

Health inequities: Differences or disparities in health status between socially advantaged and disadvantaged or marginalized groups, resulting from systemic and unfair differences in access to and availability of resources and opportunities (*adapted from* World Health Organization).

Intersectionality: The recognition and understanding that inequality and disadvantage can be created through interconnected social categorizations (race, class, disability, sexual orientation, and gender, etc.), creating systems of discrimination that layer upon one another and must be addressed comprehensively. Term first coined in 1989 by American civil rights advocate and leading scholar of critical race theory, Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw. Intersectionality is about understanding the ways that multiple forms of inequality or disadvantage sometimes compound themselves and create obstacles that often are not understood among conventional ways of thinking (*adapted from* Oxford Dictionary and Misty McPhetridge, BSSW).

Social drivers of health: (previously known as **social determinants* of health**) The nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes. They include the conditions where people are born, grow, work, live, play, and age, as well as the wider set of systems that shape one's daily life.

* "Determinants" suggests nothing can be done to change one's health outcomes. The change to "social factors that **drive** our health," reframes the conversation about health, showing that social factors don't force health to be fated, but rather are factors that people and communities can change (*adapted from* Elevance Health and the Centers for Disease Control).