

Homework Questions

1. Please describe the community you represent in your work and advocacy related to health equity. (e.g. place, race, ethnicity, age, gender identity, economic status, education level, and/or other)
2. When thinking about your community, please answer the following question:

Power Dynamics is defined as *“The distribution of decision-making power, authority, and both formal and informal influence among individuals and organizations.”*

For example: ensuring decision-making bodies, such as funder boards, have meaningful representation of groups they are providing funding in support of can change power dynamics in their grant making processes.

1. What Power Dynamics **support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?
2. What Power Dynamics **do not support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?
3. What Power Dynamics **could support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?

Relationships & Connections are defined as *“Quality of connections and communication occurring among actors in the system, especially among those with differing histories and viewpoints.”*

For example: “Permanent “supportive housing,” which combines a home with the social services needed to address the multiple disadvantages of the chronic homeless, has emerged as a promising solution. However, the mayor and city administration controlled housing, while the county agencies and board of supervisors controlled social services.” The two levels of government had never worked together around this issue and, in fact, often blamed each other for the growing homeless population. Building a better relationship between the two players in the system can align investments and program coordination and improve outcomes for chronic homeless.

1. What Relationships & Connections **support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?
2. What Relationships & Connections **do not support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?
3. What Relationships & Connections **could support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?

Policies are defined as “government, institutional and organizational rules, regulations, and priorities that guide the entity’s own and others’ actions.”

For example: The **Social Security** Act was signed into law by President Roosevelt on August 14, 1935. In addition to several provisions for general welfare, the new Act created a **social** insurance program designed to pay retired workers age 65 or older a continuing income after retirement.

Please consider policies at different levels, local, city, county and state. If you have examples that are federal, please share how the state can use the federal resources differently.

1. What Policies **support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?
2. What Policies **do not support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?
3. What Policies **could support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?

Practices are defined as “Espoused activities of institutions, coalitions, networks, and other entities targeted to improving social and environmental progress. Also, within the entity, the procedures, guidelines, or informal shared habits that comprise their work.”

For example: Many organizations have a set of procedures that inform their recruitment processes, including how they market jobs that are vacant, how they draft position descriptions, how they screen applications, conduct interviews, and make job offers.

1. What Practices **support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?
2. What Practices **do not support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?
3. What Practices **could support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?

Resource Flows are defined as “How money, people, knowledge, information, and other assets such as infrastructure are allocated and distributed.”

For example: Organizational and government budgets define a set of funding priorities and defines parameters for how those dollars will be used.

1. What Resource Flows **support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?
2. What Resource Flows **do not support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?
3. What Resource Flows **could support** your community in having the opportunities and resources needed to be as healthy as possible?