



## Health and Equity in All Policies Alliance

### Access to COVID-19 Vaccine



The COVID-19 crisis has exposed and exacerbated inequities in our communities. To ensure that vaccine distribution does not further widen existing gaps, local leaders and decision makers need to support equitable access to and delivery of the vaccine. We know our local health systems are working tirelessly to acquire and distribute the vaccine, and this process offers new opportunities for cities and counties to collaborate on an efficient and equitable vaccine roll

out. City partners can support public health by closely collaborating with local health departments; creating strong, factual local information campaigns that capitalize on cities' existing communications infrastructure; and understanding and offering resources to combat local barriers to vaccination, such as transportation, internet access, or language.

Resources to learn more:

- The Mayors Innovation Project, a project of COWS, recently published a blog with resources for mayors and other city leaders interested in supporting vaccine distribution, which you can find [here](#).
- While decisions about vaccine eligibility are happening at the state level, city and county officials have some say in distribution within the context of eligibility. Researchers at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health have developed a tool to support equitable vaccine distribution, given that demand continues to outpace supply. The tool was designed for use in prioritizing front line public health workers, but could be used by other entities to elevate equity in distribution plans. Access the tool [here](#).
- [Without a Ride, Many in Need Have No Shot at COVID-19 Vaccine](#), 2/1/21, John Minchillo, The Associated Press
- [Racial disparities found in COVID-19 vaccinations in Wisconsin, as elsewhere](#), 2/11/21, David Wahlberg, Wisconsin State Journal

### Wisconsin Community Highlight - Bayfield County

Under the leadership of Carrie Linder, Aging and Disability Services Manager within the Department of Human Services, Bayfield County is committed to meeting the challenges of rural transportation. Linder applied resources available through the Legacy Community Alliance for Health (LCAH) to support the County's longstanding efforts to address transportation challenges and to help



Bay Area Rural Transit Van

collaborate with local stakeholders to take advantage of potential opportunities. The County is using a health equity lens to better understand the current state of their transportation network, improve discussions around transportation quality and needs, and inform prioritization and decision making for future transportation improvements.

Lead organizations for LCAH, [COWS](#) and the [Population Health Institute](#) (PHI), supported the county team in planning and hosting a 2019 Rural Transportation Summit designed to gather current and potential transportation stakeholders, better understand the transportation needs and issues that exist, discuss inequities in the transportation landscape, and consider potential solutions. The Summit attracted a wide range of attendees including state and local elected officials, community members, representatives of the Bad River and Red Cliff Tribal Nations, and city and county employees from Bayfield and Ashland County.

A core group of individuals continued to meet. Some of their first steps were to gather additional data and to assess who else should be at the table or engaged through a power mapping process. Based on this experience, outcomes from the Summit, and on data collected through a transportation survey, next steps were taken, which included the formation of a [Transportation Coordination Committee](#) (TCC) in 2020. The TCC is a formal body appointed by the county board for coordinating a county's specialized transportation.

"In order to engage people who are impacted by transportation decisions, some of the early work included conversations with community members who were transportation users and advocates for people who have barriers using transportation options," said Linder. "It also included reflective work and education concerning health equity, so this was engrained into our thought process as we moved along." [Click here to read more..](#)

## News & Resources on Health and Equity

The Urban Institute's ***Leveraging the Built Environment for Health Equity: Promising Interventions for Small and Medium-Size Cities*** is a great resource for communities looking to advance their use of a health equity lens in policy, planning and decision making related to the built environment. The report offers 13 promising practices that are things Wisconsin local government leaders and staff can get started on right away, many of which are reinforced by our experience here in the state through projects like the Legacy Community Alliance for Health and MATCH's work around the state. Read the summary [here](#) and the full report [here](#).



A new report from the International City/County Management Association and NYU Grossman School offers case studies from three small-mid size cities using data to improve health outcomes around homelessness, poverty reduction, and obesity and chronic disease. The project is part of the **City Health Dashboard** managed by these entities, which tracks and publishes data on 35+ measures and drivers of health for US cities with a population greater than 50,000. In addition to case studies, researchers provide eight takeaways based on their experience in small-to-midsize communities. Find the report [here](#).

Human Impact Partners has developed a **Health Equity Lens tool** for local Health Departments to use in the context of COVID-related decision making, realizing that the urgency and difficulty of rapid decision making in a pandemic requires a more vocal and persistent focus on equity. You can access the tool and related resources [here](#). As a reminder, the Population Health Institute developed and shared a related tool, developed locally, to assist decision makers in meaningfully engaging stakeholders to ensure equity in rapid response, which you can access [here](#).

## Opportunities to Learn & Engage

**Lead and Copper Rule Tele-Town Hall**  
**What Small Cities Need to Know**  
February 17th at 1:30 pm CT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently [finalized revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule](#), providing the first major update to the rule in 30 years. The rule offers small Community Water Systems serving 10,000 or fewer residents certain flexibilities for compliance. Join NLC and Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative (LSLRC) for part one of a three-part [series of tele-town hall events](#) intended to inform local leaders and water utility operators from small municipalities on the implications, requirements and opportunities associated with these rule revisions.



## Funding/Support Opportunities

### DASH Mentorships

Looking for ways to deepen your collaborations with cross-sector partners? The DASH (Data Across Sectors for Health) Mentor Program supports cohorts of “mentees: to learn with and from mentors and community peers to accelerate local multi-sector data-sharing efforts. Mentors have expertise in areas like community engagement, housing, and social service delivery. **Deadline extended to February 19;** [click here for more information and application.](#)



### Healthy Babies Bright Futures’ Bright Cities

Healthy Babies Bright Futures’ Bright Cities program works with local governments and their community partners to equitably reduce their community’s exposures to neurotoxic chemicals that interfere with babies’ brain development. The group regularly offers small grants to cities to work with them towards this effort. Coming up, HBBF will offer four \$5000 grants for cities to implement strategies that equitably reduce neurotoxic exposures as part of their existing climate, sustainability, and/or resilience planning. **The RFP will [be available here](#) March 2021.**

The Wisconsin Health and Equity in All Policies Alliance newsletter is published by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin and brought to you by COWS and MATCH at UW-Madison, with special thanks to our partners and collaborators at the Wisconsin League of Municipalities and the Wisconsin Counties Association.



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