Population Health Trust June Newsletter

Community Advisory Board to the Skagit County Board of Health

June 21, 2023

It is officially summer! It is such a magical time of year when the days are long, the fields green, and farmers markets full of local produce. We hope that amid the business of this new season, you were able to find time to celebrate and reflect on the Juneteenth holiday.
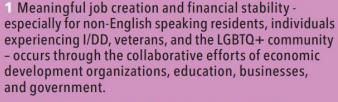
As you know, the Trust's work focuses on the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH): the conditions in the environments that affect a person's health and quality-of-life. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's research, clinical care only accounts for 20% of our health outcomes and an additional 30% is related to our individual choices or behaviors. That means 50% of health outcomes are related to the environments in which we live, work, and play.

Income instability can significantly impact a person's health and well-being. It can lead to unreliable transportation, housing instability, and food insecurity, all factors that can contribute to an increased risk of poor health outcomes, especially for vulnerable populations.

Given the importance of economic stability, the Trust included Economic and Fiscal Security in its 2022 COVID Recovery Plan. We believe that stable, well-paying, and meaningful work is essential for a healthy and thriving community.

GOALS

ECONOMIC & FISCAL SECURITY (EFS)

1 Meaningful job creation and financial stability - especially for non-English speaking residents, individuals experiencing I/DD, veterans, and the LGBTQ+ community – occurs through the collaborative efforts of economic development organizations, education, businesses, and government.

2 Workforce development strategies, initiatives, and policies support population health by prioritizing adequate training and compensation for childcare providers, behavioral health professionals and multi-lingual health care navigators, and other providers.

STRATEGIES

EFS1 Focus employment development, financial literacy, technological support, and outreach to specific communities, including the LGBTQ+ and other populations underrepresented in the workplace.

EFS2 Promote cross-sector programs for apprenticeship and career-connected learning and develop new approaches to recruitment of Spanish and indigenous-speaking students, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth experiencing disabilities.

EFS3 Advocate for public funding to improve compensation for childcare providers, behavioral health professionals, and multilingual health care navigators by coordinating with state and federal advocacy organizations on common messages and strategies.

During a recent PHT meeting, John Sternlicht and Jorge Estefan from the Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County (EDASC) provided an overview of their *Equitable Economic Development Plan*. The purpose of the plan is to encourage, empower, and assist Latino and other underserved communities to establish and grow businesses.

The plan is designed to: build relationships and trust, connect underrepresented small business owners with resources and organizations that can assist/support them, and to train underrepresented small business owners so they can launch, expand, and sustain their businesses to provide better opportunities for their families (generational wealth creation).

In the past year, EDASC has assisted 63 businesses, aided 14 entrepreneurs, created workshops and outreach presentations, and established 75 partnerships in the community. Next steps for EDASC include continuing to build relationships and trust with underserved communities, connecting underrepresented small business owners with supportive resources, and educating and training individuals so they can launch, expand, and sustain their businesses to provide better opportunities for their families.

At the Trust, we look forward to more conversation about economic and fiscal security and welcome opportunities to support and advocate for initiatives that are designed to create stable and meaningful work in our community.

We hope you will find ways to join us in supporting equitable job development!

Population Health Trust
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The Population Health Trust was founded in 2015 and is the Community Advisory Board to the Skagit County Board of Health. For more information, please visit our website.