

Policy Chart: Health and Food

Equity Goal:

Address trauma, food, and health disparities among low-income communities and communities of color

Equity Policy

Arts and Culture Strategies

Target resources and support to low-income communities and communities of color, especially those with high levels of violence, incarceration, and poverty

- Allocate health care, prevention, and arts funding streams to arts and cultural practices that address trauma and health disparities.

Reevaluate/evaluate approaches to achieving health outcomes for underserved communities

- Use local cultural arts agencies, youth service organizations, public health departments, and cultural health practitioners to inform policy.
- Employ arts and culture instead of mainstream methods to address systemic issues (e.g., criminal justice).
- Use arts and cultural engagements to break and reconstruct the narrative of poverty and trauma (e.g., drumming, talking circle, theater).
- Explore restorative justice and other healing practices.

Increase healthy food access in local food systems for low-income communities and communities of color

- Strengthen cultural networks of food producers and distributors that impact the health of underserved communities.
- Partner with local farmers of color, residents, and community-based businesses to connect and improve the food systems network.
- Incubate culturally resonant food businesses in mixed-use development retail spaces.
- Create and support community gardens, urban farms, and grocery stores in food deserts.
- Grow vegetables unique to cultural culinary traditions.
- Integrate flexible underwriting criteria that can accommodate culturally specific practices.