

Addressing Health Equity in the SWEDS Principles

- **Address residential and business displacement**
Addressing indirect economic and social displacement that may result from infrastructural investments helps keep communities, social networks and networks of support intact, which has positive health implications, especially for vulnerable populations. Furthermore, this promotes housing and job stability, which are important determinants of health.
- **Reduce disparities and improve conditions for affected people**
This principle is at the core of promoting equitable development, and it applies to public health in terms of both determinants and outcomes. In order to improve the overall health and well-being of the communities in the Southwest Corridor, this principle must be embedded in each of the other principles and must guide all the actions pursued.
- **Preserve and expand affordable housing**
Housing affordability is important to preventing residential displacement and improving housing stability, which have important health implications. Additionally, maintaining affordability for low income households preserves personal resources that can support well-being in other ways.
- **Advance economic opportunity for all and build community capacity for wealth creation**
Socioeconomic status is currently the strongest predictor of life expectancy, and racial and ethnic inequalities intersect with this factor. This indicates that addressing equity in job access, job stability and income will have significant impacts on health outcomes.
- **Promote transportation mobility and connectivity**
Improving transportation mobility and connectivity has broad implications for health equity from advancing more equitable access to jobs, healthcare, healthy food, and open space, to promoting physical activity and traffic safety, expanded mobility options promote more equitable health outcomes.
- **Develop healthy and safe communities**
Developing healthy and safe communities refers to limiting exposure to toxics and pollution, as well as limiting neighborhood crime and improving traffic safety. In order to ensure equitable outcomes, these efforts must be centered on those with limited resources and those who have been historically disadvantaged in addressing these factors. This concept also includes reducing biased behavior and harassment and using a trauma-informed approach to engagement. All of these efforts lead to positive public health outcomes that will improve well-being in the communities of the Southwest Corridor.
- **Expand the breadth and depth of influence among affected people**
By promoting this principle, we can reinforce the sense of support and empowerment among affected communities. This promotes improved mental well-being, builds social capital, and strengthens community networks, all of which have positive health implications.

Possible New Policy Actions

- Adoption of standards for minimizing diesel emissions due to construction of light rail
- Ensuring high quality HVAC systems for multi-family and affordable housing (esp. TOD) built in high-traffic transportation corridors

Possible New SWEDS Actions

1. Engage CCO's in addressing social determinants of health, including access to healthy food options

Utilize CCO resources to pilot an effort to improve healthy food access in the SW Corridor, based on mapping of food deserts/swamps. This pilot could be expanded to other parts of the region in the future.

- The primary CCO in the Southwest Corridor is Health Share of Oregon
- Health Share of Oregon recognized social determinants of health in their 2018-2020 Community Health Needs Assessment
- Partnership with CCO's could lead to innovative approaches and new sources of funding
- Would require forging connections that don't currently exist and may be a long-term goal
- This could have a significant impact on health equity
- This is not an area currently addressed by any actions, so it would require new capacity

2. Develop a framework for communities to assess the health equity implications of proposed SWEDS actions

This would entail adapting the questions posed in the Action Model for Brownfield Reuse and using them as a framework for engaging communities to assess existing SWEDS actions to identify and influence their associated health impacts. It would also ask communities to identify their ongoing roles in these actions.

SWEDS Action Model Questions

1. What factors that impact health does this action address?
2. How can this action affect these health factors?
3. What are the corresponding equity outcomes in terms of community health?
4. How can we measure this change?
5. What is the community's ongoing role in this action?

Possible pathways for engaging communities to assess actions

- Utilize Momentum Alliance Cohorts
- Hire a partner organization
- Could be led by a health department(s) in conjunction with a local community based organization