

California Equitable Recovery Initiative (CERI)

[Funded by the National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities](#)

Grant Overview

Grant Period for Local Assistance: September 1, 2021 – May 31, 2023

Purpose of Funding: To address COVID-19 disparities and advance health equity through strategies, interventions, and services that consider systemic barriers that have put certain groups at higher risk, including disproportionately impacted racial and ethnic groups, rural populations, those experiencing socioeconomic disparities, and other underserved communities.

The overall program aims to strengthen infrastructure and capacity in ways that both address disparities in the current COVID-19 pandemic and set the foundation for equitable recovery through:

- Expanding existing or developing new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.
- Increase and improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved.
- Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.

Funded Activities: Local Health Jurisdictions will receive a base level allocation to support equity infrastructure and core activities, including:

1. Establish a dedicated Equity Lead. Funding may also be used to support other equity staff positions and to engage in equity-focused organizational capacity building activities such as equity trainings, embedding equity in organizational policy, and community engagement.
2. Conduct an equity-focused organizational capacity assessment.
3. Contribute to the Statewide Health Equity Plan.
4. Participate in learning community and convenings with other jurisdictions
5. Implement targeted local equity activities (ex: establish multisector teams to address community needs, equity action plans, engage disproportionately impacted communities).

CDPH recognizes that community needs, challenges, and infrastructure are different for each LHJ. The intent is for these resources to be used flexibly in ways that are appropriate for each local context (rural and urban, large and small populations, newly developing equity programs or expanding on current efforts) while building collective capacity and alignment for advancing equity statewide. This grant offers a unique opportunity to focus resources on efforts to address upstream drivers for health and equity efforts. LHJs are encouraged to identify ways to use this funding toward structural and systemic change.

State Health Equity Plan: All activities will contribute to the development of a State Health Equity Plan structured in a results-based accountability model. This State Health Equity Plan will support coordination, alignment and learning across all work streams; and define a shared direction toward achieving equitable recovery.