

LINN BENTON **Health Equity Alliance**



**2016-2017 Strategic Priorities**



**Vision**

Everyone in our region should be able to be healthy. Healthy communities begin where we live, learn, work, and play. Together we are working to ensure a future in which healthy opportunities are possible for everyone in Linn and Benton Counties.

**Mission**

We gather people from a variety of backgrounds to build on strengths and create policy, systems, and environmental change so that everyone in every community has the opportunity to be healthy.

**Guiding Principles**

- We promote opportunity, equity, and access
- We demonstrate respect and dignity for all people
- We model inclusivity
- We achieve common goals through collaboration
- We work to empower individuals, organizations, and communities to advocate for change
- We use relevant data to inform our decisions

**Who We Serve**

Our work focuses on key underserved populations across Linn and Benton counties, including Latinos, African Americans, Arabic speakers, refugees, underrepresented ethnic groups, rural communities, historically disadvantaged people, low income families and individuals, LGBTQ people, and anyone experiencing health disparities.

**The Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance includes:**

- Community members
- Local health departments
- Coordinated Care Organizations
- Early Learning Hub
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Community organizations

**...and any individual or organization who works toward health equity in our region, join us!**

# 2016-2017 Strategic Priorities

## The Coalition's Interrelated Goals are:

### 1. Capacity Building:

*Build community and individual level capacity*

- **Increase and diversify community engagement** by offering tools for public participation, leadership training, and grassroots development.
- **Build equity and inclusion within systems** by modeling cultural agility, interpretation, and health literacy.
- **Invest in people, organizations and systems that support our vision and goals for better community health.**

### 2. Housing:

*Ensure that everyone in our community has a safe, affordable place to call home*

- **Create and rehabilitate safe, healthy, and affordable housing** by focusing on low-income, veteran, multigenerational and senior housing; and addressing related issues including homeless planning and solutions, transportation planning, crime prevention through environmental design, and the built environment.
- **Connect housing services and resources** by, for example, supporting school and neighborhood navigators, sharing information about food pantries and other resources, and fostering collaboration between social service agencies.
- **Support education, empowerment, and advocacy** by helping people understand housing rights, documentation needs, and tenants' options for recourse; bringing underrepresented voices into public participation; and, by educating policymakers about the need for affordable housing and policy change.
- **Influence local, regional and state housing policy** by, for example, promoting smoke-free policies, by representing the needs of underserved populations in area property maintenance code and rental inspection programs; and, by supporting education for landlords and tenants about fair housing policies.

### 3. Access to Health and Wellness:

*Create a system in which health and wellness are possible for everyone*

- **Focus on prevention and health promotion** including nutrition, tobacco, chronic disease, oral health, behavioral health, preventive health screening, maternal and child health, and healthy homes and workplaces.
- **Understand and meet the needs of medically vulnerable populations** including older adults, people with disabilities, homeless people, residents of rural areas, non-English speakers, and LGBTQ+ people.
- **Improve and simplify the health system** by empowering community voices, incorporating cultural agility and health literacy, and linking consumers, hospitals, Coordinated Care Organization, Early Learning Hub, case management, health navigators, and social service providers.
- **Focus on social determinants of health** including housing, food security, transportation, income, and education.

### 4. Education:

*Prioritize equity and inclusion in education*

- **Promote health, wellness, and prevention**, including oral health, school and worksite wellness, nutrition, physical activity, parenting, early education, trauma-informed care, sexual health, behavioral health, and tobacco cessation and prevention.
- **Strengthen partnerships, relationships, and collaboration** by working with community members, grassroots organizations, parent-teacher organizations, public health policymakers, law enforcement, Coordinated Care Organization, Early Learning Hub, and school districts; and by strengthening ties in Linn County.
- **Address gaps related to systemic inequities** such as race and ethnicity, income inequality, and gender.
- **Support development of a strong, diverse workforce**
- **Address language challenges** through interpretation, health literacy, and cultural agility.