

# Equity and Justice



## Issues

Oregon has a long and complex history of white supremacy. It is the only state in the country that did not allow Black Americans to settle here in the 1840s. In the 1950s, Oregon terminated 61 tribes and broke their treaties. The harm done by these and other policies is long-lasting.

The damage of structural racism is clear and ongoing today. Injustices continue to create unacceptable disadvantages for Black, Indigenous, people of color and American Indian/Alaska Native people (BIPOC-AI/AN). Racism and inequity have negative effects on health and impact access to affordable housing, nutritious food, jobs and quality education.

Racial equity means race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes, and outcomes for all groups are improved. Equity must be the core of the state's policymaking so that BIPOC-AI/AN hold decision-making power in our state.

## Solutions

Strategies to advance racial equity through policy, planning and investment including:

- Build upon and create BIPOC-AI/AN led community solutions for education, criminal justice, housing, social services, public health and health care to address systematic bias and inequities
- Declare institutional racism as a public health crisis

Healthier Together Oregon (HTO) is committed to building a foundation across state agencies so that state agencies commit to racial equity at every level.

HTO aims to ensure accountability for the implementation of anti-racist and anti-oppression policies. Only by centering community-led solutions is lasting change possible.



# HTO: A Plan for Building a Better Oregon

Healthier Together Oregon (HTO) is a powerful tool for improving equity for all Oregonians. As COVID-19 has made starkly clear, not everyone has the same opportunity to live a healthy life. People of color, people with low income, people who identify as LGBTQ+, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities and people who live in rural areas of the state face considerable barriers due to inequities in the social and physical infrastructure that affects health.

of partners across different sectors that share its commitment to these ambitious goals. These sectors include health care, elected officials, employers, philanthropy, transportation, land use and planning, state, tribal and local public health, criminal justice and law enforcement, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, housing and human service providers and education.

Because health and well-being depend on a range of factors, HTO identifies a broad array of strategies that, when addressed and implemented collectively, have the potential to improve the lives of everyone who lives here.

HTO is intended to inform Community Health Improvement Plans as well as agencies' and organizations' priorities, programs and investments. It seeks a variety



## Partner With Us

HTO is looking to connect with others committed to advancing equity in Oregon. For more information or to contact us:

 <p><b>WEBSITE</b> healthiertogetheroregon.org</p>	 <p><b>EMAIL</b> publichealth.policy@state.or.us</p>
 <p><b>BECOME A PARTNER</b> healthiertogetheroregon.org/ potential-partner</p>	 <p><b>YOUTUBE</b> bit.ly/3jvkuAE</p>