

Healthy Social Environments Framework - Core Values

Version 1, Dec 2020



Two critical core values underpin the work of supporting healthy social environments: equity and sustainability. These values describe the outcomes we are trying to achieve *as well as* the fundamental approach to how we must do our work. We use the equity and sustainability principles below to guide our processes and also as touchstones to assess whether or not we are achieving community wellbeing.

EQUITY

Truth and Reconciliation

- Truth and Reconciliation is pursued as a multigenerational goal through collective efforts.
- Meaningful, inclusive opportunities for Truth and Reconciliation are actively encouraged & supported.

Cultural safety & humility

- Cultural safety is pursued through respectful engagement that recognizes and strives to address power imbalances inherent in the healthcare system.
- Cultural humility is pursued through a process of self-reflection to understand personal and systemic biases to develop and maintain respectful processes and relationship based on mutual trust.
- Systemic racism (also known as structural or institutional racism) is identified and addressed by changing requirements, conditions, practices, policies or processes that maintain and reproduce avoidable and unfair inequities across ethnic/racial groups. Historical structures that have created health inequity in the first place are identified and addressed.

Diversity

- Individuals and families from different cultures and communities “see” themselves represented and feel welcome, safe and at ease within the community.
- Diversity in governance and make-up of decision-making groups is prioritized.
- Diversity is defined in broad terms, is viewed as an asset, is sought out, and is embraced.

Inclusivity

- All voices are included, heard and valued.
- Proactive efforts are taken to seek out those who are often excluded from community conversations. Steps are taken to not only remove barriers to their participation, but also elevate their voices in decision-making. Community members are equal partners vs. voices to be included.
- The principles of intersectionality are recognized and inform any actions to address inequities.
- Inclusive and accessible mechanisms are in place to for residents to meaningfully engage formally & informally.
- Civic/community responsibility is considered a key part of inclusivity .
- Opportunities exist for kindness and acts of service.

Availability, affordability, acceptability & accessibility

- Services and amenities are available, affordable, acceptable, and accessible.





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SUSTAINABILITY

Healthy community environments

- A One Planet Living approach is taken. The planet is seen as our “home” rather than as containing hazards and animals that need to be controlled.
- Healthy communities include healthy people, healthy animals and a healthy planet. They are inextricably connected and fundamental to world health and happiness.
- The 7th generation principle is followed, which holds that “In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.”
- Healthy community environments and healthy communities are addressed in tandem rather than separately; “Healthy Cities 2.0” is as much about social sustainability as it is about ecological sustainability.
- Climate change, the greatest threat to human health and global security in this century, is prioritized.

Meaningful, inclusive & respectful community engagement

- Sustainable communities meet challenges with integrated solutions and a Healthy Communities approach. Community capacity building is supported and people are empowered to identify local issues and co-create solutions towards healthier built and social environments.
- Communities are mindful of the Seven Sacred Teachings of Indigenous people: love; respect; humility; truth; wisdom; honesty and courage.

Multi-solving approach & co-benefits

- A multi-solving approach is taken and co-benefits are achieved (one action has multiple outcomes).

Resiliency, trust & flexibility

- Sustainable communities are economically, environmentally, ecologically, and socially healthy and resilient.
- Communities have high levels of trust and social connection, and look after the land, animals and people included in them.
- Governments, organizations and communities value and build in flexibility so that they can respond nimbly and effectively to emerging challenges (e.g., Covid-19).

