

# Maryland Philanthropic Network

## Public Health Advocacy for Health Equity

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# Policy, Social Policy, and Advocacy

- **Policy** is a deliberate system of guidelines to inform decisions and achieve rational outcomes.
- **Social policy** is a set of intentional strategies that affect the well-being of members of a society through shaping the distribution of and access to goods and resources in that society.
- **Advocacy** is an activity by an individual or group that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social institutions

## Social Determinants of Health:

Where we live,  
work, and play  
influences well-  
being

***HEALTH INEQUITY*** results from

- *the unequal distribution of power, income, goods, and services*
- *Inequities are systemic and structural – calls for action at appropriate levels*



# What COVID Revealed

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- *Weakness in public health infrastructure*
- *Inadequate understanding of the needed infrastructure*
- *Structural and socially determined nature of health inequity*
- *The groups most at risk due to the lack of infrastructure and the inequities*
- *The need for advocacy and social policy to build an equitable infrastructure*

# MSU Center for Urban Health Equity



## Goals and Priority Areas

1. **Enhance capability of communities** to address urban health disparities ...through supported community-based scholarship
2. Identify strengths and illuminate structural inequities to **inform decision-making through data driven approaches**
3. **Build knowledge** and skills regarding health equity within the University and beyond
4. Educate and **disseminate new knowledge** from urban health equity research
5. **Foster and facilitate coordination and collaboration** of health equity efforts across the state

# CUHE Structure

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## CENTER LEADERSHIP CORE

Center Director and  
Co-Director

Center Teams  
*Equity Scholars*  
*Community Leaders*  
*Deans Council*

Center Operations  
*Center Manager*  
*Center Admin*

