

Planning for Health Equity in Oklahoma

OSDH Office of Performance Management
Partnerships for Health Improvement

Oklahoma ranks near the bottom for many key health status indicators when compared to other states. Some of the reasons include the following: approximately one in six state residents live in poverty¹; nearly half (49.1 percent) of Oklahoma households are in a persistent state of financial insecurity²; seventeen (17) percent of the state's population does not have health insurance³; and inequities persist in access to care and health outcomes. In 2008, Oklahoma's state legislature enacted Senate Joint Resolution 41, which required the State Board of Health to develop a comprehensive Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan (OHIP) for "all people in Oklahoma through a high-functioning public health system." This initial five-year strategic plan is being updated to take the state into the year 2020.

Health Objective: Public Health System Assessment



Oklahoma State
Department of Health
Creating a State of Health

The Oklahoma State
Department of Health
(OSDH) enlisted the use of

community-based collaborative meetings in order to gauge inequities and disparities in public health needs, capacity, and resources across the state. With the help of PHHS Block Grant funds, the OSDH Office of Performance Management facilitated nine community chat sessions, four of which were focused on ethnic groups such as African Americans and Hispanics to better identify and understand the health concerns and challenges or barriers faced by each population group. Two formal Tribal Consultations were also conducted to outline areas of need and opportunities for collaboration with Tribal Nations. To garner additional input, an online public survey and survey cards were made available in both English and Spanish.

PHHS Block Grant funds were also used to engage a contractor to conduct a survey that would provide a comprehensive portrait of the current health and wellness landscape among businesses in Oklahoma. The results of this survey, combined with feedback from the community chats, consultations, and survey, informed the development of key strategies within the OHIP.

Impact



Oklahoma has updated its health improvement plan, Healthy Oklahoma 2020. Both the community chats and the business survey aided OSDH in the submission of a strong application for a State Innovation Model (SIM) design grant, in which Oklahoma was recently awarded \$2 million. This new funding from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides a novel opportunity for Oklahoma businesses, healthcare providers, insurance carriers, and other healthcare stakeholders to work collaboratively with the State of Oklahoma to develop an innovative model to transform healthcare delivery. If successful during this one-year design phase, the state can apply for a larger CMS grant to test state-based solutions to strengthen population health, transform the health care delivery system, and decrease per capita health care spending.

Once adopted, this new health care innovation plan will reflect the unique needs of the people of Oklahoma and transform the current system into one that promotes value in health delivery, creates incentives for better health outcomes, and assures access to care for all citizens.

According to Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, the health system transformation guided by the new state plan "is not about expanding the size or scope of government, but making the services we already offer better and more efficient."

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¹U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 American Community Survey www.census.gov/acs ²Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) 2015 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard www.cfed.org ³US Census: Current Population Survey. <http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html>