

Idaho

State and Local Health Equity Policy Checklist

AUGUST 2021

KEY

-  = state requires/mandates
-  = some local and/or state policies, but there is room for improvement
-  = no state/local requirements
-  = n/a

Legislative Reform

POLICY	SCORE	NOTES
Implement Racial Equity Impact Statements for legislation at the state or local levels, including environmental, health and criminal justice areas.		
Expand Health Impact Assessments attached to state and local legislation to include equity considerations.		

State Health Planning & Programs

POLICY	SCORE	NOTES
Declare racism a public health crisis and implement steps to address it.		
Develop a 'Health in All Policies' strategy at the state or local level.		The Central District Health Department advocates for a "Health in All Policies" approach in its active transportation work. ¹
Establish Health Equity Zones to better address social determinants of health.		
Create an Equity Strategic Plan to lay out how the state (or local entity within the state) will reduce health disparities.		
Fund community-driven health equity action plans.		

Summary and scoring methodology reports are available at www.HealthValueHub.org/Health-Equity-Checklists.

If you know of a policy we overlooked, please contact hubinfo@altarum.org.

State Health Planning & Programs *(continued)*

POLICY	SCORE	NOTES
<p>Implement participatory budgeting at the state and/or local level for initiatives that focus on health and social determinants of health.</p>		<p>Meridian’s City Council used participatory budgeting to decide how \$20,000 of public funds would be spent. Approximately 80 high school students participating in the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council program brainstormed, researched and voted on proposals, ultimately deciding to create an outdoor gym.²</p>
<p>Emphasize health disparities and equity when developing State Health Assessments & State Health Improvement Plans</p>		<p>Addressing disparities is cited as a priority in the 2020-2024 Get Healthy Idaho State Health Improvement Plan. Dashboards on target conditions use the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) to identify counties where target conditions and social determinants of health overlap and contribute to health disparities. The SVI accounts for four types of vulnerability: socioeconomic status; housing and transportation; minority status and language; and disability.³</p> <p>The 2019 Statewide Health Assessment presents data on social determinants of health but does not look at disparities or equity.⁴</p>
<p>Fund community-based organizations operating in the state to reduce disparities and/or provide culturally competent health-related supports.</p>		<p>In late 2020, the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare’s Division of Public Health selected its first Get Healthy Idaho funded community. The four-year initiative will bring intentional, community-led investments to Elmore County to create conditions that allow for optimal health and resiliency.⁵</p>
<p>Implement strategies to address specific health outcomes related to inequality in social determinants of health, such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease and maternal mortality, among others.</p>		<p>Priorities identified in the 2020-2024 Get Healthy Idaho State Health Improvement Plan include diabetes, obesity, unintentional injury and behavioral health.⁶ Idaho’s Physical Activity and Nutrition Program aims to address obesity by working with select communities to find opportunities to improve their built environments—creating outdoor spaces that are accessible to all—among other strategies.⁷</p>
<p>Participate in the Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE), a national network of local and regional governments to address racial equity.</p>		<p>No local jurisdictions in Idaho participate in GARE as of August 2021.⁸</p>

Data & Reporting

POLICY	SCORE	NOTES
<p>Create equity reporting requirements for state and local government agencies.</p>		

Data & Reporting *(continued)*

POLICY	SCORE	NOTES
Use the state’s Office of Health Equity/Disparities/Minority Health to analyze and report on existing health disparities and/or equity concerns within the state.		
Require nonprofit hospitals to incorporate an equity component into their community health needs assessments and community health improvement plans and/or establish a minimum percentage of non-profit hospitals’ Community Benefit that must be invested in programs targeted at reducing health disparities by addressing root causes.		
Increase the validity, use and standardization of data on race, ethnicity and/or languages spoken for state reporting requirements.		
Include socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity and/or languages spoken in All-Payer Claims Database data.		Idaho does not have an APCD as of June 2021. ⁹

Health Reform – Coverage

POLICY	SCORE	NOTES
Expand Medicaid eligibility requirements to include all adults with incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level.		Idaho implemented Medicaid expansion on Jan. 1, 2020. ¹⁰
Provide high-quality, affordable coverage options for people whose incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid, e.g., Basic Health Plan, reinsurance or augmented premium subsidies.		
Provide one-year continuous eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP.		Idaho provides one-year continuous eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP. ¹¹
Provide coverage options to undocumented and recent immigrants.		

Health Reform – Delivery

POLICY	SCORE	NOTES
Develop Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) contract options for advancing health equity and recommend or require MCOs to complete specific health equity responsibilities.		
Encourage or require Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and/or Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) to collect equity-focused data, adopt culturally appropriate programs, implement partnerships with community-based organizations in areas with larger minority populations and/or focus on addressing social determinants of health.		
Employ Medicaid 1115 and/or 1915 waivers to better address the social determinants of health.		Idaho employs 1115 and 1915 waivers to better address social determinants of health, including providing home-delivered meals, non-medical transportation and housing support services. ¹²
Require or incentivize providers participating in Medicaid value-based programs to report on measures related to health equity/disparities.		
Hold providers participating in Medicaid value-based programs responsible for reducing health disparities by evaluating/scoring performance in this area.		
Create or expand Accountable Communities for Health with a focus on increasing health equity.		Idaho has created seven “Regional Health Collaboratives” through the state’s public health districts to support local primary care practices in Patient-Centered Medical Home transformation and create formal referral and feedback protocols to link medical and social services providers. ¹³
Prioritize funding for communication infrastructure development, including broadband and cellular access, in underserved rural and urban areas.		The Idaho Broadband Grant Program funds broadband infrastructure investments to expand rural broadband capacity to facilitate telehealth, in addition to telework, distance learning and public safety. The program prioritizes communities of less than 3,000 persons and/or communities that are unserved. ¹⁴

Health Reform – Delivery *(continued)*

POLICY	SCORE	NOTES
Subsidize internet access to expand opportunities for telehealth.		The Idaho Broadband Grant Program provides funding for equipment to help address the distance learning, telehealth, public safety and e-commerce needs of underserved households; public safety and local governments; medical clinics; and hospital facilities. ¹⁵
Expand coverage for telehealth services.		
Establish or strengthen telehealth reimbursement parity laws to incentivize providers to deliver these services.		
Waive/limit cost-sharing for telehealth services.		
Adopt a global budget system for paying hospitals to better enable them to focus on prevention, care coordination, community-based integration and social determinants of health.		
Require workplace-based cultural competency and implicit-bias training for clinicians and other providers.		

COVID-Specific Reforms

POLICY	SCORE	NOTES
Collect racial equity data to better understand the disparate impact of COVID-19.		Idaho reports data on COVID-19 vaccinations and cases by race and ethnicity, but not COVID-19 testing, hospitalizations, recoveries or mortality. ¹⁶
Implement changes to Medicaid and Marketplace enrollment, including but not limited to presumptive eligibility, cost-sharing provisions, special enrollment periods, increased enrollment assistance and improvements to application processing in response to COVID-19.		Idaho opened a special enrollment period for the state-based marketplace from March 1 to April 30, 2021 . ¹⁷ Additionally, Idaho waived certain cost-sharing provisions in its CHIP and Medicaid programs. ¹⁸

COVID-Specific Reforms *(continued)*

POLICY	SCORE	NOTES
Leverage the Emergency Medicaid program to extend COVID-19 testing, evaluation and treatment coverage to undocumented immigrants.		
Waive or limit cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing and treatment by private insurers.		Idaho encourages insurers to waive cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing and treatment , ¹⁹ but does not require it. All Idaho insurance providers agreed to waive cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing as of April 2020. ²⁰
Provide COVID-19 testing to residents free of charge.		The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare offers free at-home COVID-19 tests for state residents. ²¹

Notes

1. Central District Health Department, [Strategic Plan 2016-2020](#), Boise, Idaho. (July 2015).
2. Cripe, Chadd, “[Meridian Gave Its Teens \\$20,000 To Spend on a City Project. Here’s What They Bought](#),” *Idaho Statesman* (Nov. 21, 2016).
3. Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, [Get Healthy Idaho: Building Healthy and Resilient Communities](#), Boise, Idaho. (2020).
4. Get Healthy Idaho, *2019 Statewide Health Assessment Data*, <https://www.gethealthy.dhw.idaho.gov/copy-of-get-healthy-idaho> (accessed on Aug. 9, 2021).
5. Get Healthy Idaho, *Get Healthy Idaho Community: WICHC in Elmore County*, <https://www.gethealthy.dhw.idaho.gov/funding-application> (accessed on Aug. 9, 2021).
6. Get Healthy Idaho, *Introduction to Get Healthy Idaho*, <https://www.gethealthy.dhw.idaho.gov/introduction> (accessed on Aug. 9, 2021).
7. Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, *Physical Activity and Nutrition*, <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/community-health/physical-activity-and-nutrition> (accessed on Aug. 9, 2021).
8. Local and Regional Government Alliance on Race & Equity, *Where We Work*, <https://www.racialequityalliance.org/where-we-work/jurisdictions/> (Accessed on Aug. 9, 2021).
9. The Source on Healthcare Price & Competition, *State Action: APCD Mandate*, <https://sourceonhealthcare.org/state-action/> (accessed on Aug. 10, 2021).
10. Kaiser Family Foundation, [Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions: Interactive Map](#), San Francisco, Calif. (July 23, 2021).
11. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, *Continuous Eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP Coverage*, <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/enrollment-strategies/continuous-eligibility-medicaid-and-chip-coverage/index.html> (accessed on Aug. 10, 2021).
12. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, *State Waivers List*, https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/index.html?f%5B0%5D=state_waiver_status_facet%3A1561&f%5B1%5D=state_waiver_status_facet%3A1591&f%5B2%5D=waiver_authority_facet%3A1566&f%5B3%5D=waiver_authority_facet%3A1571&f%5B4%5D=waiver_state_facet%3A986#content#content (accessed on Aug. 10, 2021).

13. Samantha Artiga and Elizabeth Hinton, [Beyond Health Care: The Role of Social Determinants in Promoting Health and Health Equity](#), Kaiser Family Foundation, San Francisco, Calif. (May 10, 2018). See also: The Funders Forum on Accountable Health, [Southwest Health Collaborative Case Study: District 3 Regional Collaborative, ID](#), Washington, D.C. (2018).
14. Idaho Department of Commerce, *Idaho Broadband Grant Program*, <https://commerce.idaho.gov/broadband/idaho-broadband-grant-program/> (accessed on Aug. 10, 2021).
15. Ibid.
16. NASHP, *How States Collect, Report, and Act on COVID-19 Race and Ethnicity Data*, <https://www.nashp.org/how-states-report-covid-19-data-by-race-and-ethnicity/#tab-id-1> (accessed on Aug. 10, 2021). Idaho's Division of Public Health stated that conclusions related to equity of vaccine administration cannot be drawn due to having so many records with race/ethnicity data missing. See: <https://www.boisestate.edu/bsi/blog/2021/03/29/one-year-later-the-aftermath-of-covid-19-on-idaho/>
17. O'Brien, Madeline, and Sabrina Corlette, *State Action Related to COVID-19 Relief: Expanding Access to Affordable Coverage Options*, The Commonwealth Fund, New York, N.Y. (June 28, 2021).
18. The Office of the Governor, *Proclamation*, Boise, Idaho. (April 23, 2021). See also: <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/16/160318.pdf> and <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/16/160310.pdf>
19. O'Brien and Corlette (2021).
20. State of Idaho Department of Insurance, "Idaho health carriers to provide relief during COVID-19 Pandemic," News Release (April 10, 2020).
21. Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, *Free, at-home COVID-19 tests are available in Idaho by dialing 2-1-1*, <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/news/free-home-covid-19-tests-are-available-idaho-dialing-2-1-1> (accessed on Aug. 10, 2021).



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