Definition of Health Equity

The attainment of the highest level of health for all people, where everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, preferred language, or other factors that affect access to care and health outcomes. CMS is working to advance health equity by designing, implementing, and operationalizing policies and programs that support health for all the people served by our programs, eliminating avoidable differences in health outcomes experienced by people who are disadvantaged or underserved, and providing the care and support that our enrollees need to thrive.

CMS Framework for Health Equity Priorities

Priority 1: Expand the Collection, Reporting, and Analysis of Standardized Data
Priority 2: Assess Causes of Disparities Within CMS Programs, and Address Inequities in Policies and Operations to Close Gaps
Priority 3: Build Capacity of Health Care Organizations and the Workforce to Reduce Health and Health Care Disparities
Priority 4: Advance Language Access, Health Literacy, and the Provision of Culturally Tailored Services
Priority 5: Increase All Forms of Accessibility to Health Care Services and Coverage

To read the CMS Framework for Health Equity 2022-2032, visit go.cms.gov/framework.

As the nation’s largest health insurer, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has a critical role to play in driving the next decade of health equity for people who are underserved. Our unwavering commitment to advancing health equity will help foster a health care system that benefits all for generations to come.”

Dr. LaShawn McIver, Director, CMS Office of Minority Health

The CMS Office of Minority Health offers health equity technical assistance resources, aimed to help health care organizations take action against health disparities. If you are looking for assistance, visit go.cms.gov/omh or email HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov.