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## News and Resources from Health Equity Initiative!

Hello and greetings from all of us here at [Health Equity Initiative!](#) We hope you are all staying safe and healthy!

These past eight months have brought about a tumultuous and overwhelming change to the world in which we live. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted each and every one of us, both directly and indirectly. The pandemic has also laid bare the deep-rooted impact of health inequities in communities across the world, highlighting the disproportionate toll COVID-19 has taken on the lives and livelihoods of communities of color, those from low socio-economic backgrounds, and other marginalized and vulnerable groups. These groups have long experienced widespread health and social inequities, which in turn influence a wide range of health, economic, and educational outcomes during COVID-19 and beyond. This is nothing new. However, COVID-19 has also finally brought some exposure to the issue of health equity.

Now that health equity has finally gained some momentum among different publics, it is more crucial than ever to make sure that this is not just temporary. We cannot allow for this moment to slip by without capitalizing on its potential impact on the health and wellbeing of current and future generations. Here at Health Equity Initiative, we are thoroughly dedicated to building a global community for health equity and to advancing social justice and human rights for all people, particularly marginalized and underserved communities. We are working to engage everyone to find solutions towards this goal. We encourage you to [join us](#) at Health Equity Initiative and make sure that the importance and centrality of health equity to everyone's well-being and prosperity never gets sidelined.

Thank you for following us and being part of our community. Stay well!

With best wishes,

**[Renata Schiavo, PhD, MA, CCL](#)**,

Founder and President, Board of Directors

On behalf of everyone in our [HEI team](#)

## Join us for Giving Tuesday

On December 1, 2020, people all around the world are coming together to tap into the power of human connection and strengthen communities and change our world.

# #GIVING TUESDAY™

Will you be one of them?

**Health Equity Initiative** will be participating in **GivingTuesday** and we need your help! By joining the **GivingTuesday** movement, you're proving that in times of uncertainty, generosity can bring the whole world together and advance health equity and human rights issues. Here is how

you can get ready to give:

1. Give. On December 1, go to <https://www.healthequityinitiative.org/donate.html> and donate.
2. Spread the word. Encourage your friends, colleagues, and organizations to join you in creating real impact on December 1 by sharing what our mission means to you and why you support our organization. Make sure to use the hashtags #GivingTuesday #healthequity and tag us so we can share!

## A Warm Welcome to our New HEI Members!



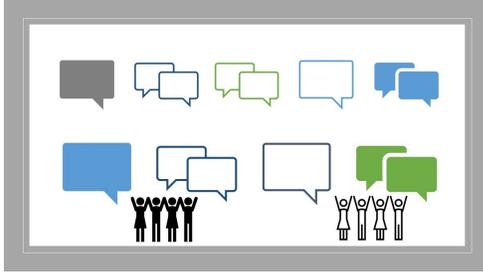
**Amanda Amodio, LCSW-R** says: "I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has volunteered for the Refugee Immigrant Fund for nearly nine years, where I provided pro bono consultation, support and affidavit writing for refugees seeking asylum. Meanwhile, I worked in oncology social work for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for over a decade, where I developed support groups for Spanish speakers. I also taught university courses on refugee and immigrant issues. I believe that access to healthcare is a human right and for the refugees, seeking safety is the first step towards potential life saving measures or seeking a more hopeful future towards prevention of further trauma. I look forward to future engagement with HEI!"



**Stephanie L. Burke, MS, MHA, CHES** says: "I am currently an Associate Professor/Program Director of the Health Navigator program at Prince George's Community College in Maryland. As a dedicated Public Health professional, I have been influential in promoting improved health outcomes in communities through prevention and educational outreach to support behavioral changes that impact communities. My choice to join HEI was organic, I wanted to surround myself with like-minded health professionals who are passionate about health equity, a platform to exchange ideas, and develop innovative concepts."

## HEI's Member and Community Survey on Health Equity Capacity Building Needs and Priorities

Thank you very much to everyone who participated in our professional



development and capacity building survey. While the survey is being analyzed in detail by our team and professional development member committee, and will ultimately inform our 2021 resources and activities, we want to thank you all for taking the time to provide much appreciated feedback.

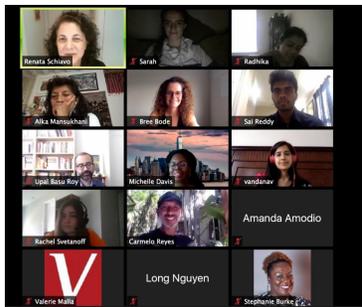
**In the meantime, here are three preliminary points from your answers.**

Participants:

- Are concerned with implicit and organizational bias across health and social topics; access to healthcare; community engagement; community-driven solutions and policies; and multisectoral partnerships - among other topics you suggest that we highlight in future activities and resources
- Are “very likely” to engage with our webinars, workshops, and quarterly socials, somewhat more than with larger events
- Work across different fields including public health, healthcare, medicine, global health, urban design, architecture, international development, community development, and transportation systems, both in the United States and globally.

Thank you!

## Upcoming Events



### **Online Quarterly Social Event, *Health Equity Meet-Up*** **November 18, 2020, 5:30 - 6:45 pm**

Health Equity Initiative is excited to host our [next quarterly social event](#) on **Wednesday, November 18th, 5:30-6:45 pm EST**. Health Equity Meet-Ups provide an informal space for HEI members and the broader community to interact, connect, and share information. Due to COVID-19, this event will be

hosted virtually on Zoom, as it was this past July.

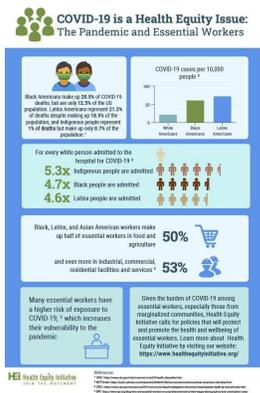
Come catch up and relax with colleagues who share your passion for advancing health equity and human rights! Meet with HEI Board Directors and members, and learn about the organization's plans. Bring a colleague or a friend! As we did in our previous meet-up, we will raffle off two to four annual memberships to Health Equity Initiative! Open to all!



### **Webinar**

Save the date for our upcoming webinar! *Modern Redlining: Recognizing the Impact of Digital Redlining and Implicit Bias during the COVID-19 Pandemic* on **Friday, January 22, 2021 from 1pm to 2pm EST**. Details to follow!

**COVID-19 is a Health Equity Issue Infographic**



COVID-19, although vast and widespread in its impacts, has shown to place a particularly strong burden upon racial and ethnic minority communities. Our infographic series focuses on establishing COVID-19 as a health equity issue.

Our first infographic in this series, *COVID-19 is a Health Equity Issue: The Pandemic and Essential Workers*, is available [here](#). Please share with your friends and colleagues on social media.

## Community Leaders Forum



Late this summer, Health Equity Initiative had the privilege of hosting a Community Leader Forum called *COVID-19: Emerging Community Leaders and Policy Solutions*. We appreciate the time and input of the community leaders who participated in discussing the specific needs and policy requests that may improve community outcomes amidst this pandemic. **The forum's call to action and full report are now available [here](#).**

Stay tuned for a new Community Leaders Forum and report on *“Supporting Women and Girls during the Pandemic: Emerging Global Strategies and Community Solutions.”*

## From our Health Equity Blog



**Fostering Civic Literacy - An Overlooked Pathway to Achieving Health and Racial Equity, Nov. 15, 2020**

Authored by Health Equity Initiative's board members and senior officers [Dr. Aika Mansukhani](#) and [Dr. Renata Schiavo](#), and [Lisa Goren](#), a senior manager at New York Magazine and a graduate student of American Studies at Columbia University, this post focuses on the importance of promoting civic literacy as a path towards increased civic engagement, a more just society, as well as health and racial equity. Read more [here](#).



**'It's About Love and Solidarity': Mutual Aid Unites NYC Neighbors Facing COVID by Elizabeth Lawrence, Kaiser Health News, July 27, 2020**

Mutual aid has emerged as a key action area to spread solidarity, build community, and help provide essential services in neighborhoods and cities. This story aligns with Health Equity Initiative's advocacy efforts in supporting community engagement and mobilization to advance health equity and was posted on our blog in August. *This story is part of the [SoJo Exchange of COVID-19 stories](#) from*

*the Solutions Journalism Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rigorous reporting about responses to social problems.*

## Updates from our Member Committees

### Professional Development Committee



*Carmelo Cruz Reyes, MPH*



*Bree Bode (MPH, CHES)*

This committee, co-chaired by Health Equity Initiative's members [Bree Bode](#) and [Carmelo Cruz Reyes](#), kicked off their efforts by reviewing the responses from Health Equity Initiative's member and community survey on health equity-related needs and priorities. Reviewing these responses has allowed this committee to start thinking of professional development offerings for HEI members and the broader community in 2021. Additionally, committee members have been working on identifying organizations from various sectors that might be interested in accessing HEI programming and workshops. The committee looks forward to bringing you a webinar-based panel discussion in January 2021. Stay tuned and get involved!

### Communication Committee

Health Equity Initiative is calling all members in good standing to form a member communication committee and work with the interim communication committee for guidance in getting jump started. See below a brief description of this committee. Open to all HEI members, this is a great opportunity to network, learn new skills, and help us advance health equity! [Contact us](#) if interested.

#### *Communication Committee*

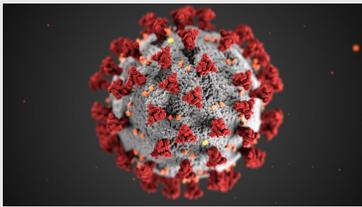
This committee will develop and implement strategies and activities to increase HEI's visibility within multiple sectors. It will also manage HEI's social media and other communication activities and resources. Additionally, it will publicize specific events, programs, and activities and work to design or implement other ongoing or future health equity awareness initiatives. Finally, this committee will be responsible for developing media and materials for publicity and other communication efforts.

## Communication and Social Media Internship Opportunity – Spring and Summer 2021

We are seeking an excellent communicator, good writer, and avid social media user as a communication intern to support different communication activities, draft communication materials, manage various social media accounts to share HEI news and health equity-related resources, and be responsible for developing the organization's quarterly newsletter. The intern will research and document the latest news, publications, and resources related to health equity; develop social media posting plans and update our social media every week, draft reports, media materials, infographics, and other resources or event-related materials. [Learn more.](#)

# Resources from Our Network on Health Equity (during COVID-19 and beyond)

- Center for the Developing Child, Harvard University: [A Guide to COVID-19 and Early Childhood Development](#)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: [Helping All New Jerseyans Live Their Healthiest Lives](#)
- The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine: [Framework for Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus](#)
- World Health Organization: [Ensuring medicines work safely for everyone](#)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: [Health Equity Principles for State and Local Leaders in Responding to, Reopening and Recovering from COVID-19](#)



Please also visit our [COVID-19 and Health Equity Resources](#) page. We update this page regularly with resources and readings that point to the importance of keeping health equity on the table during the COVID-19 response and recovery.

## Take Action!



There are many ways to get involved with Health Equity Initiative. Learn about how you can [take action](#) and support health equity!

### About Health Equity Initiative

Health Equity Initiative (HEI) is a member-driven membership organization dedicated to building and sustaining a global community that engages across sectors and disciplines to advance health equity. By bringing together and enlisting the efforts of the public and private sectors, professions and communities that have both a stake and an influence on social determinants of health, HEI advocates for improving conditions and achieving equity in health for all. We focus on championing transformative change, supporting knowledge, engaging communities and leaders, and building capacity across sectors and disciplines to address barriers that prevent people from leading healthy and productive lives. HEI is a federally recognized 501(c)3 organization.

[Donate](#)

[Become a Member](#)

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