



Equity Action Lab: Improving Women's Health

Background

In 2017, the DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA) began a [human-centered design process](#) to identify the unmet reproductive and maternal health needs of low-income women of color in the District. After more than 30 in-depth interviews with women and providers, DCPCA issued a report - [Human-Centered Solutions to Improve Reproductive and Maternal Health Outcomes in Washington, D.C.](#) – containing 12 actionable and costed initiatives that can be pursued to improve the health and well-being of women and their families.

Now, the [Institute for Health Improvement \(IHI\)](#) with support from Merck for Mothers, has offered to partner with DCPCA to continue the human-centered design process started in the report, and work with us to test some of the recommended solutions through a Health Equity Action Lab.

What is an Equity Action Lab?

An [Equity Action Lab](#):

- Uses a structured set of activities to bring together a diverse group of community stakeholders.
- Enables stakeholders to set a goal that is important to them and design and take action over a 14 week period to make progress toward that goal.
- Includes a 1 day intensive planning session where goals and action plans are set
- Includes a 100 day “sprint” period where solutions are tested and iterated in the community
- Culminates in a 1-day Momentum Lab





Leadership Team

What does serving on the leadership team mean? Members will be:

- Leaders of organizations, frontline workers, and individuals with lived experience
- Willing to test new things and help remove barriers within your organization
- Willing to **give approximately 1 hour per week over 14 weeks** to the Health Equity Action Lab
- Willing to participate in meeting to kick-start the Action Lab and confirm the lab's priorities in May
- Willing to participate in a one-day meeting on June 21 8 AM to 4 PM to develop solutions, set goals, and develop action plans
- Willing to participate in a one-day meeting in October to finalize finding and chart a sustainability path

Design Team

What does serving on the design team mean? Members will be:

- People from the community with lived experience, such as a woman or person who has experienced the health care system
- Frontline providers working in the reproductive health, maternal health, or social services sector
- Interested in improving the health care and social service system in DC for women and families
- Willing to **give approximately 4-6 hours per week over 14 weeks** to the Health Equity Action Lab.
- Women with lived experience in our maternal health system will be offered a **stipend of \$200/week**.
- Willing to co-design, develop, and test a series of interventions to improve the health and well-being of women and their families
- Willing to participate in a one-day meeting on June 21 8AM to 4 PM to develop solutions, set goals, and develop action plans
- Willing to participate in a one-day meeting in October to finalize finding and chart a sustainability path

Ready to Get Started?

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