



## Summary of “Recommendations for State Policymakers to Advance Health Equity”

The following seven recommendations for state policymakers are based on research and interviews with 50 community leaders in 20 states and the District of Columbia. For more information and details about these recommendations, see the Families USA paper titled “[Community Voices: Recommendations to State Policymakers for Advancing Health Equity](#)” from March 2022.

# 7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE POLICYMAKERS

- 1 Equip community organizations to work for equity**
  - a. States should engage directly with community-based organizations working toward equity.
- 2 Mobilize to fight racism and bias**
  - a. State health agencies and policymakers should be proactive in efforts to combat racial myths that undermine health care.
  - b. State policymakers should increase the number of professionals in health care who are people of color and ethnic minorities, including professionals in behavioral and oral health.
  - c. States should provide reimbursement for community-based doulas, midwives and culturally centered birthing practices.
  - d. States should fully integrate community health workers (CHWs) into care teams.
- 3 Address disparities through research and measurement**
  - a. States should examine and correct metrics that determine who gets care and improve oversight of health systems.
  - b. State policymakers should require health systems to measure health care disparities and reduce them.
- 4 Provide equitable access to coverage**
  - a. States that have not yet expanded Medicaid for adults and for postpartum people should do so.
  - b. States should take actions that avoid Medicaid losses as the public health emergency ends.
  - c. States should provide health coverage to people regardless of immigration status.
- 5 Provide equitable access to care**
  - a. State policymakers should collaborate with tribal organizations in the administration of health programs.
  - b. States should provide language access services in dialects spoken in the community.
  - c. States should work to combat public charge fears.
  - d. When needed, states should supplement services that are federally matched in Medicaid programs with state-funded services.
- 6 Implement and expand culturally centered behavioral health care**
  - a. States should incorporate culturally centered, community-based models of behavioral health care.
- 7 End inequities generated by health systems that have ramifications beyond health**
  - a. State policymakers should require health systems to be good citizens that combat racial inequities.