

2018

# STATEMENT OF AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION COMMITMENTS



American Heart Association.

Health Equity/Social Determinants of Health Task Force Recommendations

## HEALTH EQUITY WORKING DEFINITION:

Everyone deserves an optimal and just opportunity to be healthy, giving special attention to the needs of those at greatest risk of poor health. No one is disadvantaged from achieving their potential because of social position or any other socially defined circumstance.

*THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING HEALTH EQUITY — IN CO-CREATING A WORLD OF HEALTHY, FLOURISHING ADULTS AND CHILDREN.*

We cannot achieve our goals of equitable health and well-being for all without addressing the larger issues that create and increase gaps in health outcomes. Consistent with our guiding values, we join other like-minded organizations committed to addressing health equity so that everyone has the opportunity to attain their full health potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of their social position or any other socially defined circumstance.

- » AHA is committed to **inspiring** our staff, volunteers and leveraging our financial assets, our science knowledge and our voice to address issues of equity in our work.
- » AHA is committed to **sharing ownership** of equity across the organization.
- » AHA is committed to **diversity and inclusion** in our work, including our staff, volunteers, researchers, partners and collaborators.
- » AHA is committed to **using its relationships** with others to more effectively align the resources of all organizations to achieving health equity across our ecosystems.
- » AHA is committed to **aligning and broadening our work** in transforming communities, transforming healthcare, changing policy, changing systems and leading breakthroughs in science and technology using an equity first lens and allocating our time and resources accordingly.
- » AHA is committed to **ensuring that all people are treated with dignity** and compassion in all settings.
- » AHA is committed to **listening to those we serve**, amplifying their efforts and taking the appropriate actions to expand opportunities for all to achieve their fullest potential.
- » AHA is committed to **being accountable** for our efforts and transparent in our actions.

The American Heart Association acknowledges that systemic changes are needed to address long-standing issues of bias as well as their current manifestations. AHA is committed to acknowledging these issues and working with others to find and amplify solutions. We acknowledge that an engaged, committed activism for policy and systems change will be necessary at global, federal, state and local levels. We acknowledge that policy recommendations for change will require a broader scope of commitment while complementing our existing policy efforts.

Science is the core business of the American Heart Association. We remain committed to seeking and applying evidence-based knowledge and to filling gaps where such evidence does not exist. We commit to collaborating with new partners from cultural anthropologists, social scientists, architects and engineers to data science and artificial intelligence technologies to community led/ based platforms engaging with patients and community members and beyond to find innovative solutions for health equity and to ensure that solutions do not widen but narrow those gaps.