



LOUISIANA
**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH**

*Bureau of Minority Health
Access and Promotions*

Functions and Mission

Major Functions

1. Assume a leadership role within state policy development, coordination of planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation of minority health activities;
2. Develop minority health initiatives including cultural competency standards and multilingual communications;
3. Provide a central information and referral source;
4. Provide input and/or coordinate conferences and other opportunities to increase skills among state and local agencies and government staff in management, and in the appreciation of improving the health status and profiles in racial/ethnic minorities and medically underserved populations in Louisiana;
5. Submit recommendations to educational institutions, health providers, government agencies, local and state health/human service agencies on the recruitment and retention of minorities in health professions;
6. Increase public awareness by publicizing minority health issues through the media.

MISSION

The Bureau facilitates collection, analysis, dissemination and access to information concerning minority health issues; addresses or eliminates health disparities for the underserved, under-represented populations in Louisiana by using multi-cultural and culturally-competent approaches to enhance the ways in which health services are designed and delivered; and builds the capacity of national, state and local government to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate high-quality cultural competence strategies for all domains of public health, including policy, funding and programs.

Bureau of Minority Health Access
Strategic Plan
September 2017 through August 2020

Mission: The Mission of the Bureau of Health Access is to lead an initiative to improve the health care of Louisiana's diverse population by fostering and strengthening partnerships among governmental and tribal entities, foundations, private businesses, professional organizations, and local communities and their leaders.

Goals:

- I. Developing the Infrastructure- A Centralized Resource Center
- II. Cultivate a structured health network in racial/ethnic communities and the medically underserved.
- III. Create and implement a standard approach to the use of community needs assessment.
- IV. Ensure that racial/ethnic minorities and the medically underserved become a significant part of each agency's agenda.
- V. Influence the private sector to become engaged in the process of health policy development and advocacy.
- VI. Ensure that minority and medically underserved populations are targeted with specific intervention to decrease morbidity and mortality.
- VII. Ensure that communities are active participants in developing healthy environments, which foster the health and well-being of those who live there.

Objective I.1 Develop a communications network with racial/ethnic communities, the medically underserved along with health organizations, local and state government, patient advocates and providers, to support minority health programs and issues. This Bureau will provide the venue that further connects research and community.

Strategy I. 1. 1 Establish a clearinghouse or resource center of health information within the Bureau of Health Access regarding health care issues that affect minority communities and the medically underserved.

Strategy I. 1. 2 Compile health related data that represents all ethnic and racial subgroups throughout the state utilizing the latest statistical data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Louisiana's Vital Statistics.

Strategy I. 1. 3 Produce a Bureau Newsletter and other health related literature concerning health care issues and research on minority communities, as well as information on local and national public and private organizations addressing minority health issues.

Strategy I. 1. 4 Provide information about available resources, i.e., grants, federal funding, internal funds, etc., and support the Department's efforts to acquire funds to implement quality health care.

Bureau of Minority Health Access
Strategic Plan
September 2017 through August 2020

Strategy I. 1. 5 Network with national, state and local organizations that provide information and resources about workplace diversity and culturally competent practices in health care delivery.

Strategy I. 1. 6 Produce a Web Page on the Internet linking to the Department of Health and Hospital's programs and services and other health related web pages statewide.

Output: Through partnerships with the community, this central resource center can function in a way that supports the enhanced public health of racial/ethnic minorities and medically underserved populations

Objective II.1 Ensure the communities that are primarily inhabited by racial/ethnic minority populations become engaged in the process of changing the health profile of the community.

Strategy II.1.1 Identify community-based organizations, voluntary agencies and organizations that work in minority communities and build a networking linkage within the communities

Strategy II. 1. 2 Identify key leaders in the minority communities. These individuals will represent churches, community action agencies, gate keepers, and stake holders.

Strategy II. 1. 3 Work to develop a system of community health directories for health service referrals.

Strategy II. 1. 4 Seek funding for minority community-based Organizations for culturally competent services.

Output: Increased cohesiveness in communities as they work to improve the health of the community. This process of change will involve and engage community-based organizations and other entities with a focus on improving the health of minorities and the medically underserved.

Objective III.1 Ensure that communities become competent in developing strategies in programs design, and assessing community health needs and public health policy issues.

Strategy III. 1. 1 Implement a workshop that will assist minority and medically underserved communities to develop an operational framework for longevity.

Strategy III. 1. 2 Identify model programs that have improved access and utilization of medical services and replicate these models in other areas.

Strategy III. 1. 3 Identify strategies to improve the linkages between health

Bureau of Health Access
Strategic Plan
September 2017 through August 2020

professionals working in minority and medically underserved communities and community-based organizations.

Output: Increased the level of community participation in health status change, and the number of strategies and linkages developed.

Objective IV. 1 Develop a statewide initiative engaging inter-agency coordination around minority and medically underserved health issues.

Strategy IV. 1. 1 Identify and work with other agencies and organizations dealing with priority health issues related to minorities and the medically underserved.

Strategy IV. 1. 2 Invite consultation from other agencies in planning community outreach projects and statewide in-service programs.

Strategy IV.1. 3 Target problems associated with racial/ethnic minorities and the medically underserved in the state and determine if these problems are cross-cutting in agencies.

Strategy IV.1. 4 Identify in-service training programs for state and regional staff which provides practical cultural relevant strategies working with racial/ethnic minorities and the medically underserved and review improvements as needed.

Output: Increased awareness and involvement in health related issues for minorities and the medically underserved. Number of agencies involved in efforts to improve the health of racial/ethnic minorities and the medically underserved.

Objective V. 1 Develop a system of community improvement zones, whereby the private sector targets a particular section of the community with various innovative actions.

Strategy V. 1. 1 Identify and implement a community action group which monitors the health status of the community and works to decrease the incidence of certain diseases or conditions.

Strategy V. 1. 2 Appeal to the private sector to serve in a surrogate advocacy role, working with communities in a coalition building function helping these communities advocate for better conditions.

Strategy V. 1. 3 Petition the private sector to work with various communities to develop enterprise zones for better economic conditions.

Bureau of Health Access

Strategic Plan

September 2017 Through August 2020

Output: A number of private sector entities working with communities across the state. Increased the number of minorities and medically underserved citizens participating in clinical trials for medical research and development of treatment for diseases having a disproportionate impact on minorities and the medically underserved.

Objective VI.1 Develop and implement a plan to decrease morbidity in racial/ethnic minority and medically underserved populations.

Strategy VI. 1. 1 Health related information from the Department of Health and Hospitals and education campaigns should promote preventive health.

Strategy VI. 1. 2 Ensure that prevention activities become more accessible to minority and medically underserved populations by ensuring affordability, targeted advertising, appropriate location, and hours and days of service provision. Health care services must be designed around the working and lifestyle of clients.

Strategy VI. 1. 3 Employ community support for initiatives to improve health status.

Identify the needs and problems of specific communities and find workable solutions that are acceptable within the communities.

Strategy VI. 1. 4 Eliminate barriers which inhibit health institutions from developing a more diverse work force across health programs, especially at the program management, program development, and policy-making levels.

Output: Increased the level of disease prevention with increased accessibility and availability. Number of racial/ethnic minorities and medically underserved provided services.

Objective VII. 1.1 Communities will have the skills and abilities to develop strategies that will lead to actions that prevent disease and death in racial/ethnic minorities and medically underserved populations in the state.

Strategy VII. 1. 1 Support communities in determining their prevention needs.

Strategy VII. 1. 2 Provide increased resources to communities.

Strategy VII. 1. 3 Reorganize state policies and programming to reflect community determined needs.

Strategy VII. 1. 4 Develop capacity-building tools to meet the needs of communities in the areas of disease prevention and health promotion.

**Bureau of Health Access
Strategic Plan
September 2017 through August 2020**

Strategy VII. 1. 5 Encourage school-based prevention programs.

Output: Increase community involvement in health promotion and prevention. Develop a standard for healthy minority and medically underserved communities by improving preventive health measures.

Bureau of Minority Health Access and Promotions Affiliations

- **Member of the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health (NASOMH)**
- **Member of the Regional Health Equity Council (RHEC)**

