

Bureau of Community Partnerships

2025 Fact Sheet

About

Established in January 2019, the Bureau of Community Partnerships promotes health access within the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and ensures that LDH's services are accessible and informed by those it serves. It works with LDH offices, bureaus, programs, and sections to promote and implement health access and community engagement principles and action items throughout LDH, and develops relationships with external organizations to foster cooperation and connections between LDH and the broader Louisiana community. As a part of this work, the team develops agency-wide health access plans, protocols, and tools that support the implementation of community partnership practices and standards within LDH.

Leadership

Mia Orr White, MHA, Bureau of Community Partnerships, Director

Programs and Services

Community Partnerships Database

The Community Partnerships Database centralizes the Bureau of Community Partnerships' lists of partners across the Department, organizing them by focus area and region. This structure promotes intentional collaboration between LDH and its community partners. By detailing community partners' expertise and service areas, the database enables LDH staff to quickly network with new partners. These connections foster the sharing of resources and ideas for program development, streamlining the process of integrating community voices into all LDH projects.

Review, Advise, and Inform Board

As a part of LDH's goal to increase and improve community partnerships and community engagement, the Bureau of Community Partnerships established a Review, Advise, and Inform (RAI) Board in June 2021. The RAI Board is comprised of community members from all nine regions of the state, representing a variety of demographic, professional, and cultural backgrounds. The RAI Board is tasked with providing expertise from their respective lived experiences and the experiences of the communities they serve into the health equity practices and plans of LDH's program offices. RAIB also provides input and guidance from a community perspective into LDH's State Health Assessment/State Health Improvement Plan, spearheaded by the Office of Public Health's Bureau of Planning and Performance.

Louisiana Health Equity Consortium

The Bureau of Community Partnerships facilitates meaningful and purposeful discussion on regional and local needs to reduce health inequities and improve health outcomes through the Louisiana Health Equity Consortium (LHEC). LHEC centralizes health access efforts across the state by bringing together governmental entities and community leaders and policy-makers to strategically foster improvement in identified health outcomes. LHEC also partners with the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force, created through legislation in 2022 and continued in 2023, to engage with rural partners and address health disparities specific to rural areas. With the support of the Bureau of Community Partnerships, the consortium facilitates the planning of equitable approaches to addressing health disparities in local areas. Through this work, LHEC acts as a catalyst for strategic partnerships, leveraging resources and community-engaged program implementation.