County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Webinar

Exploring strategies to strengthen civic participation for communities' health

April 16, 2024

countyhealthrankings.org

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Support provided by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

We value

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Courage
- Inclusion
- Excellence

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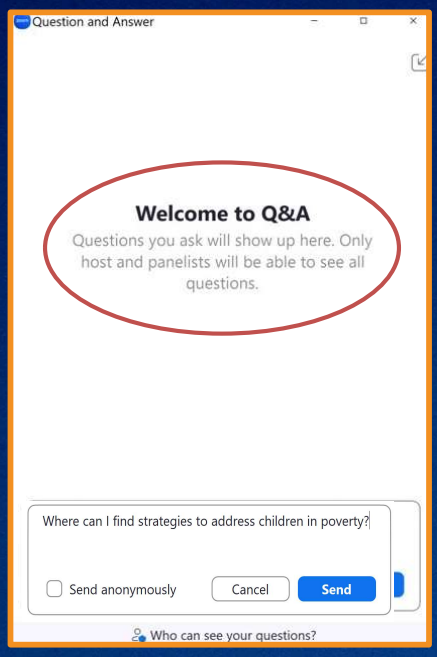
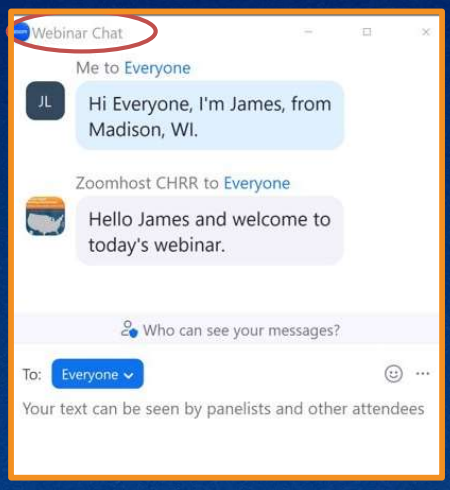
County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Join the conversation





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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Guidelines

1 **Share** successes and lessons learned

2 **Offer** resources

3 **Build** knowledge

4 **Listen** for multiple perspectives

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People and places thrive when everyone can participate!

- Take part in public meetings
- Vote

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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Structural barriers

- Daytime meetings
- Inaccessible meeting locations
- Limited voter registration window
- Limited / reduced voting hours

Photo by Antenna on Unsplash

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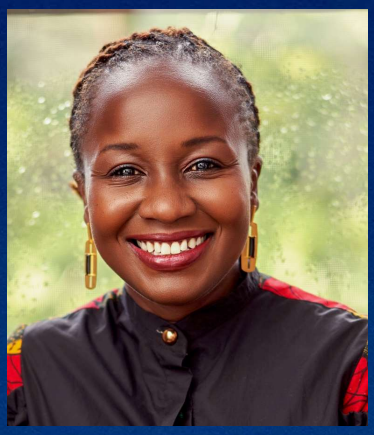
County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Welcome

Benita Duran
Senior director,
Equity and civic engagement
National Civic League



Dr. Stella Safo
Co-founder
Civic Health Alliance

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HEALTHY PLACES BY DESIGN

Discussion group

When: Following the webinar

What: Share ideas, ask questions

How: Zoom

Why: Deepen learning

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The Center for Democracy Innovation at the National Civic League

We work to:

- **Sustain** democracy by inviting people to help redesign "civic infrastructure"
- **Scale** democracy through strategies for inclusive engagement to improve equity and governance
- **Measure** the quality of democracy and engagement, particularly in ways that lift up residents' voices

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Founded in 1894 by a group led by Teddy Roosevelt and Louis Brandeis, the National Civic League is America's oldest good governance organization.

The Center for Democracy Innovation mission is to illuminate and expand examples of meaningful exchange: efforts to rebuild civic infrastructure, recenter elections around voters and map the full ecosystem of democracy.

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Better Public Meetings Research Communities

Boulder, Colorado	*Fayetteville, North Carolina*	*Mesa, Arizona*
City Council	*Community-Police Advisory Board* *Fayetteville Next commission*	*Mesa Public Schools Governing Board*

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Better Public Meetings project

Process and timeline

Democracy Innovation

National Civic League

CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE SCAN

- Interview community organizations and government staff.
- Launch a scorecard to rate public meetings.

COLLABORATE

Share the findings with the community and hold a visioning exercise.

DISCUSS IDEAS

Work with civic engagement practitioners, city managers, staff and elected officials to discuss prospects for better public meetings.

INTEGRATE INNOVATIONS

Continue monitoring approaches and tools that uniquely address the community's needs.

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What are interviewees saying?

- "There's a difference between **being heard and being listened to**...not just conceding to the most prominent voices in the room."
- "When you're elected, you're hearing from people at the wrong moment in a project."
- "Meetings can be intimidating and uncomfortable if you don't know the **right way (or the expected way) to communicate**."

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We found: A genuine desire for change from elected officials, staff and community

- Elected officials AND staff AND community members want better ways to engage
- Confusion about when, not just where, issues are being discussed
- Security has become a big concern – and cost
- A common refrain: Life is too short and who wants this aggravation?

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Approaches to Better Public Meetings?

- When they are face-to-face in a small-group setting
- When they can see the input displayed somehow it is clearer
- When they encounter different views and info
- When there is some sort of response from officials/institutions
- More front-end engagement dialogues

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Democracy Innovation

Benita A. Duran
National Civic League
Center for Democracy Innovation
Senior Director, Equity and Civic Engagement

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CIVIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

Our Origin: Patients Trust Us

"Hey Doc, I don't feel safe voting…"

- Created by 4 physicians as a nonpartisan movement for safe voting during the 2020 elections, as VoteHealth 2020.
- Became Civic Health Alliance in 2021 to change the culture of medicine around civic engagement.

VOTEHEALTH

CIVIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

Mission: Civic Health Alliance is a non-partisan coalition of health and civic leaders advancing America's health through civic engagement in care settings and communities.

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What Holds Us Back?

Healthcare workers see the end results of poor policy on health, yet lack the **time**, **resources** or **know-how** to help change these policies.

We need a way to offer easy, accessible opportunities for civic engagement.

Barriers include:

- Lack of **time**
- Lack of **experience** and community
- Fear of **institutional pushback**
- Fear of **patient alienation**
- Fear of engaging with anything "**political**"

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The Case for Civic Engagement

Make the case for health

Participation in civic engagement is associated with:

- Improved mental health
- Higher income
- Higher education
- Better self-reported health in later years in life

Civic activity is associated with

- States with more inclusive voting policies have better population level health outcomes[5]

Make it easy

Civic engagement impacts SDOH

A collection of tools and resources: Customized for the individual and provided in various contexts

[1]Ballard PJ, Hoyt LT, Pachucki MC, July 2019; [2]Hunter D., et al, Sept 21; [3]Arah OA, Fenn N, et al., Aug 2008

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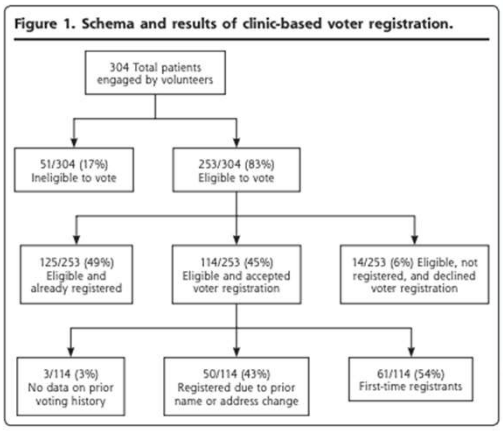
Modeling Civic Engagement in Health Settings

CIVIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

Power and privilege of health professionals can be leveraged to address health inequities at the policy level. High level of trust of patients in healthcare settings.



Source: Liggett, Alisha, et al. "Results of a voter registration project at 2 family medicine residency clinics in the Bronx, New York." *The Annals of Family Medicine* 12.5 (2014): 466-469.

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Modeling Civic Engagement in Health Settings

CIVIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

The Policy to Health Cascade

VOTING

Policy Decision

Implemented by Institutions and Individuals

Impact on population and individual health outcomes

Civic engagement covers the variety of ways individuals and collectives of people or organizations participate in their communities and public life, in service of addressing issues of public concern or improving community conditions.

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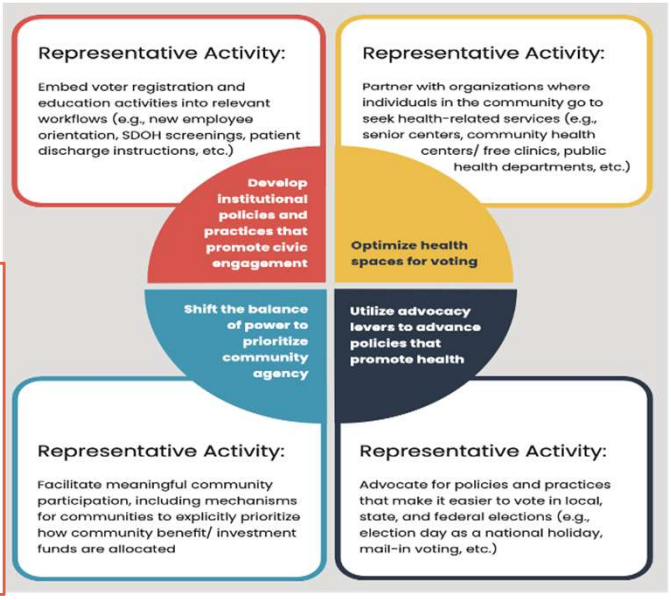
Promoting Civic Health In Health Settings

CIVIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

For health systems: We create the conditions for success

Civic Health Compact



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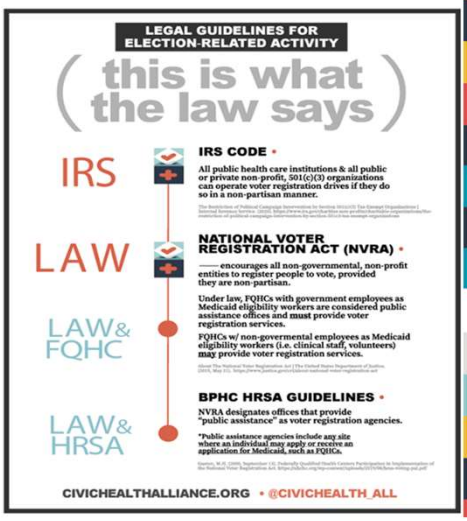
Promoting Civic Health In Health Settings

CIVIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

For individuals:

We help make the work feasible



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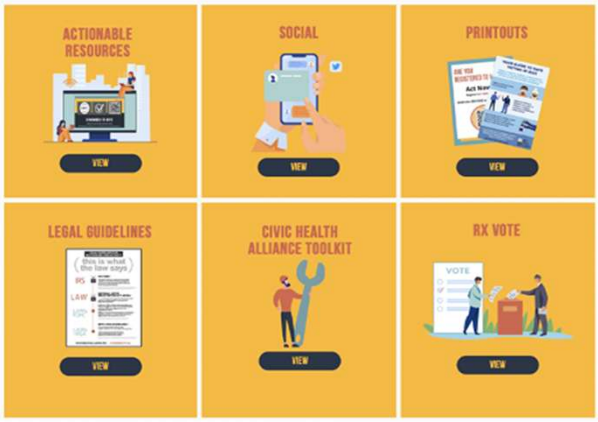
Promoting Civic Health In Health Settings

CIVIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

For communities: We meet you where you are



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The Future

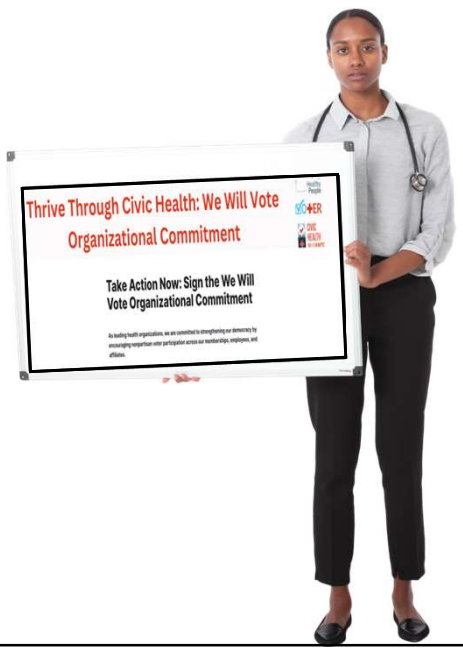
CIVIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

Thriving Through Civic Health Pledge Campaign: https://tally.so/r/3NXalb

Goal: Encourage individuals and institutions to pledge to vote and to help their colleagues vote in the 2024 election cycle.

Offers

- **What:** Toolkits, scripts, materials
- **How:** Trainings to prepare staff
- **Community:** Connection to other health systems
- **Measure:** via QR codes



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Promoting Civic Health In Health Settings

CIVIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

Access Resources Located at www.civichealthalliance.org

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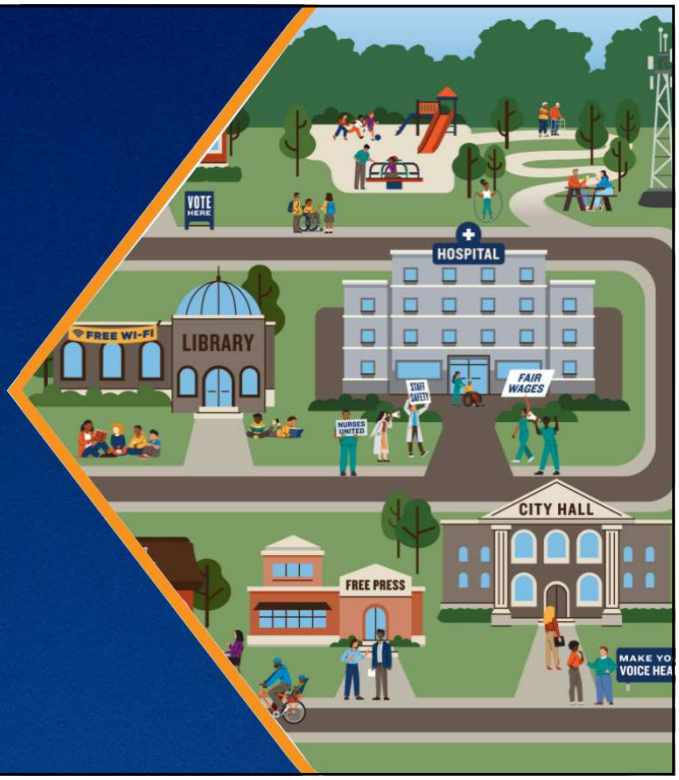
Learn more at What Works for Health

- Public deliberations
- Voter registration initiatives
- Civic Health Curated Strategy List



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Click on survey in the chat

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Questions?

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Upcoming webinar:

May 21, 2024

Identifying the forces behind persistent poverty

H. Luke Shaefer, Ph.D.
Professor
University of Michigan

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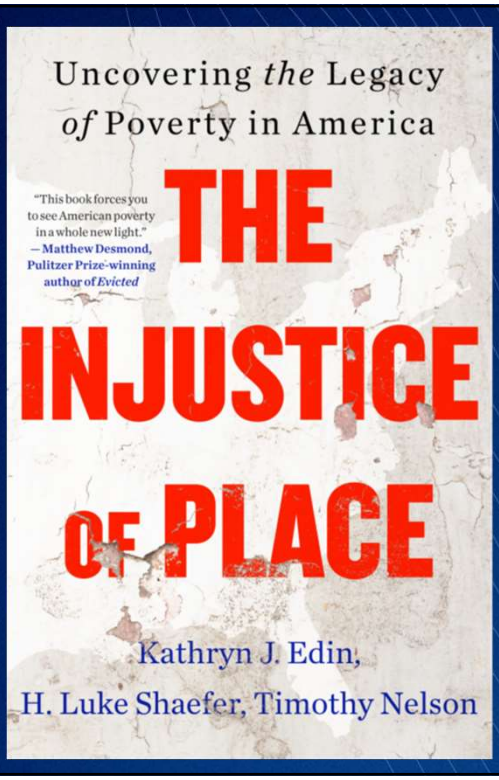
You may choose to read in advance



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