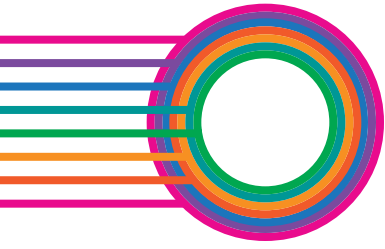# MEASUREMENT, LEARNING & EVALUATION

**Measurement** is about how we use information to chart our progress. Our shared learning is defined by what we measure and how we measure. Measurement helps us evaluate what works and what doesn't work. To support thriving people and places, measures must be developed with communities and must be situated in a connected, equitable data infrastructure.

*To drive collaborative improvement in population health and well-being, measures must cross sectors; address economic and social determinants of health, well-being, and equity; and improve the health and well-being of people and of places.*

**SOMAVA SAHA &
COLLEAGUES**

# MEASUREMENT, LEARNING & EVALUATION
## CHARTING PROGRESS

**The Well Being In the Nation (WIN) Measures** show connections between social conditions, health, community, and well-being

**100** organizations contributed to the WIN measures, including community members, sector leaders, federal partners, and those with lived experiences of inequities

**54** leading indicators related to drivers of health and well-being outcomes such as food, housing, economy, transportation, and health were chosen by leaders across sectors with priority to measures available at the subcounty level

**3** areas of focus
- Well-being of people
- Well-being of places
- Equity

*Facts adapted from the* **Measurement, Learning, & Evaluation** *Deep Dive*

**THE RAPID SPREAD AND HIGH MORTALITY OF COVID-19 AMONG POPULATIONS WITH HIGH LEVELS OF SOCIAL VULNERABILITY** have shined a spotlight on the inequities of our current system's inequities.

As we prepare to emerge from the initial peak of the pandemic, it is paramount that we set up systems to promote better and more equitable outcomes in health and well-being.

We must develop a comprehensive measurement strategy to drive collaborative improvement in population health and well-being by:

- Recognizing the ways in which multiple factors and sectors interact

- Implementing a balance of measures that relate to thriving people, thriving communities, and the systems that create racial and other inequities

- Evaluating measures using an equity lens that includes race/ethnicity, place, age, gender, sexual identity, language spoken at home, and wealth

- Employing community-oriented tools that can assess deeper system transformation

It is important to create "learning measurement systems" that encompass all collaborating sectors and are designed to reflect the lived experiences of inequality. These learning measurement systems need to harmonize data, facilitate smooth information sharing, and synchronize with one another.

### KEY ISSUES

- **Whole-person, whole-community outcome measures** are designed to depict how people feel about their own lives, their own communities, and their social conditions.

- **A system can only achieve equitable outcomes if equity-in-process** is part of its DNA. Community members and people with lived experience must be able to exert stewardship and control over their own information.

- **It is important to choose measures that catalyze cross-sector collaboration** and show the contribution of these sectors to overall health and well-being.

# PROMISING PRACTICES

We have been learning at an unparalleled pace in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis has led to massive shifts in public health, health care, the economy, modes of social connection, and mental health. To support resilience, communities and organizations need to develop an equitable measurement process and data infrastructure—and consider specific measures for thriving, struggling, and suffering. We recommend:

**COMMON MEASURES**
Communities need to identify a small set of common measures to assess overall outcomes.

**BALANCED MEASURES**
It is important to include subjective measures, like people-reported outcome measures to assess thriving, struggling and suffering, as well as objective measures, such as years of life lost or gained.

**EQUITABLE PROCESS**
Communities must identify measures that matter—and measures that relate to the context of their communities. This means that data has to be available at the community level (subcounty, ideally neighborhood).

**ASSESSMENT PROCESS**
Communities need a method for assessing their own journey in equitable transformation.

**DATA INFRASTRUCTURE**
An equitable data infrastructure must be developed in a way that is accessible to community residents, connected and interoperable across sectors, and equitably governed.

Learn more about the 40 measures recommended for equitable recovery and resilience in the Deep Dive.

## DATA IN ACTION

Flexible data hubs can be used to adapt to many challenges. Los Angeles County redirected its data hub to focus on COVID-19 and related factors by:

- Identifying homeless clients with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis to limit contact and promote safe isolation practices
- Informing shelter workers of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis so that they can take appropriate precautions

## CONNECTIONS

**PATH TO RENEWAL**
Transformative change requires a comprehensive measurement, learning, and evaluation strategy that is rooted in relationship with communities and that centers on equity. As we move toward renewed civic life, renewed economic life, and renewed social, emotional, and spiritual life, we must know how to chart our progress and what signs indicate we are moving in the right direction. Only by learning together can we ensure all people and places thrive.

ADAPTED FROM THE **MEASUREMENT, LEARNING & EVALUATION** DEEP DIVE