



# US Virgin Islands Department of Health

## Empowering Health Equity: USVI OT21-2103 Health Equity Toolkit



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### Background

- ✘ For many years, our agency has worked as hard to address the health disparities affecting the marginalized and underserved communities in our jurisdiction, with limited funding.
- ✘ Health VI 2030 crosscutting strategy: reducing health inequities
- ✘ Health equity in all policies framework in development
- ✘ OT21-2103 funding provided a unique opportunity for our agency to start addressing health disparities and building a foundation for health equity in the jurisdiction.
- ✘ This toolkit addresses various facets of inequality, including education, workforce diversity, care delivery, accessibility, community engagement, and hygiene promotion.

### Methods

- ✘ Leveraged grantor-funded technical assistance to build capacity through a pragmatic approach.
- ✘ Developed toolkit components that will strengthen these capacity building and sustainable efforts.
- ✘ Included programs initiatives in implementation plans.

#### Program Initiatives

- ✘ Education efforts
- ✘ Workforce development
- ✘ Resource guides
- ✘ Cultural Humility
- ✘ Community Involvement

#### Partners

- ✘ Healthcare experts
- ✘ Government Agencies
- ✘ NGOs, CBOs, FBOs
- ✘ Community leaders
- ✘ TA Partners

Although most tools are in working order, some are going through the last stages of refining to guarantee longevity after the OT21-2103 funding is expended.



### Findings

- Progress in addressing health disparities
- ✘ Health Equity Education Series in Schools - Empowering Future Advocates
- ✘ Public Health Career Pathways Resource - Building candidate pipeline and fostering workforce diversity.
- ✘ Employee Health Equity Orientation - Enhancing staff understanding and commitment to equitable care delivery while managing implicit and unconscious bias
- ✘ Functional Literacy Communication SOP - Improving accessibility to health information
- ✘ Annual Health Disparities Leadership Conference - Providing a forum for Health Equity discussions
- ✘ Cultural Community Engagement Events – Rebuilding trust in Public Health
- ✘ Clean Hands Protect - Mitigation Campaign promoting hygiene practices to mitigate health disparities

### Results

- ✘ Our Health Equity Toolkit is helping us make real progress toward advancing health equity.
- ✘ Customized initiatives are sustainable even after the funding time ends, making a lasting impact within our jurisdiction.
- ✘ We are unwavering in our dedication to promoting an inclusive and equitable public health environment where each person has fair access to the best possible health outcomes.

