

Unlocking the Power of Civic Health: How Your Involvement Can Transform Lives

Many people say, “I don’t do politics.” Fair enough.

But politics are “done” to you and your community every day. The people who influence your access to healthcare, housing, education, transportation, and banking – they ALL “do” politics. The people who decide where to place landfills, roads, grocery stores and libraries – they “do” politics.

Some of these decision-makers count on you to not engage.

The system often seems to make grassroots civic engagement feel uncomfortable and ineffective. But remember, this very engagement ignited our Community Health Center movement.

Grassroots civic engagement is the lifeblood of community health centers [CHCs]. Our centers are not just healthcare hubs; they are engines of community empowerment. Through grassroots involvement, CHC staff and the communities they treat, educate and empower bridge gaps, advocate for equitable healthcare policies, and tackle social drivers of health like poverty, housing instability, food insecurity, education barriers, and limited transportation. Active participation in local initiatives empowers individuals and amplifies their voices in decision-making.

Let’s integrate civic health into our work. Civic health reflects a community’s overall well-being through its civic engagement and participation – voting, volunteering, attending community meetings, and engaging in local governance. A community with robust civic health is resilient and cohesive, with residents actively shaping policies and decisions that impact their lives.

By promoting civic health, CHCs can more effectively address social drivers of health. Engaged and informed individuals advocate for essential changes, leading to improved healthcare, safer neighborhoods, and better education. Civic health complements grassroots engagement, strengthening CHCs as catalysts for positive change, making our communities healthier, more vibrant, participatory, and empowered.

Good public policy does not have to be partisan. The Alliance is here to help you build a robust program for civic health. We can help you set up voter registration opportunities, engage with decision makers, develop town hall meetings to learn about key issues impacting your patients and communities, and more.

We’re eager to help you engage.

Jennifer Longdon
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