

# NIMHD

National Institute on Minority Health  
and Health Disparities

## Voices from the Community

### Listening Sessions Report for the NIH-Wide Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan

July 2018

This report was prepared for the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities' Office of the Director and Office of Communications and Public Liaison by staff from PricewaterhouseCoopers Public Sector LLP under Contract No. GS-00F-045DA, Order No. HHSN275201800062U.



National Institute  
on Minority Health  
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## Who Did We Hear From?

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities is establishing the 2018-2022 NIH Strategic Plan for Minority Health and Health Disparities, which will set the direction and goals for minority health and health disparity research across the NIH for the coming years. NIMHD held seven community listening sessions between March and May 2018, engaging PricewaterhouseCoopers Public Sector LLP to work collaboratively with the Office of the Director and Office of Communications and Public Liaison to provide logistical and analytic support. Four in-person sessions were held in Omaha, Nebraska; San Francisco, California; Atlanta, Georgia; and Washington, District of Columbia (DC), and three sessions were conducted virtually to garner perspectives in areas where listening sessions were not held. The sessions sought input on the three primary thematic areas of the NIH Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan: **1. Scientific Research**, **2. Research-Sustaining Activities**, and **3. Outreach, Collaboration and Dissemination**.

**LISTENING SESSIONS**

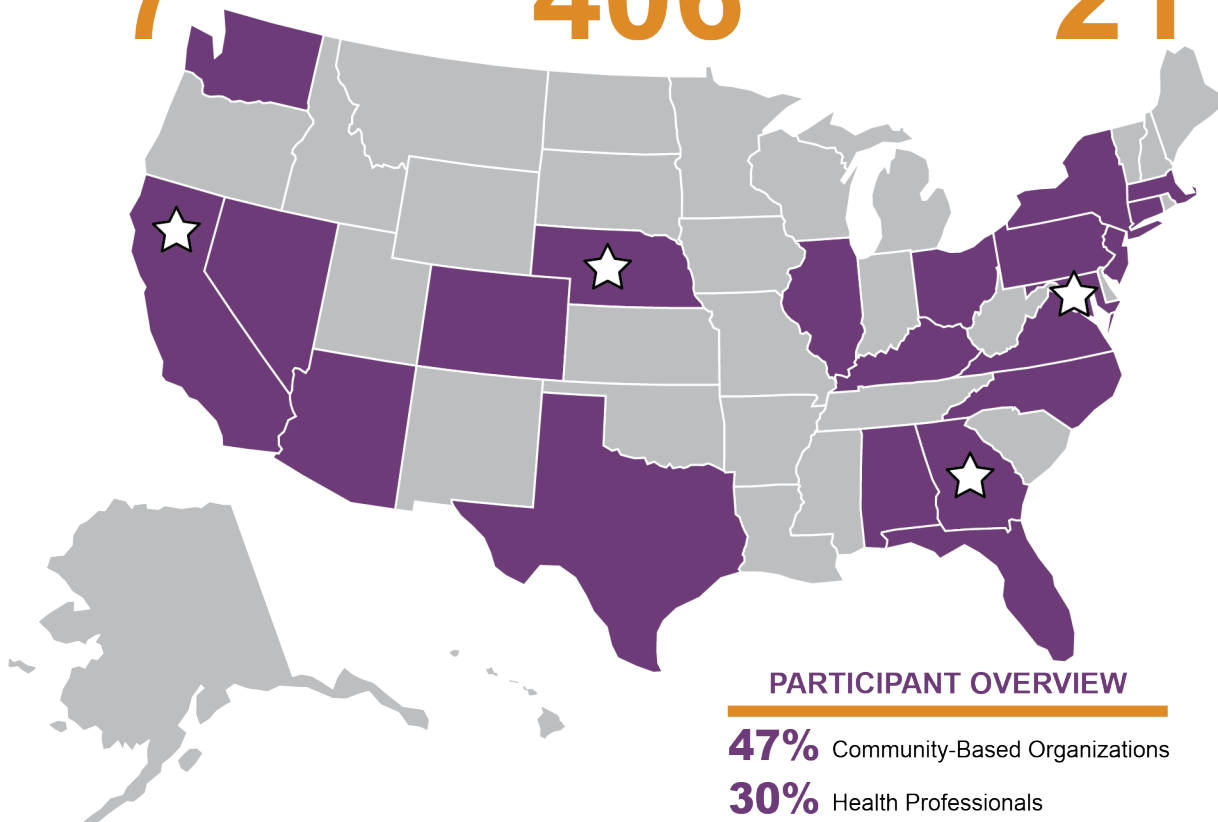
**7**

**INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED**

**406**

**STATES**

**21**



☆ = In-person listening session locations

■ = Participant origin

### PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW

**47%** Community-Based Organizations

**30%** Health Professionals

**13%** Researchers

**4%** Federal Stakeholders

**4%** Industry/Innovators

**1%** Policymakers

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## What Did We Learn?

The findings and perspectives shared by listening session participants are presented below and organized according to the three thematic areas of the draft Strategic Plan.



### ► Scientific Research

- **Social Determinants of Health:** Research the different ways living conditions such as access to jobs, safe, housing, and quality education affect health status.
- **Culturally Responsive Research:** Focus on community strengths in research (e.g., traditions, community support systems, resilient attitudes) and identify ways to conduct research and improve health outcomes with those assets in mind.
- **Translation and Dissemination of Community-Centered Research:** Communicate research findings effectively back to the community in a way that is digestible, but comprehensive in order to improve the relevance and impact of research investment.
- **Data Quality and Accessibility:** Improve the quality of data collection, sharing and presentation to enable community understanding of research outputs and health interventions.

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“Even proud displays of bilingualism helps to affirm the validity of our culture and shows that cultural differences are not impediments to success.”

– Community-Based Organization (Omaha, NE)

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“We need data to establish a baseline and show the disparity in order to explain why we are doing what we are doing.”

– Community-Based Organization (Atlanta, GA)

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### ► Research-Sustaining Activities

- **Equitable Community Participation in Research:** Challenge the historical hierarchy between researchers and the community (i.e., research participants vs. partners) by actively engaging the community across each phase of research process.
- **Visible Representation within the Biomedical Workforce:** Increase awareness of and interest in science career pathways by having role models that reflect the diverse identities within the community.
- **Cultural Competency Training for Biomedical Workforce:** Educate the research workforce on implicit bias, cultural differences, social determinants of health, and effective community engagement practices.

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“To increase community-driven research participation, NIH can connect with community health workers or other health promoters that are accustomed to doing outreach and enable them to serve as data-collectors and researchers. [ . . . ] Community health workers can also convene community forums and facilitate creative, culturally-appropriate action plans.”

– Community-Based Organization (virtual session)

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## ► Outreach, Collaboration, & Dissemination

- **Value Reciprocity in the Researcher-Community Relationship:** Provide meaningful compensation to community participants for their time (e.g., through transportation and childcare) and incentivize community research participants and partners to acknowledge their expertise and input across the research process (e.g., as committee reviewers, data collectors, and co-authors and presenters).
- **Trust-based Relationships:** Partner with trusted local community institutions (e.g., advocacy, schools, community clinics, and faith-based organizations) to address issues of historical distrust with research and government.
- **Culturally Sensitive and Relevant Communication:** Use culturally sensitive messaging on relevant platforms to provide health information to target demographics.

“By connecting with local or national organizations who are already well-connected and known within particular communities, NIH/NIMHD can use the network or snowball effect to expand its reach.”

– Community-Based Organization (virtual session)

“At [organization name], we find that one of the best ways to message something to our community is to get on the nightly news [. . .] and I just would re-iterate the value of NIH doing outreach on non-English speaking media.”

– Health Professional (Washington, DC)

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## Next Steps for Engagement

The findings presented in this community listening sessions report will inform the NIH-Wide Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan by providing NIH and the strategic planning leadership with insight for advancing strategic plans related to scientific priority-setting, conducting research-sustaining activities, community outreach, and dissemination. NIMHD also hopes to use these findings to support a robust community engagement process for future strategic planning efforts and to maintain ongoing, transparent communication with community stakeholders. If you are interested in remaining connected with NIMHD, below are a few ways to get started.

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- Subscribe to [email updates](#) to receive notification of ongoing and upcoming activities related to minority health and health disparities
  - Tune in to the [Director's Seminar Series](#) highlighting new minority health and health disparities discoveries
  - Attend or view [National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities \(NACMHD\)](#) meetings
  - Explore [HD Pulse](#) for Minority Health and Health Disparities data and resources
  - Learn about research and training grants offered by NIMHD
    - [Training and Career Development Grants](#)
    - [Active Funding Opportunities](#)
    - [Resources for Research Applicants](#)
  - Catch up on our latest blog posts on [NIMHD Insights](#)
  - You can also get resources from NIH Institutes and Centers
    - Connect on [social media](#)
    - Get [health information](#) for your community
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