

For Immediate Release
April 9, 2024

Statewide Equity Action Summit Announced in Delaware **“Moving Delaware Forward: From Equity Awareness to Action”** *April 18 & 19, 2024 at the Chase Center on the Riverfront*

Equity-Focused Collaborative Event Co-Hosted by 20 Organizations

Summit to Feature Free Attendance, Workshops, Breakout Sessions, Wellness Sessions, Poster Gallery Walk, Vendors, Keynotes from LaTosha Brown (co-founder of Black Voters Matter) and U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine, MD, and a concluding “Equity Rocks” Night at the Wilmington Blue Rocks baseball game.

Wilmington, Delaware (April 9, 2024) – Delaware will convene a collaborative equity action summit: **Moving Delaware Forward: From Equity Awareness to Action on April 18 & 19, 2024** at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. The summit was designed and is being co-hosted collaboratively among 20 organizations working to improve equity in Delaware.

This event will attract about 500 residents of Delaware, members of nonprofit organizations, policymakers, youth leaders, local businesses, and state agencies. The goal of the event is to work and learn together to ensure that all people and places in Delaware are thriving—no exceptions, using the framework of the Vital Conditions for Health, Well-Being and Equity as a guide for the event programming.

Specifically, the goals of the event are to:

- Showcase equity action already happening in communities; demonstrate ways to build on this momentum; and energize the next phases of Delaware’s equity movement.
- Create more hope, connection, alignment and collaboration among equity-builders and initiatives.
- Generate understanding and support for Vital Conditions for Well-Being and multi-solving as foundations for creating equity.
- Define and activate strategic multi-solving efforts toward systems change.
- Share approaches to advance equity that model culturally and linguistically appropriate practices.
- Connect participants to current policy and systems change efforts related to advancing equity.
- Promote ways to engage in organizing and advocacy for equity.
- Create and curate a space where individuals can come and feel seen, supported, and leave feeling rejuvenated as members of a broader community, fortified to sustain involvement in equity action.
- Inspire and prepare participants to take one or two new actions.



The free, two-day event boasts keynote speakers Admiral Rachel L. Levine, M.D., U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health and LaTosha Brown, co-founder of Black Voters Matter. LaTosha Brown will be drawing from her experiences as a Co-Founder of the Black Voters Matter Foundation and will share her story of power building and civic engagement that played an instrumental role in the 2017 Alabama U.S. Senate race, and inspire Delaware's equity champions to action. Admiral Rachel Levine will illustrate the powerful connections between equity work happening across Delaware's communities and the pursuit of equity on the federal level, showing how Delaware can leverage a Federal Plan for Equitable Long-Term Recovery and Resilience.

Topics and areas of focus among the 500 attendees over the course of the two days will include:

- How to energize cross-sector equity action with vital conditions for health and well being
- Communities in Delaware through Environmental Justice and Inclusive Sustainability
- The Housing Crisis and Affordable Humane Housing
- Community Organizing
- Building Community Power through Local News
- Overcoming Transportation Inequities
- Cultural Resilience: Healing Generational Trauma
- How the state of Delaware is prioritizing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Fulfilling Jobs & Living Wages: Community Prosperity Building in Delaware
- Engaging Youth Leaders to Drive Equity Action
- Advancing Equity through the Arts in Delaware

"We invite you to join in Delaware's ongoing movement to advance equity for all as shared stewards. Our goal is to work and learn together to ensure that all people and places in Delaware are thriving—no exceptions. Over two days, we will explore the vital conditions for well-being, "multisolving" to advance equity, showcase local initiatives, and find ways to build momentum and collective action", said **Kate Dupont Phillips, Executive Director, Healthy Communities Delaware**.

"There are valiant efforts to advance health equity all over the state working at the individual, household and community levels. Convening these organizations together with community leaders, residents and legislators will give us the opportunity to shine a light on the great and important work underway and to better coordinate existing services with the goal of scaling up impact. The meaningful, equity-focused discourse that will take place over these two days represents the promise of the more equitable Delaware we all believe is possible. I urge those who want that brighter future to join us at the Chase Center on April 18-19," said **Raina Allen, Director, Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative**

"One of the key principles discussed during the summit will be multi-solving," said **Chief of DPH's Bureau of Health Equity Sequoia Rent**. "Through multi-solving, we can look at the whole picture and tackle several issues from multiple angles, all at once with a single solution, to better promote health equity. As a result of this refocused approach, we can minimize health disparities in the communities we serve. Anyone who wants to learn more or sees themselves as a 'multi-solver' should join us on April 18th and 19th."

"Delaware has such a robust community of organizations and community champions that are working toward multi-solving and equity within all sectors up and down the state. There is no shortage of passion or determination for change here in Delaware, as exemplified by all that is happening over the course of this statewide event. In coming together, we all must carry the momentum and be active and engaged to bring the change we all want to see - and that action includes making sure your voice is heard with your vote, and bringing a family member, neighbor, and a friend with you to the polls", said **LaTosha Brown Co-Founder of Black Voters Matter**.

“Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally to eliminate disparities in health and health care. I firmly believe that we have not made progress unless we all make progress. Gathering organizations and individuals across all sectors for this dialogue will help Delawareans thrive,” said **Admiral Rachel L. Levine, MD, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health.**

"The changemakers here in Delaware are providing a blueprint for stewards across the country to work more intentionally toward equitable health and well-being," said **Becky Payne, President, and CEO of The Rippel Foundation.** "Rippel has been proud to partner with Healthy Communities Delaware on their journey, including this unprecedented event that brings together Delawareans from every sector to focus on expanding the vital conditions that we all need to thrive."

Please see the enclosed event flier that outlines the summit and visit the event website at EquityActionDE.com to for more information. Taking part in the conversation at **#EquityActionDE** is also encouraged.

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About Healthy Communities Delaware: *Healthy Communities Delaware is a collaborative initiative to improve health, well-being and equity in Delaware. (HCD) is managed as a collaboration among the University of Delaware Partnership for Healthy Communities, the Delaware Division of Public Health, and the Delaware Community Foundation. It works in partnership with Delaware communities with the most to gain, with the goal that all people and places in Delaware are thriving, no exceptions. Its focus is on advancing community-driven priorities around the social determinants of health/vital conditions—conditions into which Delawareans are born, grow, live, learn, work and play that affect their health and well-being. HCD uses a collaborative, place-based approach with the goal of collective impact. For more information, please visit HealthyCommunitiesDE.org.*

About the Vital Conditions Framework: *Vital signs, like heart rate, temperature, and weight, tell us what is going on in our body. Vital conditions tell us what is going on in our community and in the world around us. Vital conditions are the properties of places and institutions that we all need all the time to reach our full potential – a thriving natural world, humane housing, meaningful work and wealth, lifelong learning, reliable transportation, basic needs for health & safety, and belonging and civic muscle. These are the conditions that all people need all the time to be healthy and well.*



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