



MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

MHTTC Network | How We Define Equity

Equity is integral to supporting optimal wellness, healing and recovery of individuals, communities, and systems of services (health, behavioral health, education, etc.). Equity requires contextualizing race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, geographical location, language, as well as other identities, and their intersections through the lens of history and lived experience both for the persons who are served as well as the providers who are a part of that system. Equity centers the experience of persons and communities affected by systemic inequities to improve results for entire populations while closing gaps created by those inequities.

It asks that everyone has equitable (fair and just) opportunities to:

- Access and utilize needed services and supports
- Attain wellness and healing
- Achieve the highest level of health outcome

This requires:

- using and supporting the use of disaggregated data to ascertain where disparities lie
- conducting an intentional and focused analysis on equity, which acknowledges the root causes of inequities
- eliminating barriers to access and utilization
- lifting and engaging community strengths
- relentlessly pursuing justice to eliminate discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education, housing, and other social determinants of health.

This definition of equity posits an integrated focus that supports promotion of wellness, access to healing, and the resilience of the individual, community, and the systems that serve them.

For a compilation of products and resources on cultural responsiveness, racial equity, and cultural diversity, please visit the [MHTTC Racial Equity & Cultural Diversity Resource Page](#).



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