

# DRIVE TO ZERO

Disparities Award

## 2024 Resources and Metrics Guide

The Drive to Zero Disparities Award, part of SCHA's Zero Harm Priority Awards, is given in partnership with SCHA DEI Collaborative and The Alliance for a Healthier SC and recognizes facilities who are working to reduce health disparities and promote health equity for patients through the adoption of specific priorities as outlined by the [Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Equity Reporting Guidelines](#).

To qualify for the award, a facility must attest to completion/implementation of **all components of ( 5 of 5 )** domains in **Part 1: Hospital Commitment to Health Equity** and attest that they screen for at least 5 out of 5 health related social needs for all inpatients (exclusions noted on application) 18+ in **Part 2: Screening for Social Drivers of Health** between July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

\*Please note: a percentage of hospitals applying will be audited and asked to provide additional documentation for award validation.

### Part 1: Hospital Commitment to Health Equity (5 out of 5 domains required)

#### EQUITY IS A STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Hospital commitment to reducing healthcare disparities is strengthened when equity is a key organizational priority.

- Our hospital strategic plan identifies priority populations who currently experience health disparities.
- Our hospitals strategic plan identifies healthcare equity goals and discrete action steps to achieving these goals.
- Our hospital strategic plan outlines specific resources which have been dedicated to achieving our equity goals.
- Our hospital strategic plan describes our approach for engaging key stakeholders, such as community-based organizations.

#### DATA COLLECTION

Collecting valid and reliable demographic and social determinant of health data on patients served in a hospital is an important step in identifying and eliminating health disparities. Our hospital collects demographic information, including self reported race and ethnicity, and/or social determinant of health information on the majority of our patients.

- Our hospital has training for staff in culturally sensitive collection of demographic and/or social determinants of health information.
- Our hospital inputs demographic and/or social determinant of health information collected from patients into structured, interoperable data elements using a certified EHR technology.

## DATA ANALYSIS

Effective data analysis can provide insights into which factors contribute to health disparities and how to respond.

·Our hospital stratifies key performance indicators by demographic and/or social determinants of health variables to identify equity gaps and include this information on hospital performance dashboards.

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Health disparities are evidence that high quality care has not been delivered equally to all patients. Engagement in quality improvement activities can improve quality for all patients.

·Our hospital participates in local, regional or national quality improvement activities focused on reducing health disparities.

## LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Leaders and staff can improve their capacity to address disparities by demonstrating routine and thorough attention to equity and setting an organizational culture of equity.

·Our hospital senior leadership, including senior executives and the entire hospital board of trustees, annually reviews our strategic plan for achieving health equity.

·Our hospital senior leadership, including chief executives and the entire hospital board of trustees, annually reviews key performance indicators stratified by demographic and/or social factors.

## Part 2: Screening for Social Drivers of Health (5 out of 5 domains required)

Please attest that you screen for **5 out of 5** health related social needs for ALL (*not a sample, but all discharges*) inpatients 18 and older excluding 1) patients who opt out of screening 2) patients who are themselves unable to complete the screening during their inpatient stay and have no legal guardian or caregiver able to do on the patient's behalf during their inpatient stay.

Do you screen for these health-related social needs?	Yes	No
a. Food insecurity		
b. Housing instability		
c. Transportation needs		
d. Utility difficulties		
e. Interpersonal safety		