

WHY IS PARENT LEADERSHIP AN EQUITY STRATEGY

Laying the Foundation for Equity



What is Health Equity?

The 2017 report, *What is Health Equity?* (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), sets the context for the framework and continued evolution of Michigan's Home Visiting Parent Leadership system.

The connection between equity and parent leadership is drawn from the first action step outlined in the report. To move towards actionable health equity work, you must first ***“identify important health disparities that are of concern to key stakeholders, especially those affected...”***(P.7). In home visiting, the key stakeholders are the families who are receiving home visiting services.

In order to understand and implement strategies that will produce the momentum needed for meaningful change, we need to learn from the parents who receive home visiting services and truly prioritize their lived experience and expertise.

Without investing in the development of parent leadership, we are not positioned to have the infrastructure needed to build equitable and equal partnerships with families. This is a key principle that must guide actions in advancing equity.

Braverman, P., Arking, E., Orleans, T., Proctor, D., and Plough, A. *What is Health Equity and What Difference Does a Definition Make?* Princeton, NJ: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2017.

Parents uniquely have the lived experience and expertise to teach us what barriers and challenges families face from their perspective, in terms of accessing needed resources.

