

HEC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Health Equity Commission Grants Subcommittee Meeting
Date & Time	April 15, 2025 3:00-4:00pm
Location	Zoom

Grants Subcommittee Commissioners: Sena Harjo (Co-chair), Meghan Guevara (Co-Chair), Julissa Soto, Shawn Turk

Staff: Arlen Zamula, Beck Furniss, Elijah Ayers, Jesus Rodriguez-Serrano, Kimberly Blackhorse, Lynda Saignaphone, Phuonglan Nguyen, Rachel Bryan-Auker, Robert McComb, Sheryl Emery, Solace Kent, Keegan Orr, Dorah Labatte, Cyril Bennouna, Anne Hill, Megan Comer, Meredith Davis

Interpreters: Elijah Ayers (ASL), Tonya Johnson (Spanish/CDPHE)

Agenda Topics

- Welcome, interpretation instructions, and language justice introduction
- Inclusive and accessible communication reminder
- Land acknowledgement
- Conference overview
- Co-Chair Guevara provided the update that she will be joining CDPHE as the Director of the Office of Environmental Justice, and she will therefore be leaving her role as a Health Equity Commissioner
- Co-Chair Harjo provided an overview of the HEC Grants Subcommittee Purpose
- CDPHE provided an overview of the upcoming HDCGP Conference (May 15-16, 2025)
 - Objectives:
 - Showcase grantee impact
 - Build evaluation capacity
 - Foster peer connection
 - Strengthen collaborative leadership
 - Commissioner Soto asked to what degree the conference would be open and accessible for community members. CDPHE answered that the conference will inherently be community-led, featuring many community grantee presenters and centering grantees. Emphasized that the conference is focused on making the core principles and approaches of the program accessible to all attendees. The goal is to put health equity and evaluation at the center.



- Co-Chair Guevara asked if this was the first time the cohort of Grantee's was meeting
 - CDPHE confirmed that this will be the first time the various grantees are meeting one another
- Co-Chair Harjo asked about the flow of the conference day and whether there will be a map
 - CDPHE used the map of the conference venue to visualize the flow of the conference day
 - There will be handouts and a QR code with the map
- Commissioner Soto asked about what the measures will be to keep attendants engaged
 - CDPHE responded that entertainment is not an allowed category for the grants program, unfortunately. Noted that we're doing what we can to make the content engaging, but this is also an opportunity for HEC commissioners to engage and develop relationships with attendees
- CDPHE provided a review of the grant cycle and planning which will begin Summer/Fall 2025
 - Commissioner Soto recommended updating the grant application review protocol to help guide the review committee
 - CDPHE affirmed that this is one of the key planned next steps the team is taking to improve the grant process
 - Commissioner Soto asked whether commissioners will get to know the grants review committee members
 - CDPHE will look into the idea
 - Co-Chair Guevara asked whether there will be an opportunity for applicants from the previous cycle to provide feedback on the process
 - CDPHE answered that there were two rounds of feedback surveys (PAR-RFA and RFA) in 2024.
 - Co-Chair Harjo asked whether this included efforts to assess factors that may have made it easier for applicants with limited capacity to apply
 - CDPHE described some of the ways the team addressed this concern
 - CDPHE provided an overview of the upcoming HEC retreat and the next HEC meeting on May 20, 2025