



Help to inform the Boston Public Health Commission's and City of Boston's and planning process on strategies related to Mayor Martin Walsh's declaration of racism as a public health crisis.

Overview of racism as a public health crisis

Racism is a threat to our public health and safety. It affects access to those resources that promote health, like good jobs and healthy housing, and healthy and affordable food. Chronic stress also has health effects. The experience of racism – being followed in stores, questioned about your right to be somewhere or frightening interactions with law enforcement, all can result in chronic stress and poorer health.

Boston's residents are majority people of color, and Boston remains racially segregated. There are persistent disparities in health outcomes for Black and Latinx Bostonians as compared to White Bostonians for many health indicators including birth outcomes, asthma, diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic conditions. This racial segregation results in great differences in health outcomes by zip code.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the harm of pre-existing inequities caused by racism resulting in disproportionate exposure, COVID-19 cases and poor outcomes among Boston's Black and Latino residents and related social and economic harm.

Racial justice is the creation and proactive reinforcement of policies, practices, attitudes and actions that produce equitable power, access, opportunity, treatment and outcomes for all people regardless of race.

Boston's City government is recommitting to addressing the impact that racism has on the lives of all our neighbors and how it impacts the City's overall health.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh has directed the Mayor's Office of Health and Human Services with the Boston Public Health Commission and all City departments to advance the following eight strategies to combat racism as a public health crisis and the resulting health inequities:

- Create **policy solutions to dismantle systemic racism and barriers** to public health by evaluating current policies and using data to drive change.



- **Develop a "Boston Health Equity Now" plan** that includes clear objectives and measurable goals to address the root causes of the inequities that cause disparities in health outcomes.
- **Engage historically marginalized communities** to identify problems, solutions and support a community driven response.
- Require public **reporting of race and ethnicity data that documents health inequities** in Boston by working with hospitals and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to access this critical information.
- **Analyze data to better understand the interconnectedness of societal, environmental and behavioral factors** that contribute to the impact of racism and access to jobs, food, housing, transit and education.
- Improve **access to prevention and treatment that is culturally and linguistically competent.**
- Develop services and **programs to address the negative impact these inequities have had** on specific populations.
- **Advocate at the state and federal level for policies and funding opportunities** that directly combat systemic racism.

Our Invitation

This Request for Information (RFI) is to solicit input into Boston’s eight strategies to address racism as a public health crisis. This RFI is one of many ways we are including Boston residents, particularly those most affected by racism and historically marginalized in government decision-making. We are requesting demographic information as part of your responses so that we can ensure we are reaching those most affected.

Racism has measurable impacts, including on income, health and interactions with institutions and with government and other representatives. We welcome your comments on how we can achieve a racially just and equitable Boston.

We also invite you to participate in a virtual assembly on Racism as a Public Health Crisis to be held in October. To be notified of the Boston Board of Health Assembly, please email healthequity@bphc.org of your interest.

APPENDIX 1: RESPONSES

For Organizations (ex. Community-Based, Faith-Based), Coalitions, Agencies and Businesses that directly interact or serve historically marginalized communities: Submit responses to the questions below to healthequity@bphc.org of your vision for a racially just and equitable Boston. Please be sure to put “RFI” in the subject of your email. Submissions should be no longer than 3 pages and may be submitted in **Chinese, Cabo Verdean Creole, Haitian Creole, English, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.**

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

RFI – Vision for a Racism-Free Boston

Boston Public Health Commission

Email: healthequity@bphc.org

09.18.2020



- **Introduction (1/2 page):** Please introduce your organization and the population/neighborhood you serve by answering the following questions:
 - Name of your organization
 - Describe the geographic and racial/ethnic and demographic information of the population you serve.
 - Describe the geographic and racial/ethnic and demographic information of your staff.
 - What sector does your organization primarily impact? (housing, jobs, food, faith, immigrant rights, environment, mental health, etc.)
 - What is the purpose/mission of your organization?

- **Vision (2 ½ pages):** Please propose your vision for a racially just and equitable Boston by answering one or more of the questions below.
 - What work are you doing that addresses racism as a public health crisis?
 - What work would you propose to address the eight strategies laid out by Mayor Martin J. Walsh to combat racism as a public health crisis? (Appendix 2)
 - Are there strategies not included in the eight strategies that are necessary to combat racism as a public health crisis?
 - What opportunities do you see in your work to partner with BPHC and the City of Boston?

For Individual Residents: Share your thoughts and experiences in an online form in one of these languages: [Chinese](#), [Cabo Verdean Creole](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [English](#), [Portuguese](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#). **Organizations** – please send your members this form to ensure we hear from a wide range of Boston residents.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

[APPENDIX 2: Mayor Martin J. Walsh’s Executive Order Declaring Racism and Emergency and Public Health Crisis in the City of Boston](#)

