Use this worksheet to identify entry points in your local health department (HD) and prepare for power-mapping. For more on power-mapping, check out this template from the School of Unity and Liberation.

Learn about your HD

Tip: Search the HD website for an organization chart (reach out to the HD if unavailable online).

1. What is your local health department organization? [See this NACCHO directory](humanimpact.org/publichealth101)

2. Who is on the leadership team?

3. Who is the leadership team accountable to? County health departments are often governed by a local Board of Health or other local government body, and state health departments by governors.

4. Does the HD have a history of working with other community organizers? Community-power building organizations (CPBOs) organize people and communities who are most impacted by our inequitable systems; other CPBOs may be able to help you with the “find your people” step below.
HD Power-Mapping Primer

Identify potential alignment

Tip: Search for a Community Health Improvement Plan, or other strategic planning documents on the HD website (reach out to the HD if unavailable online).

1. What does the HD’s latest Community Health Improvement Plan say about advancing health equity, engaging community, or addressing structural racism and other forms of structural oppression?

2. Do any of the HD priority areas (e.g. housing, children’s health, violence, racism, etc) overlap with your goals or the needs of your communities?

3. Do recent communications on the HD’s website or social media indicate alignment with your goals?

Find your people

Tip: Connect with staff who have health equity, community health assessment, community engagement, policy and planning, community health, or prevention in their job title.

1. Are there HD leaders and/or staff who may be allies in your work?

2. Who are their community engagement leads for this issue, if any?

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