SOCIAL DETERMINANTS FRAMEWORK
(River Model)

The following graphic illustrates another way to visualize the continuum of upstream, midstream, and downstream actions needed to eliminate the root causes of inequities, with a few sample strategies provided.

Multnomah County Health Equity Initiative

Source:
Balajee, Sonali S., et al., (2012).
Equity and Empowerment Lens (Racial Justice Focus), pg 56.
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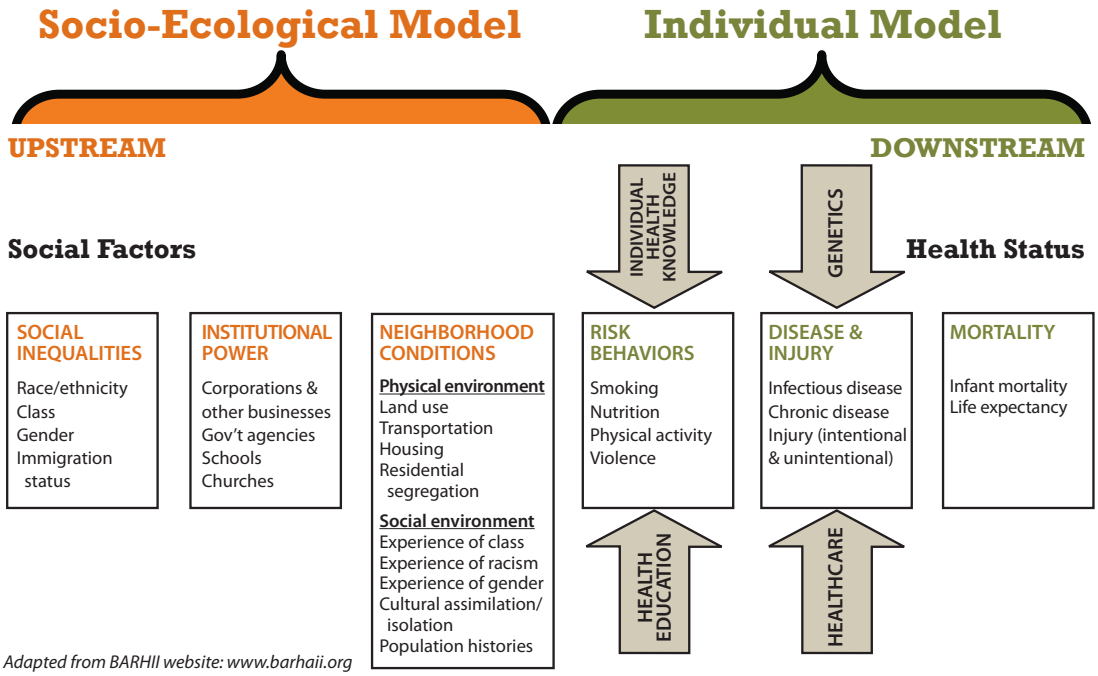
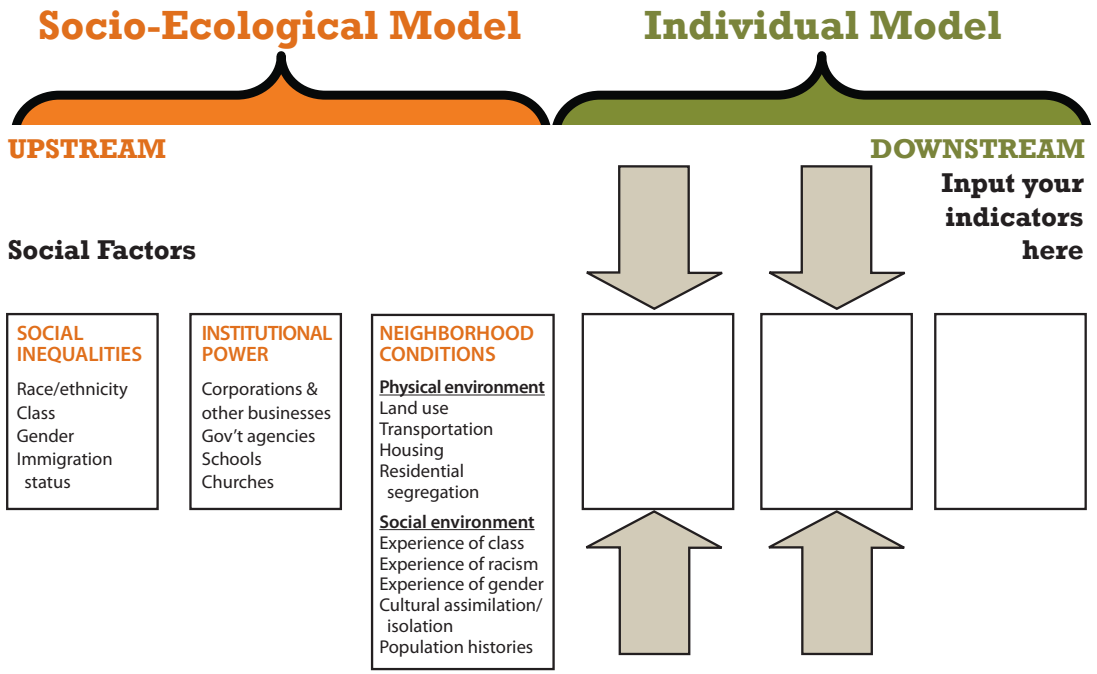
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS FRAMEWORK
(Linear Model)

Health Department Example



Adapted from BARHII website: www.barhaii.org

Your Example



Source:
Balajee, Sonali S., et al., (2012).
Equity and Empowerment Lens (Racial Justice Focus), pg 57.
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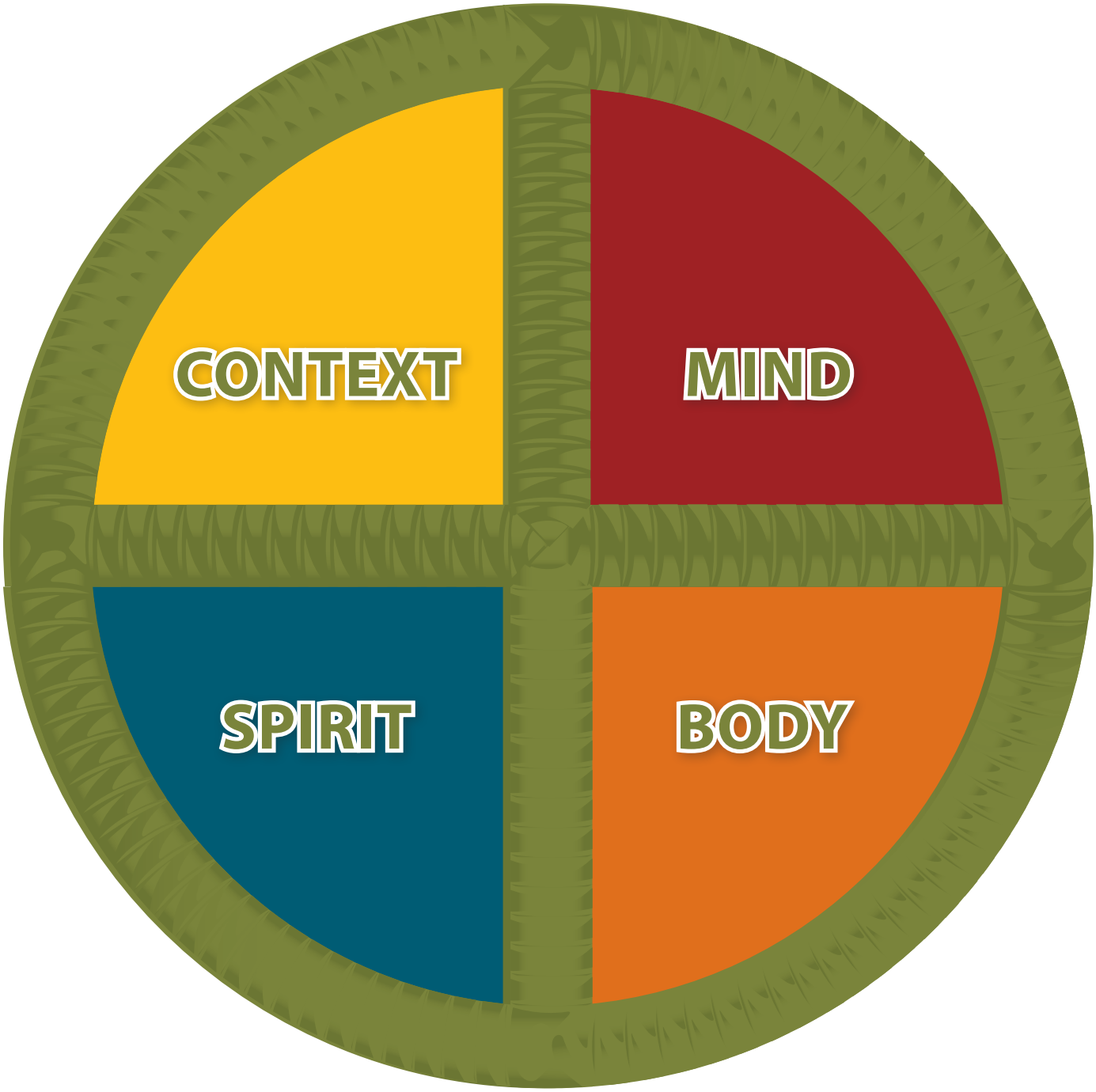
RELATIONAL WORLDVIEW



Source:
Balajee, Sonali S. and Cross, Terry, et al., (2012).
Equity and Empowerment Lens (Racial Justice Focus), pg 71.
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EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT LENS QUESTIONS

Equity and Empowerment Lens Questions

Basic Intro Questions

1. **Describe the policy/decision/program/practice/etc. used for this Lens application.**
   a. Are social justice and racial justice clearly stated in the vision, mission, and goals?
   b. Who does this intend to serve, and who is actually served?
   c. How is this funded, and what are the limitations?

2. **What data or evidence guides the policy/decision/program/practice/etc.?**
   (See Evaluation Summary chapter, p. 51)
   a. How does your organization currently **utilize** existing data to inform your practice?
   b. How does your organization make data available for employees and community members to easily access and understand?

Connection to People

3. **Describe the groups that will be most affected by and concerned with this policy/decision/program/practice/etc.?**

4. **What are the benefits and burdens that communities experience with the policy/decision/program/practice/etc.?**
   a. What factors may be producing and perpetuating these positive and negative effects on communities?

Connection to Place

5. **There are three main areas of sustainability and equity (environmental, economic, and social justice). What impacts do communities of color, immigrants, and refugees experience in these areas?**

6. **How are public resources and investments distributed geographically (such as funding, housing, education, transportation)?**
   a. What trends do you see in how resources are flowing in and out of certain areas?

Connection to Process and Power

7. **What barriers do you and your staff encounter in making changes directly related to equity and racial justice? (i.e., obligational, political, institutional racism, emotional, legal, programmatic, managerial, financial, internal biases)**

8. **How does your organization engage the community in planning, decision-making, and evaluation?**
   a. What policies, processes and social relationships meaningfully and intentionally *include* communities most affected by inequities?
   b. What policies, processes and social relationships contribute to the *exclusion* of communities most affected by inequities?
      b.i. For policies and processes that exclude, what actions or strategies could build inclusion?

9. **How does the policy, decision, program, practice build community capacity and power in communities most affected by inequities?**

Source:
Balajee, Sonali S., et al., (2012).
Equity and Empowerment Lens (Racial Justice Focus), pg 28.
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ISSUE/DECISION - 4 P'S

PEOPLE

Who is positively and negatively affected (by this issue) and how?

How are people differently situated in terms of the barriers they experience?

Consider physical, spiritual, emotional and contextual affects.

PLACE

What kind of positive "place" are we creating?

What kind of negative "place" are we creating?

How are public resources and investments distributed geographically?

How are you considering environmental impacts as well as environmental justice?

Issue / Decision

PROCESS

How are we meaningfully including or excluding people (communities of color) who are affected?

What policies, processes and social relationships contribute to the exclusion of communities most affected by inequities?

Are there empowering processes at every human touchpoint?

POWER

What are the barriers to doing equity and racial justice work?

What are the benefits and burdens that communities experience with this (issue)?

Who is accountable?

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