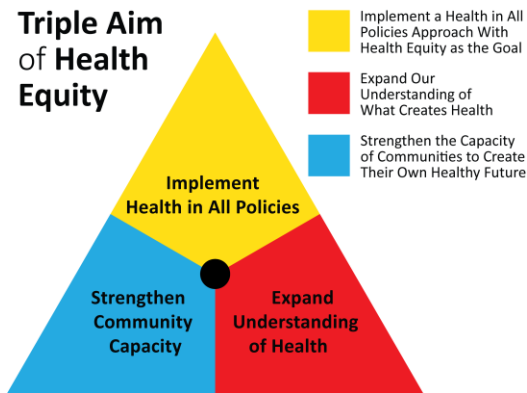




Dear State and Territorial Health Officials,

Announced at the ASTHO Annual Meeting, the 2016 President's Challenge calls on state and territorial health officials to promote the conditions needed to "advance health equity and optimal health for all." *Please join me in accepting this challenge by committing to address one or more of the strategies contained within the Triple Aim for Health Equity.*



The Triple Aim of Health Equity highlights three major activities that are critical components in creating optimal health for all;

- 1) Expanding our understanding of what creates health**
- 2) Implementing a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach with health equity as the goal**
- 3) Strengthening the capacity of communities to create their own healthy future.**

As ASTHO president, my challenge is for each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the eight territories and freely associated states to **(1) select at least one of the categories above and (2) identify a policy, program, or activity within that category** that you intend to implement in the next year. Please use the form on the following page to indicate your pledge.

Please visit the President's Challenge website (<http://www.astho.org/Health-Equity/2016-Challenge/>) for additional resources and examples.

I thank you for your continued leadership and appreciate you considering this request, given the many commitments and priorities you oversee each day. I am available if you have any questions or concerns ([ed.ehlinger@state.mn.us](mailto:ed.ehlinger@state.mn.us)), as is the ASTHO staff. Yolanda Savage-Narva is the lead staff member for the challenge and can be reached at [ysavagenarva@astho.org](mailto:ysavagenarva@astho.org). I look forward to working with you on this challenge in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Ehlinger, MD, MSPH  
ASTHO President  
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health

**ASTHO 2016 President's Challenge**  
**Advancing Health Equity: *Creating Optimal Health for All***



*Briefly identify and provide a description of what the health agency aims to implement, improve, or evaluate in 2016. Indicate if this is a new activity or complementary to ongoing work. You may **select more than one** of the three areas (listed below) for your state to focus on this year.*

**State or Territorial Health Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Primary Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Phone and/or Email)** \_\_\_\_\_

- Expanding our understanding of what creates health (e.g. Develop educational materials for cross-sector partners about public health, expand the indicators included in your Statewide Health Assessment, include new partners when developing your Statewide Health Improvement Plan)**

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- Implementing a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach with health equity as the goal (e.g. Collaborate with at least one non-health sector partner to implement a HiAp approach to a specific policy initiative, require bills or funding announcements to include a requirement analyzing impact on health equity)**

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- Strengthening the capacity of communities to create their own healthy future (e.g. Form one new non-traditional partnership such as a church or a library, work with community partners on community health needs assessments and implementation strategies, develop a community engagement plan for your health agency)**

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Please return this form to [president@astho.org](mailto:president@astho.org).

For additional resources please visit <http://www.astho.org/Health-Equity/2016-Challenge/>.