

# Advancing health equity

Vizient thought leadership, resources and tools to help members achieve greater health equity in their communities

## Health equity is a strategic focus for members

Ensuring that everyone, regardless of demographic, social or structural determinants, has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible is a critical focus for healthcare providers across the country and a strategic priority across the healthcare industry. Vizient® research has shown that health systems are at different stages in the process of implementing health equity initiatives and measuring their impact on the community. But Vizient has **solutions** for health systems at all stages.

### Define role, readiness and direction

Vizient and Sg2® have developed a **framework** for aligning health systems' ambitions with their financial, cultural and infrastructure capabilities to influence social determinants of health (SDOH; i.e., the conditions in which people are born, grow and live that have an effect on health, such as income, education and neighborhood conditions). The framework — address, align, anchor — can help members prioritize their efforts and make the best use of their resources to work effectively within their communities. To date, our framework has been used to help more than 100 members establish their organizational priorities and strategy for health equity initiatives.



### Additional resources:

- **Health Equity Leadership Education Series**
- **Sg2 Perspectives podcast:** How to Build a Diverse, Inclusive Culture When Health Equity Is a Strategic Priority, But Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast

### Identify data-driven opportunities

The **Vizient Vulnerability Index**, available to Clinical Data Base participants, links publicly available data with member data from the CDB to provide a neighborhood-level heat map of specific areas of vulnerability, such as high poverty levels or food insecurity, and connect those vulnerabilities with clinical outcomes to quantify the impact of SDOH. This integrated assessment can help healthcare providers identify ways they can address barriers to health equity in their communities — for example, by providing more access to providers who can manage chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension in a particular neighborhood, or by working with local organizations to make transportation available so expectant mothers can get prenatal care. The index can also enable comparisons between hospitals facing similar challenges and identify those that have developed effective interventions.



## Invest and direct spend to community



The **Vizient Community Contracting Program**, part of our commitment to increasing supplier diversity, is intended to help hospitals reimagine their sourcing of products and services to create a broader, more equitable network of suppliers. The program facilitates contracting with local, diverse suppliers, enabling hospitals to strategically shift a portion of their spend into their own communities. This has effects beyond the immediate spend, enabling local businesses to grow and provide more jobs and higher wages over the long term. The result: Stronger, healthier, more economically sustainable communities.

### Additional resources:

- **Vizient Supplier Diversity Program**
- **Vizient Environmentally Preferred Sourcing**

## Share insights and best practices



Vizient offers dedicated senior leadership networks in which members can collaborate and learn from each other's efforts to advance health equity for their employees, patients and communities.

- The Health Equity Network connects executives who oversee health equity strategy to allow them to compare approaches, seek advice from trusted colleagues and collaborate on solutions. Topics include reducing disparities in healthcare outcomes, identifying strategies for partnering with the community and measuring the impact of health equity initiatives.
- The Diversity and Inclusion Network connects chief diversity officers and other diversity, equity and inclusion executives who are working to ensure equitable access, treatment and outcomes for their patients. The network's focus also includes employees, families and community health. The group enables its members to compare strategies, seek support and advice from trusted colleagues, and simply recharge.

### Additional resources:

- **Sg2 Perspectives podcast:** Vizient Health Equity Strategy Accelerator: Finding Organizational Clarity in Advancing Health Equity



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As the nation's largest member-driven healthcare performance improvement company, Vizient provides solutions and services that empower healthcare providers to deliver high-value care by aligning cost, quality and market performance. With analytics, advisory services and a robust sourcing portfolio, we help members improve patient outcomes and lower costs.