Tips for Mobilizing Data to Advance Race Equity in TANF

Data and research can be intimidating, especially when coupled with complex issues like race equity. This infographic gives some helpful tips and resources for TANF administrators and staff to approach data use to understand and promote race equity within their programs.

**Speak the Same Language**

- **Race Equity**
- **Race & Ethnicity**
- **Qualitative & Qualitative Data**
- **Aggregate & Disaggregated Data**

**1. Race Equity**

TANF administrators, staff and researchers must be versed in data, research, and racial equity terms, used within their agencies.

- Familiarize yourself with common terms.
- Use data dictionaries to define common terms, data elements, and other important features.
- Create a shared language with TANF leadership and staff responsible for data collection and research through discussion forums.

**2. Get Organized**

**Questions to Consider When Formulating a Race Equity Question**

- What equity concerns would you like to better understand within your TANF block grant?
- What challenges (or perceived challenges) are you trying to solve?
- Who is (or might be) impacted?
- What do you need to know about the impacted population to answer your race equity questions?

**Considerations for Data Collection**

- Knowing what information is needed to answer race equity questions can guide data project planning discussions between TANF leadership and those responsible for data collection and research. View a comprehensive flowchart [here](#).

**Resources**

- **Assessing Data, TANF Data Collaborative**
- **Evidence and Equity: Challenges for Research Design, OPRE (2017)**

**3. Share Your Race Equity Findings**

National Equity Atlas, Racial Equity Data Lab: Data Visualization

The techniques below can be used in dashboards, briefs, data walks, or other ways to share race equity data. Read the full brief [here](#).

Decide the story you are trying to tell and the action steps you hope to evoke in the reader.

- What does the data show and why?
- What are the solutions?

Use these practices to create and choose a mix of data displays to tell your story.

- Review the data display and narrative to ensure they tell a cohesive story.

Use DATA WALKS to visually display data and invite community stakeholders to interpret the data.

Learn more about data walks here:
- **Fostering Conversations About Racial Equity.** Data Walks. Urban Institute (2016)
- **Data Walks: An Innovative Way to Share Data with Communities**. Urban Institute (2016)

**4. Integrate Race Equity Data into Policy & Practice Decisions**

**The Racial Equity Tool**

The Government Alliance on Race and Equity’s (GARE) Racial Equity Toolkit provides a framework for integrating a race equity lens into policy and practice decisions.

**The Racial Equity and Policy (REAP) Framework**

The Commonwealth Fund’s REAP Framework provides context for health care advocates and leaders to integrate a race equity frame into health policy. TANF administrators can draw inspiration from the REAP framework.