Evaluation themes discussion

Upstream Action Acceleration
Collaborative Learning Meeting
“If you don’t know where you’re going, you’ll end up somewhere else.”

The UAA Theory of Change Grounds Our Work
Working Theory of Change:
The New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI) Upstream Action Acceleration Initiative supports existing cross-sector coalitions to adopt and implement “upstream” environmental-, policy- and systems-change strategies to shift factors that influence health and well being prior to the onset of disease and illness, to improve long term community health outcomes and reduced health disparities. The initiative is also supporting a peer learning community to build a statewide network of upstream community health champions.
**Working Theory of Change: The New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI) Upstream Action Acceleration Initiative** supports existing cross-sector coalitions to adopt and implement “upstream” environmental, policy-, and systems-change strategies to shift factors that influence health and well being prior to the onset of disease and illness, to improve long term community health outcomes and reduced health disparities. The initiative is also supporting a peer learning community to build a statewide network of upstream community health champions.

**Target/Coalition partners:** Community members, health advocates, health providers, first responders (law enforcement; fire and ambulance) social service providers, education, business sector, funders

---

**KEY STRATEGIES**

**Support and Elevate Effective Community Partnerships Working to Advance an Upstream Health Agenda**
Support 12 existing cross-sector coalitions to adopt and implement “upstream” environmental, policy- and systems-change strategies, and accelerate their work in areas they have already identified as priorities to improve community health.

**Build a Peer Learning Network of Coalitions Tackling Upstream Community Health Issues**
Engage cross-sector coalitions in a supported community of practice to help leverage and deepen community capacity to advance an upstream community health agenda.

**Document and Disseminate Initiative Lessons Learned**
Engage in continuous learning, documentation, and dissemination practices to elevate the work of the coalitions, and continue to position Healthy Places by Design (HPBD), and NJHI as upstream community health leaders.

---

**INTERIM OUTCOMES**

**Early evidence of program, policy, and environmental changes** to support a cross sector coalitions’ upstream community health efforts, including increased partner awareness and capacity, a mobilized community, increased local leadership capacity, shifts in individual and organizational practices/policies, and ongoing funding to support the work.

**An established, connected, and recognized network** of coalitions and partners, to continue to advance an upstream community health agenda.

---

**LONG TERM OUTCOME**

**Changes in the way that partners and systems function providing an integrated web of upstream health supports, institutionalized processes and shifts in norms** that lead to healthier communities, improved health equity, and a strong community-driven “culture of health.”
Evidence of “precursors of systemic change” *across* the portfolio

Evidence of state-level network building
How might these themes help you...

...advance on the Policy, Systems, Environmental shifts that you are working towards 
(i.e. where you are heading)

**AND** UAA is also about accelerating how you get there!
Precursors

- Coalition expansion/new partnerships
- New norms/ways of working
- Shifts in internal practice to support coalition efforts
- Momentum creating early wins
- Community trust building/outreach/engagement
- Strengthening community leadership
- Shifts in issue framing
Network

- Capacity expansion
- Alignment on issues and upstream approach
- Sparking innovation
- Connection and learning
What resonates? What is applicable?
What questions remain?
Evaluation next steps

• Reporting survey
  • Looking into “acceleration”
  • Cross-coalition action
  • Understanding the “additive” nature of UAA approach
How might these themes help you...

...advance on the Policy, Systems, Environmental shifts that you are working towards (i.e. where you are heading)

**AND** UAA is also about *accelerating how you get there!*