Detailed Core Competencies Responding to the Social Determinants
For Health Centers, Primary Care Associations, and Health Center Controlled Networks

September 2019

Faculty from The SDOH Academy developed this set of core competencies for health centers, to be used as a framework for SDOH training and technical assistance. They reflect current research, trends, and expertise in the health center field.

01 Improve Access to Quality Health Care and Services by Increasing Capacity for Patients to Access SDOH Services

Participants will deepen their understanding of and capacity around:
- **Enabling services** for SDOH, including how to provide, document, and track for underserved populations; and
- **Technology** needs for SDOH, including what infrastructure is needed to address, assess, collect data for, and track SDOH, as well as the necessary infrastructure to improve health access, quality services, and patient engagement.

02 Foster a Health Care Workforce Able to Address Current and Emerging Needs Related to SDOH

Participants will deepen their understanding of:
- **Team-based care** and how to build **interprofessional teams**—clinical and nonclinical—that can address SDOH.

Participants will build capacity around:
- Training related to **cultural appropriateness, trauma informed care, and empathic inquiry,** as well as the techniques such as trauma-informed care and motivational interviewing to apply these concepts;
- Training in sensitive and effective communication related to **sexual orientation and gender identity (SO/GI) data collection,** and inclusive and affirming environments for LGBTQ patients; and
- Supporting a workforce that deals with SDOH.

03 Enhance Population Health and Address Health Disparities through Community Partnerships and System Delivery Transformation

Participants will deepen their understanding of:
- How to build **partnerships** in the community that can address SDOH for patients; and
- What it means to employ **delivery system transformation,** including value-based health care for SDOH.

Participants will build capacity around:
- **Integration of services** to address SDOH within clinic doors;
- **Data analysis** for population health management, including growing competencies around collection, validation, analysis, management, utilization, visualization, and risk stratification segmentation; and
- **Data sharing and data ownership** to address SDOH within the HCH system and with outside systems, including privacy, ownership, and data sharing agreements.

04 Increase Knowledge of Emerging Issues Related to SDOH

Participants will deepen their understanding of:
- **Emergency preparedness**, including natural disasters, public health emergencies and disease outbreaks, extreme weather, cyber security threats, and terrorism, with special considerations for vulnerable populations;
- **Legal issues**; and
- Utilizing SO/GI data for **clinical decision support** and to address LGBTQ health disparities.

The Social Determinants
of Health Academy