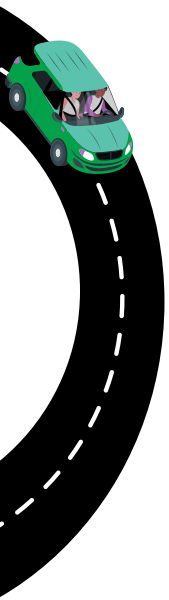# DISPARITY IMPACT STATEMENT ROADMAP

The Disparity Impact Statement (DIS) is a data-driven, quality improvement approach to advance equity using grant programs. The DIS helps grantees identify underserved populations at risk of experiencing behavioral health disparities. The aim is to increase inclusion of underserved populations in SAMHSA-funded grants, achieve behavioral health equity for disparity-vulnerable populations, and help systems better meet the needs of these population.

This Roadmap guides SAMHSA grantees through the process of creating a DIS. It is a companion document to the DIS Worksheet.

(For definition of underserved populations, see Executive Order 13985.)

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidentialactions/2023/02/16/executive-order-on-further-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underservedcommunities-through-the-federal-government/

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Go here to find out more
https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grants-management/disparity-impact-statement

Step 1: Use data to identify the disparity/problem/gap you are seeking to address.

01

Decide: Who?

- Who experiences disparities in access, use or health outcomes in your area of focus?

- What groups of people within the populations your program aims to serve/reach/train might have a harder time accessing or using the services or trainings offered by the grant?

- What data leads you to believe this disparity exists?

- Consider demographic characteristics that might contribute to the disparity (e.g. race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation)

02

Use Caution!

The disparity population *is not everyone* your program serves/trains.

03

Complete DIS Section 1

✓ Describe the scope of the problem (Worksheet box 1a) and the disparity-vulnerable(Worksheet box 1b).

✓ Create a table that breaks out the subpopulations you aim to serve/reach/train based on the demographic characteristics that are relevant to the identified disparity.

Step 2: **Decide how you will address the disparity/problem/gap so that everyone you aim to serve/reach/train is able to access and use services/trainings achieve better outcomes.**

Decide: How?

- How can the disparity be addressed?

- What social determinants of health can be addressed to improved in the environment in which the disparity-vulnerable was born, lives, learns, works, plays, and worships that could help to reduce the disparity?

- Can services/trainings be improved so that they are more culturally and linguistically appropriate for the disparity-vulnerable to help address the problem? Which CLAS Standard does this reflect?

04

05

06

Use Caution!

Don't forget to *explain how* your proposed activities will reduce disparities for the population of focus.

Complete DIS Section 2

✓ Explain how you will address the identified SDOH domain (Worksheet box 2a) and CLAS Standard (Worksheet box 2b).
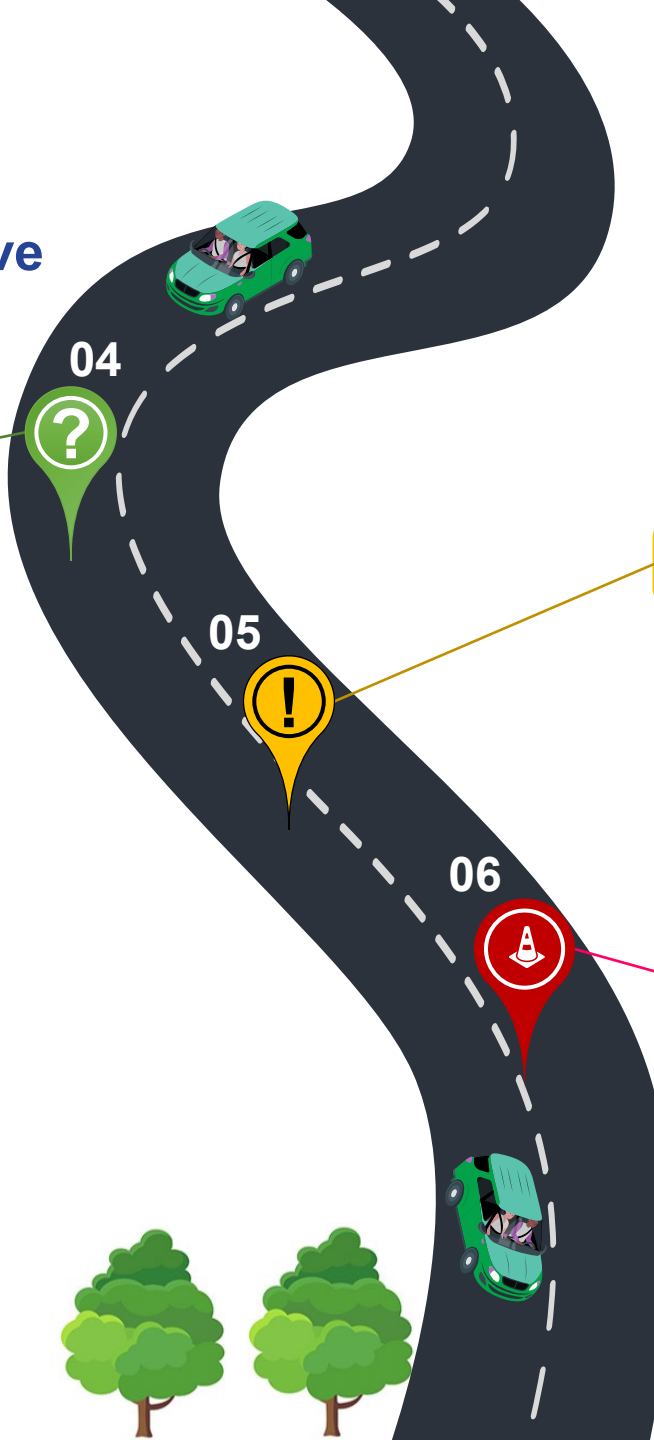
Step 3: **Provide details on the activities you will implement to reduce disparities for the disparity-vulnerable population.**

07

Decide: What?

- What activities will you implement?
- Who will be involved in the activities?
- What will be your timeline for implementing activities?

- What will result from your activities?
- How will you know if you are making progress towards outcomes?
- What data will you use to measure this?

- How will you keep the work going?
- Who will be involved?
- What processes will need to be in place?

08

Use Caution!

Make sure activities are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timebound.

09

Complete DIS Section 3

- ✓ List the activities (using SMART) (Worksheet box 3a).
- ✓ Describe your intended outcomes (Worksheet box 3b).
- ✓ Describe how you will engage client/peer/partners (Worksheet box 3c).
- ✓ Provide a timeline for the activities (Worksheet box 3d).
- ✓ Describe how you will evaluate your progress (Worksheet box 3e).
- ✓ Describe a plan for sustaining the activities (Worksheet box 3f).

Submit your completed DIS!