



# Cities of Opportunity

**2024 CITIES OF OPPORTUNITY SOLUTIONS FORUM**

## **Watch Party Guide**

Transforming Policies and Practices:  
How Cities are Advancing Health and Racial Equity

**May 8, 2024 | 1:00pm - 4:30pm EST**



### About the National League of Cities

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people. NLC works to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions.

### About the Center for Leadership, Education, Advancement and Development

The Center for Leadership, Education, Advancement & Development is the go-to place for leadership development for municipal officials. The Center specializes in curriculum-based learning opportunities, as well as fulfilling the mission of the Institute for Youth, Education and Families through technical assistance with a focus on issues impacting young people and families in cities and towns across America.

### Cities of Opportunity (CoO)

Cities of Opportunity (CoO) is a free program offered by NLC to help cities ensure all their residents enjoy good health and long lives. The initiative enables cities leaders to see and address the many interconnected factors that impact health and equity, including social, economic and racial inequities. CoO is generously supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

## About this Guide

The 2024 CoO Solutions Forum celebrates the transformative progress that cities are making to advance health and racial equity. We invite you, as virtual attendees to the convening, to host your own watch party for your city. Gather members of your community, including city staff, elected officials, and local partners, to watch the livestream of the Solutions Forum together, and take advantage of this opportunity to host a critical discussion about what you can do to advance health and racial equity in your city.

**“The Solutions Forum is a celebration of the success of the Cities of Opportunity model. It lifts-up city-level approaches that center health and wellbeing to address structural racism, inspires participants to embrace their role as health leaders, and signals NLC’s continuing commitment to advancing frameworks that have health and racial equity as their bedrock.”**

### LOURDES ACEVES

Director, Health and Wellbeing  
Leadership, Education, Advancement, and  
Development  
National League of Cities

This watch party guide includes tips on how to host a successful watch party, a discussion guide to help your attendees connect with one another on the subject matter, and ways to connect with other online Solutions Forum attendees.

### IN THIS GUIDE:

- **How to Host a successful watch party**
- **Discussion Guide**
- **Connecting with other Solutions Forum Attendees**

## Hosting Tips

To host a successful watch party, there are a few things you should keep in mind. Here are our suggestions for hosting a discussion and viewing that your community will remember for months to come.

- 1. Register your watch party.** Let us know about your watch party, so we can keep you updated with ways to connect with the live Solutions Forum event in DC. Fill out the form at this link to register: <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/nvLtxT3RGI>
- 2. Pick the right venue.** The right venue will have a screen and speakers for you to stream the Solutions Forum so that everyone in the room can hear and see the event. You will also want seating that allows participants to see and connect with one another during discussions and throughout the panel discussions.
- 3. Create your invite list.** When considering who you want to invite to your Solutions Forum watch party, think of the people you want seated at the table when you discuss improving health and racial equity in your city. Which elected officials, city staff, and community partners do you want to involve? Whose perspectives are critical in this work?
- 4. Everything is better with refreshments.** If you're able to budget for it, providing lunch or snacks for your attendees will be a great way to draw people in. If providing food isn't possible, encourage a brown bag or potluck among your attendees and create a lunch-and-learn environment.
- 5. Set the vibe with our 2024 Solutions Forum Playlist!** Check out our playlist for the 2024 Solutions Forum to get everyone in the mood before and after the forum. [Click here](#) to access - this is another reason to be sure your venue has great speakers!

# Agenda

This is the schedule for the convening, along with some suggested time blocks for discussion among your watch party attendees.

## Scan Here to Register Your Watch Party

Scan here to let us know about your watch party, so we can keep you updated with ways to connect with the live Solutions Forum event in DC.



The times listed below are in Eastern Standard Time (EST):

- **12:00pm | Suggested Lunch and Discussion** – As we open our doors to the in-person forum in Washington, DC, you can begin your watch party by inviting your attendees to consider the questions in the section below over refreshments. See what themes arise in your discussion of the local health and racial equity landscape of your city and look out for them throughout the panel discussions.
- **1:00pm | Welcome & Opening Remarks**
- **1:15pm | Mayoral Leadership: Catalyst for Community Health and Racial Equity**
- **2:15pm | Building Capacities for Action: A Citywide Approach to Health and Racial Equity**
- **3:15pm | Future of Cities and Well-being**
- **4:15pm | Special Announcement** – New Messaging Toolkit: How to Talk About Health and Racial Equity in Your City
- **4:20pm | Key Take-Aways and Closing Remarks**
- **4:30pm | Suggested Review and Debrief** – After the forum closes, return to your in-person discussion, using the questions in the next section to guide you through a conversation about how you might take what you’ve learned and apply it in your city. Follow the threads as they reveal themselves and build out actionable next steps to further your health and racial equity work for your own community.

# Discussion Questions

To help your attendees connect and share their experiences both before and after the forum, here are some guiding questions:



## Before the Solutions Forum

- What does health equity look like in our city? What does racial equity look like in our city?
- What role does each of us play in improving health and racial equity?
- What barriers do we face in improving health and racial equity across the city? What would it take to effectively mitigate those barriers?



## During the Solutions Forum

Throughout the livestream, discuss and submit your thoughts and questions for panelists via the Q&A function on zoom. Commenting and asking questions will keep us connected with you throughout the broadcast. We’ll be giving shout-outs to registered watch parties as we go, so keep an ear out for your city!



## After the Solutions Forum

- What are some ideas that came up during the panel discussions that were relevant to the work you do in our city?
- What examples of cross-sector partnerships did you see come up during the panels? What would it look like to mirror those partnerships in our city?
- What steps can we take in the next month to put these relevant ideas into action to improve health and racial equity in our city?

If you’re hosting a 2024 Solutions Forum Watch Party in your city, let us know! Post updates from your gathering with the hashtag **#CoOSolutionsForum** and tag us on your posts. Tag us on Twitter & Instagram **@LeagueOfCities** or Facebook & LinkedIn: **@National League of Cities**





# NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

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Join at [www.nlc.org/membership](http://www.nlc.org/membership)