PHASES

PHASE ONE: COMMUNITY WIDE LAUNCH
There will be a creation of a Design Team made up of nonprofit and community representatives who will be compensated for their expertise for participating in the process.

PHASE TWO: LEARN AND DISCOVER
Design Team participants will engage in intensive dialogue about their experience in the nonprofit space. We will also aim to understand what our community and nonprofit sector has experienced as the pandemic, racial injustice and an economic downturn converge.

PHASE THREE: COMMUNITY CO-DESIGNING
The Design Team will review data, answer key questions, and craft a common vision, values, and strategies for an equity-centered recovery and reimagining of the nonprofit sector.

PHASE FOUR: SHARE AND ACT
With a completed framework in hand, the information will be shared and distributed to all stakeholders within the Lehigh Valley.

WHAT WILL THIS PROJECT PRODUCE?
We will rethink how we are operating, imagine better alternatives, and co-create strategies to make those alternatives come to life. Through this process we aim to:

▪ Center the community’s expertise.
▪ Unify the sector around a common vision.
▪ Build and deepen relationships.
▪ Seed new ways of operating.

KEY VALUES
The partners who are coordinating Project Equity commit to the following values in the process design:

▪ Remain grounded in community’s expertise
▪ Provide transparency throughout the process
▪ Center the process on equity
▪ Continue to learn and evolve
▪ Provide an inclusive environment

COVID-19 and Equity
The COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturn, and the heightened national consciousness on racial disparities has laid bare the systemic racism and historic disinvestment in our communities, as well as the stark inequities in our society. The nonprofit sector is serving a vital need during this crisis, but is being stretched in many ways. We need to operate differently to serve our community and we have an opportunity to rebuild in a way that focuses on equity and sustainability. Now is the time to ask - how can the Lehigh Valley nonprofit community build an equitable, sustainable nonprofit sector together? It’s with that vision in mind, that we are launching Project Equity.

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