Health Equity’s Essential Role in ESG Conversations

Board ESG Guide Preview

2022

Prepared by Black Directors Health Equity Agenda (BDHEA) and Deloitte Consulting LLP
The Board ESG Guide is complementary to our Playbook for Board Directors in the Health Ecosystem and provides foundational education and actionable next steps on how Boards can center health equity within their ESG responsibilities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) is a mutually reinforcing framework used by investors, regulators, consumers, and employees to assess an organization’s purpose-driven orientation and impact on social and environmental responsible activities.

- Foster accountability with executive leaders on the urgency of advancing health equity
- Influence governance decisions which impact social and environmental actions that influence health inequities
- Advise executive teams to center health equity within their ESG strategies to decrease community health disparities and capture value for their businesses

Market dynamics have shifted ESG from a compliance measure to an investment and strategic priority across industries. Board Directors can use the guide to:

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WHAT IS ESG AND HOW IS IT LINKED TO HEALTH EQUITY?

ESG is a framework for understanding how companies operate and how they impact society. Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors are becoming increasingly important in the investment world, as investors look beyond traditional financial metrics to assess how companies are managing risks and opportunities related to environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and governance practices.

Learn about the evolution of ESG and how health equity is a critical component of a comprehensive ESG strategy.

WHAT IS THE BOARD’S ROLE?

The board of directors plays a critical role in ensuring that companies are aligned with their ESG goals and are making progress towards achieving health equity. They are responsible for setting the company’s strategic direction, evaluating management performance, and ensuring that the company is operating in a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner.

Take a deep dive into the Board’s role and each ESG pillar to understand how to advance health equity across environmental, social, & governance factors.
TOOLS TO SPARK ACTION

The Board ESG Guide provides actionable next steps, case studies, and industry-specific strategic questions to inspire action within you and your organization.