



Montana Health Equity Task Force

IMPACT REPORT 2022-2024

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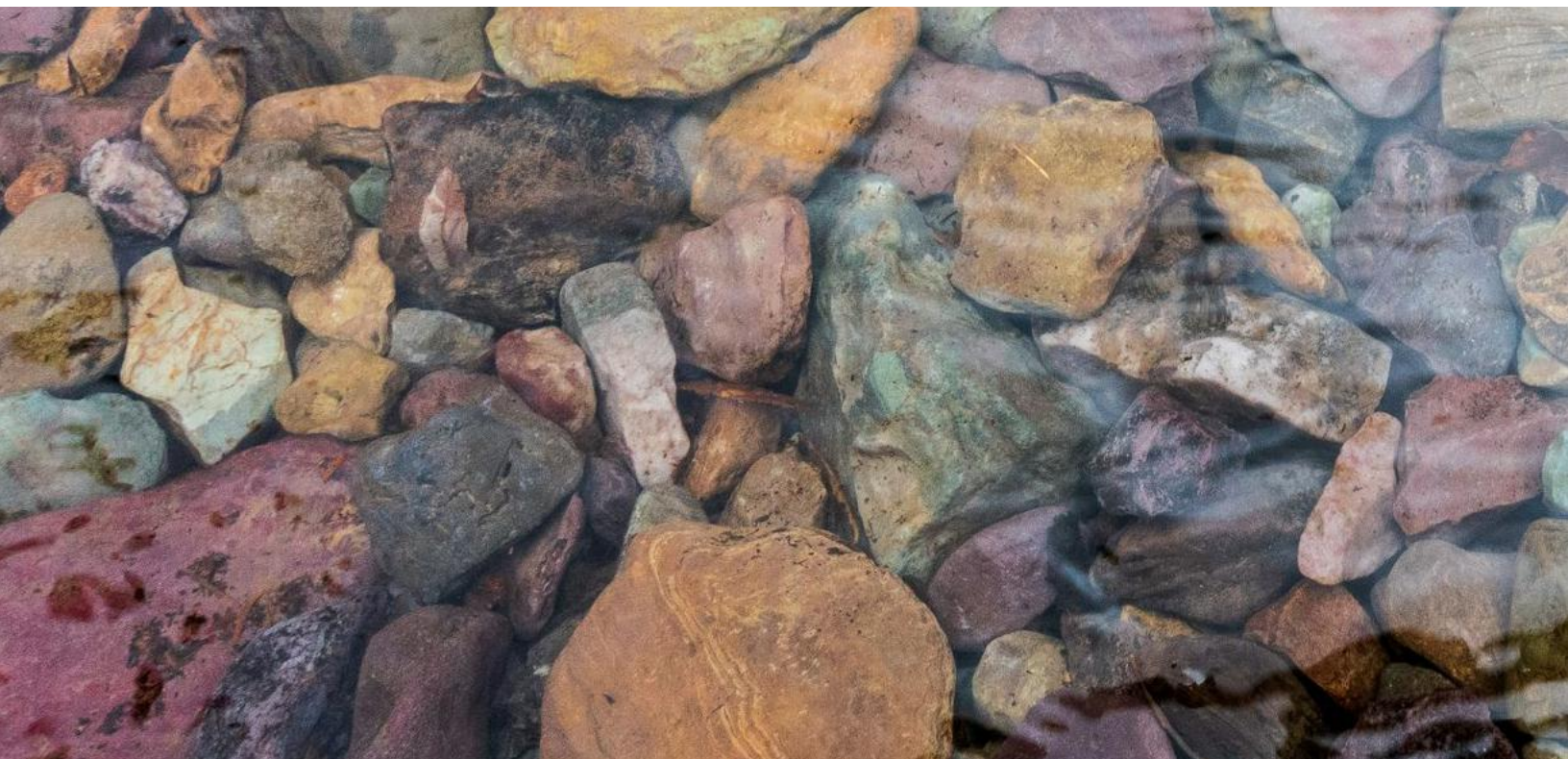
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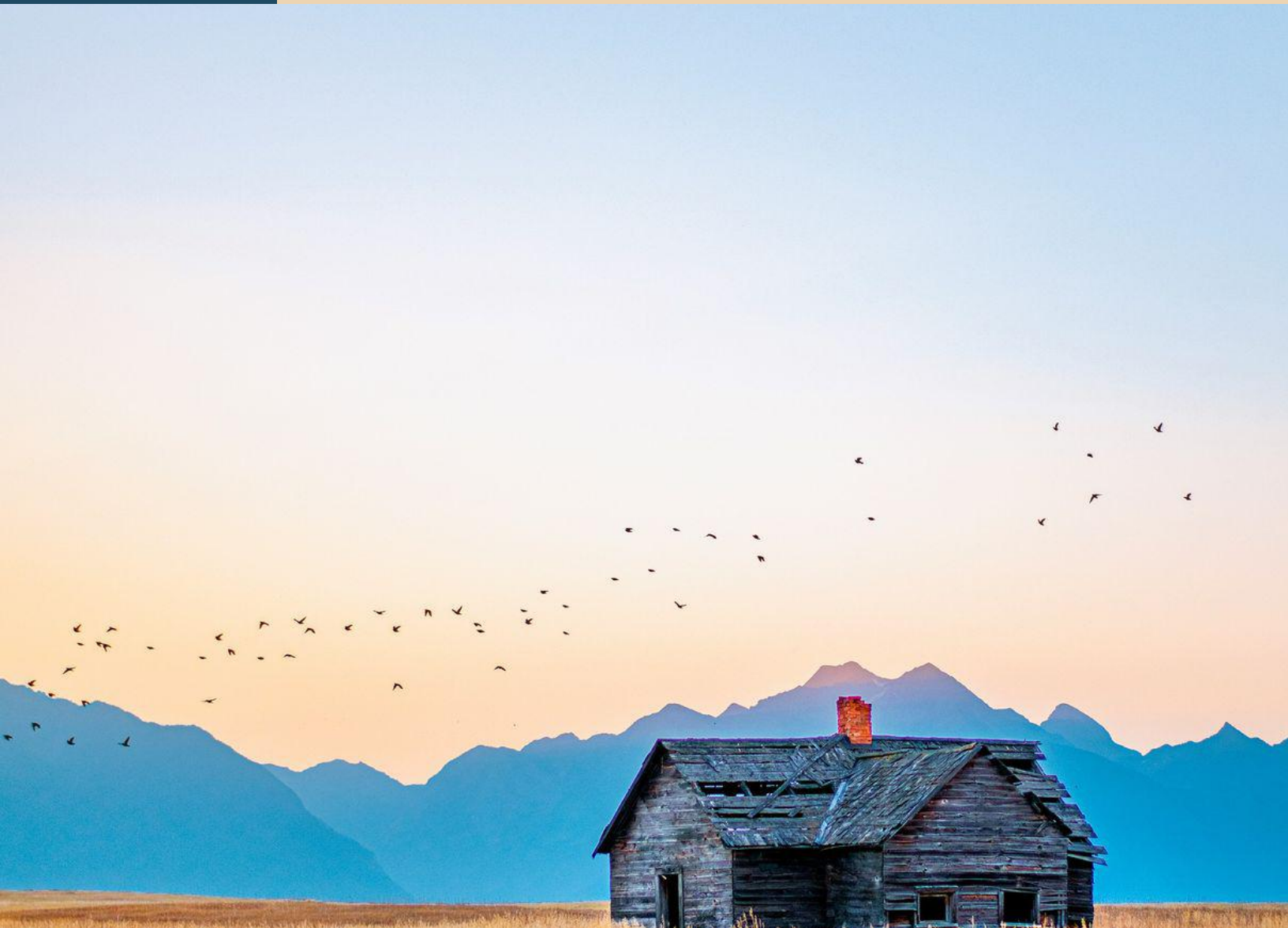
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STATEWIDE HEALTH EQUITY TASK FORCE

As illuminated by the COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities do not impact all Montanans equally. The Montana Health Equity Task Force works to identify health disparities and possible solutions to address these disparities. This work has also provided financial resources to local efforts focused on health equity.



BY THE NUMBERS - ENGAGEMENT

192

Members

17

Sectors of
health

8

Educational
presentations

18

Presenters

During the first two years the task force was able to engage with participants across the state with a focus on rural areas. Attendance fluctuated with capacity across the state. Participants represented various health-related sectors from providers to local health departments, non-profits to community members. While backgrounds differ, task force participants share a collective vision of a Montana that meets the health needs of all.

Presentations to the task force included health equity data, examples of grassroots health equity work, American Indian health equity and restorative practices, and cultural humility with the disability community, among others.

BY THE NUMBERS - FUNDING

MORH/AHEC was able to provide funding to participants in three ways. Honorariums for people who shared their lived experience with the task force. Mini grants for organizations interested in implementing or supporting a project rooted in health equity. Training funds for organizations seeking additional staff education around a health equity topic of their choice.

\$3,600

Honorariums given to those
who shared their lived
experience



\$ 200,000

Mini grant funding



\$55,000

Training funds



AREAS OF FOCUS



American Indian
health



Rural health



Mental and
behavioral health



Access to care &
workforce



SURVEY RESULTS

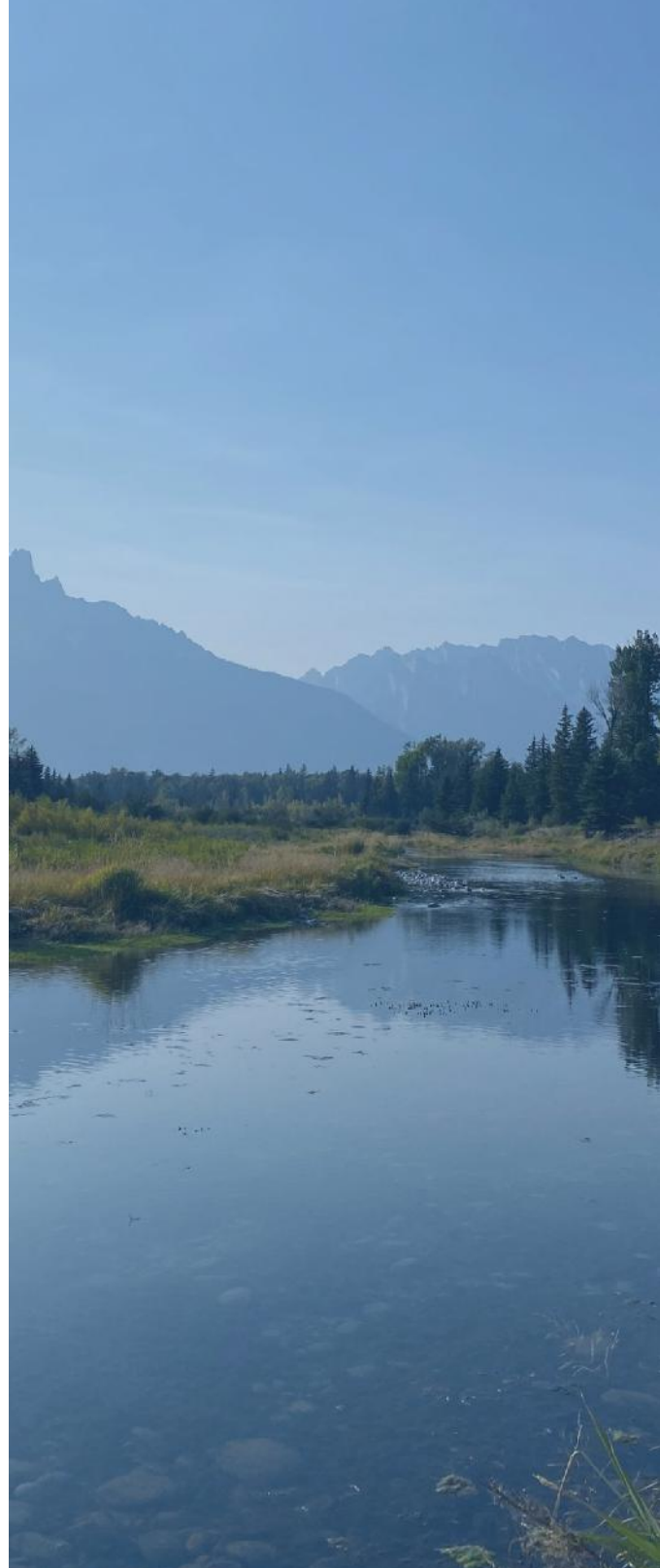
In December 2023 task force members were surveyed for feedback to guide the direction of the group. Results from that survey can be found on pages 7-12.

What did you value most about the task force?

- Learning and increasing awareness of the health equity needs in our state.
- Networking.
- Collaborating with people with similar goals.

What was most challenging about the task force?

- Finding the time to attend.
- The aim of the group was vague.
- Competing priorities.



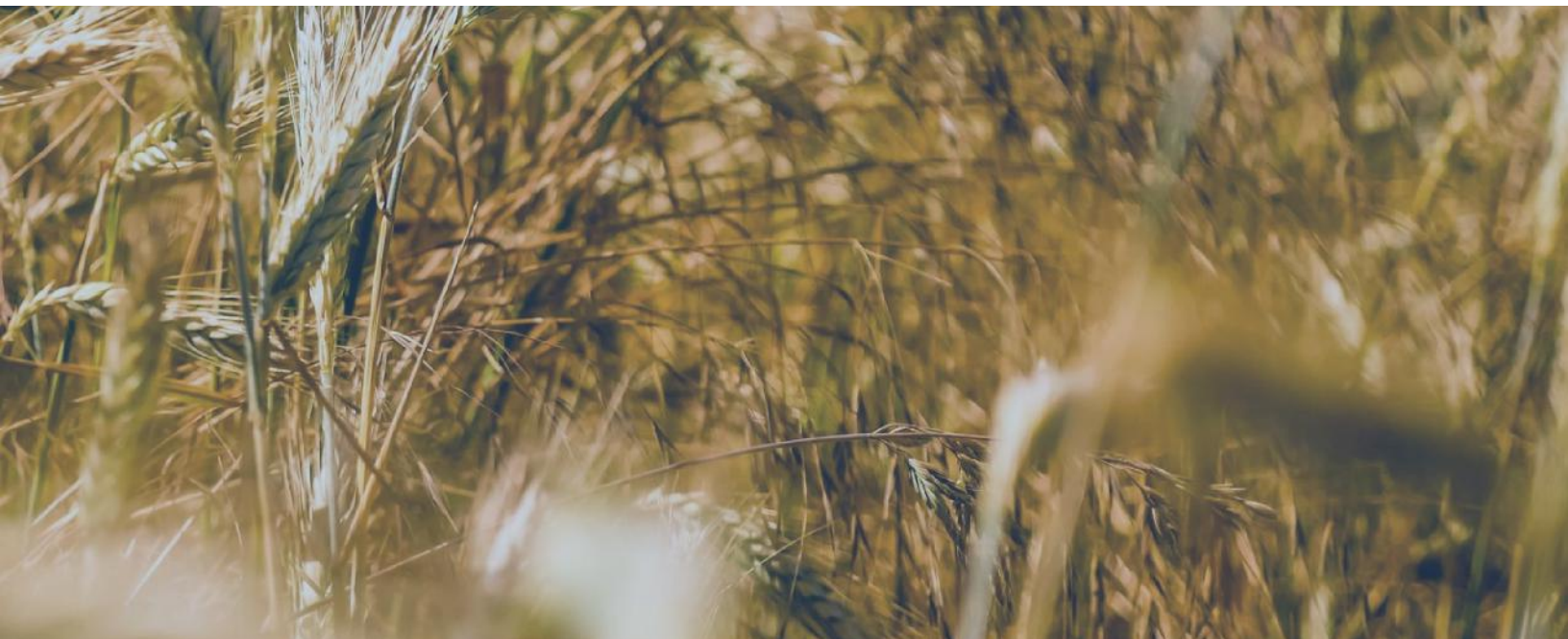
SURVEY RESULTS

What are your professional goals as it relates to health equity?

- Address the health disparities in our state.
- Receive more training and tools on health equity.
- Increase personal understanding of health equity.

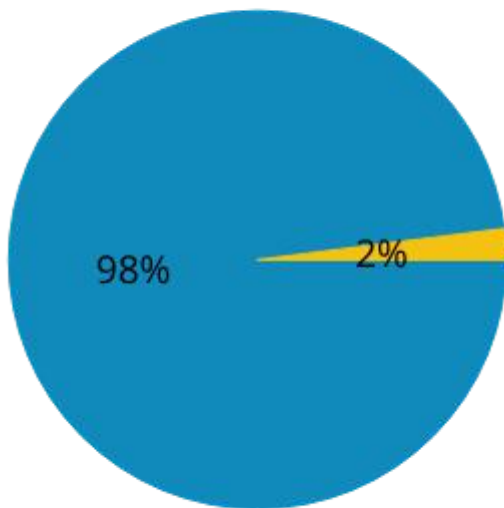
What would influence your organizations ability to work towards health equity?

- Funding.
- Increased awareness and understanding.
- Increased workforce and partnerships.



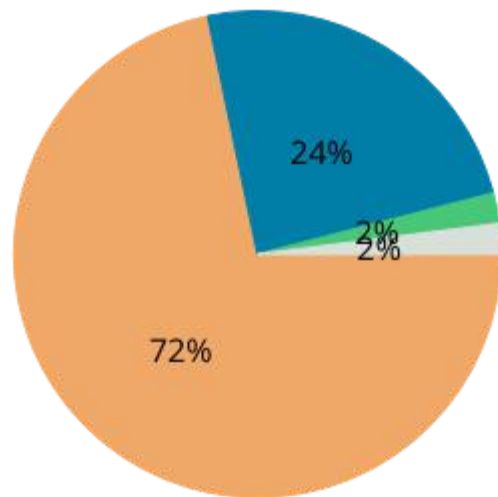
SURVEY RESULTS

If statewide health equity meetings continued, would you attend?



■ Yes ■ No

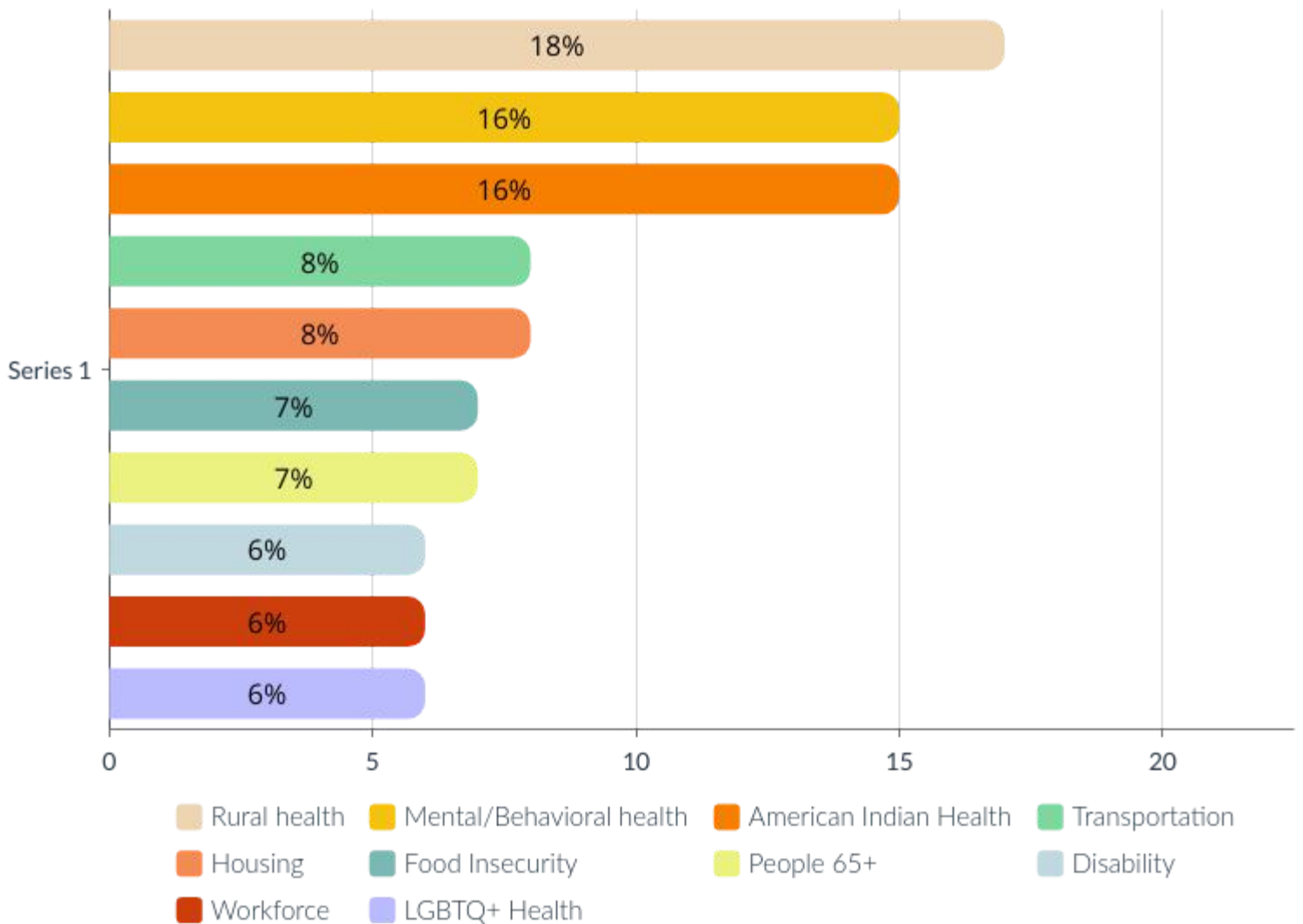
How frequently should a statewide health equity group meet?



■ Quaterly ■ Monthly ■ Twice per year
■ It depends

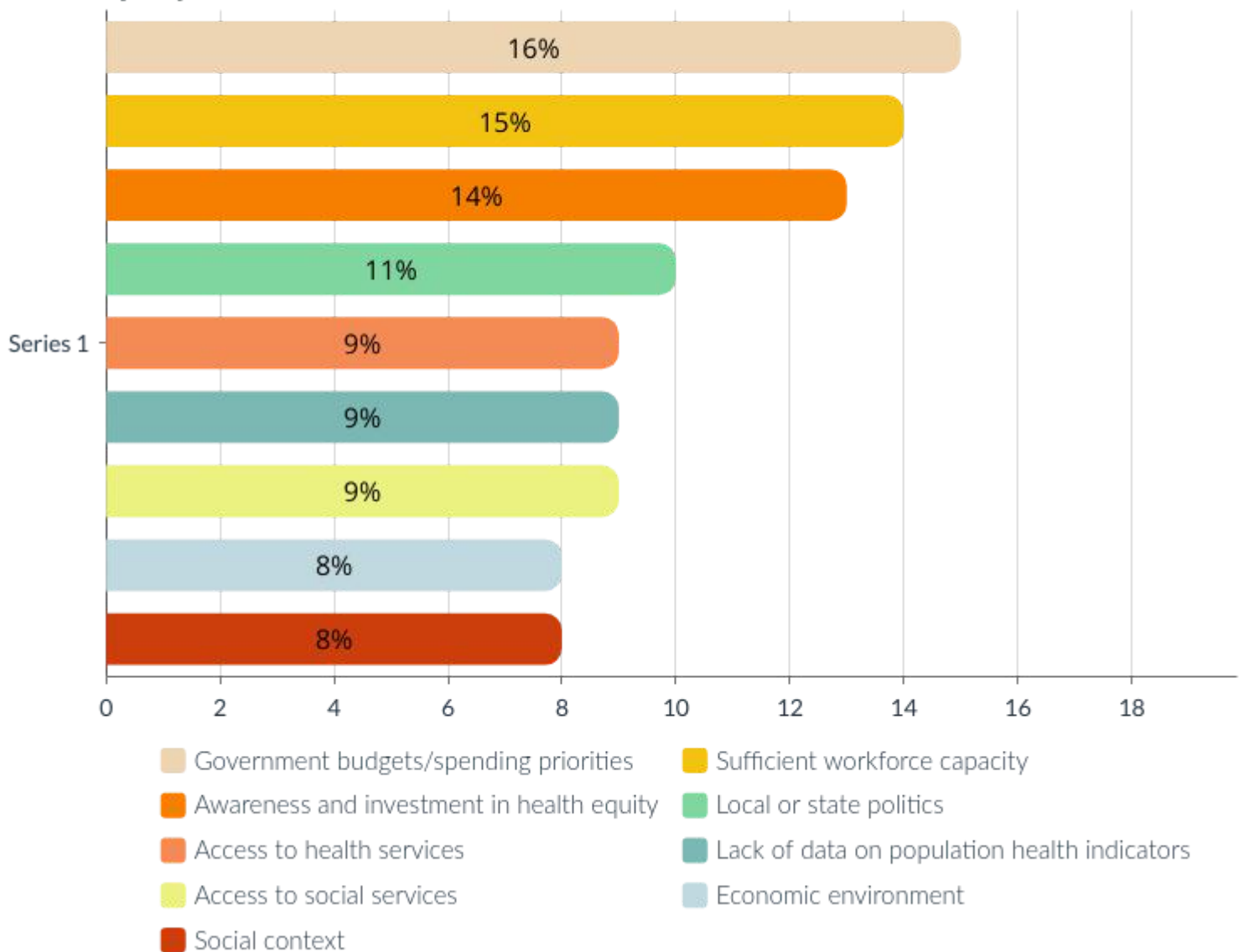
SURVEY RESULTS

What topics are most relevant to your work?



SURVEY RESULTS

What factors influence your organization's ability to effectively work towards health equity?



SURVEY RESULTS - other comments



Thanks for your support and encouragement.

It is my pleasure to continue on this path to find solutions and hopefully avoid the same pitfalls from the past. Looking to the future with passion!

So grateful for AHEC and their work toward Health Equity. People across the state are learning and growing in this area!

Thanks for all the work you are doing and for the support you have given.

It's been very enriching to participate when ever possible. Presentations have opened my eyes to needs being shared.

I've really appreciated my brief time in this space over the last half of the year. Based on what I've seen, there's no shortage of good work going on in our part of the statel.



ON THE HORIZON

The health equity needs in Montana are as dynamic as its residents. We contend with a population influx that has strained our housing infrastructure while our lifelong residents rapidly age. Urban and rural areas alike require better mental and behavioral health services; while a strong need for cultural competency continues to impact our Tribal communities. MORH/AHEC will continue to work alongside you as we strive toward a Montana that effectively meets the needs of all.



Provide educational presentations



Continue to seek funding to support grassroots health equity efforts



Provide networking opportunities



Collaborate with other health equity related groups



Office of Rural Health
Area Health
Education Center



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