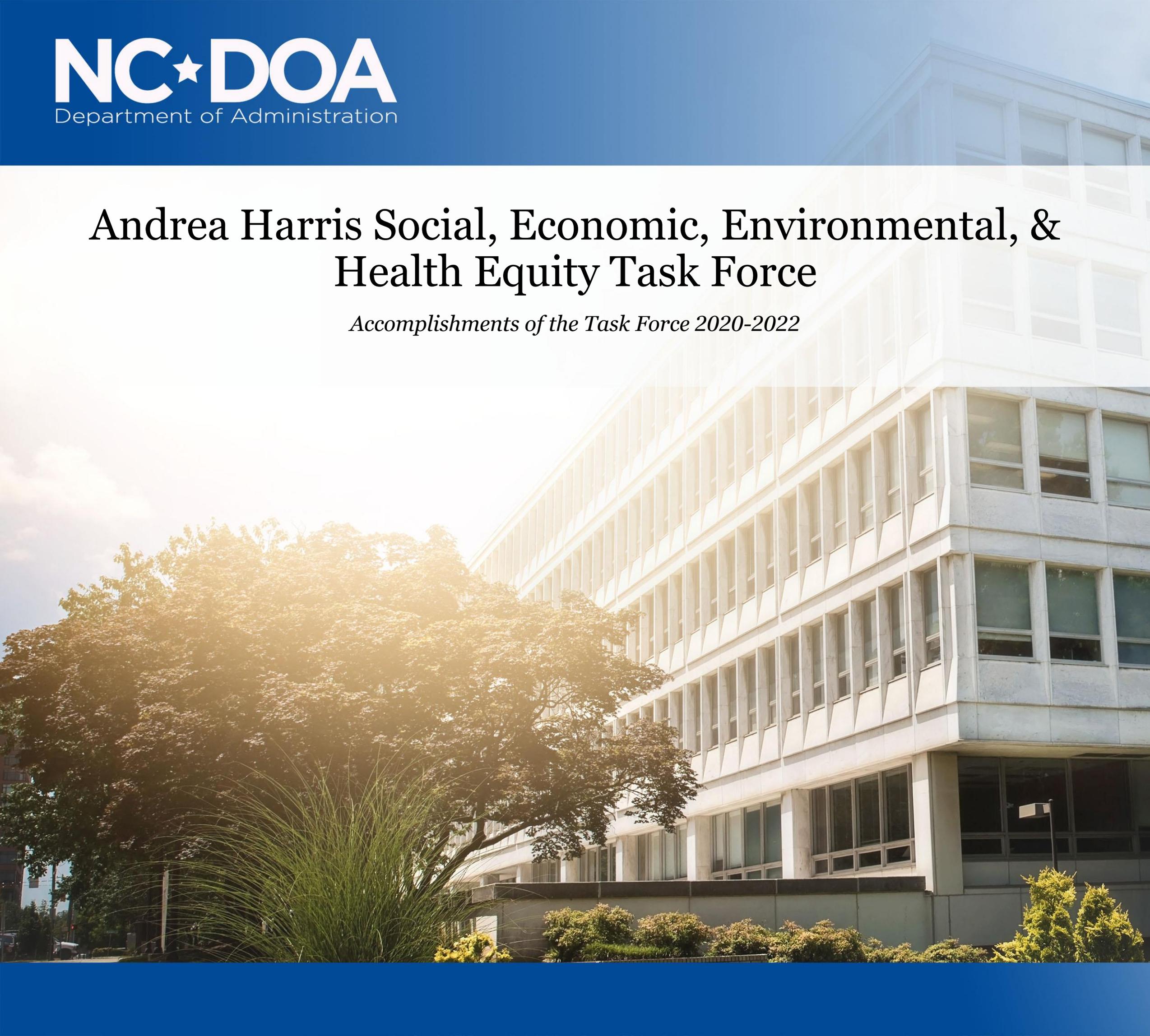


Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, & Health Equity Task Force

Accomplishments of the Task Force 2020-2022



Access to Healthcare Subcommittee



<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Summary</u>
Increase opportunities for patients to utilize telehealth services	Completed	\$90 million has been invested in targeted grants to address local infrastructure needs connecting underserved households, the Office of Rural Health will continue to apply for federal funding to further this initiative.
Appropriate \$1,527,642 in state funding for the Office of Rural Health's Health Information Technology Assistance Program	Completed	The Office of Rural Health will continue to share details on the program and its impact throughout the next two years.
Increase investments in rural hospitals, community health centers, and federally qualified health centers to provide quality care, vaccines, and digital literacy training to underserved communities	Completed/ Ongoing	The Task Force and the Office of Rural Health continue to support the Department of Health & Human Services in providing equitable vaccines, education, and service to undocumented/low-income/vulnerable populations.
Actively expand opportunities for historically marginalized populations to participate in state government affairs to provide a diversity of opinions on government values	Completed/ Ongoing	[Executive Order No. 246- Environmental EO with Public Participation Directive] The Task Force, the Office of the Governor, and state cabinet agencies continue to engage community members in public policy creation by offering opportunities/platforms for input.
Expand Medicaid	Awaiting External Action	The Office of the Governor and NC General Assembly continue to advocate for statewide expansion.



<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Summary</u>
<p>Create economic incentives to encourage participation with Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB)</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Department of Commerce, the Task Force is working on tax incentives and access to funding which may require new legislature to implement.</p>
<p>Offer educational support and mentorships to diverse businesses and leverage partnerships with NC HBCUs to develop executive education programs for minority-owned businesses doing work with the state</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>Working with the HUB Office and the Department of Commerce, the Task Force is building a mentorship program to put forward for businesses throughout the state. Currently, research to identify an appropriate place for this program in government is being done.</p>
<p>Support apprenticeships and workforce pipelines that create job growth</p>	<p>Completed/ Ongoing</p>	<p>The Task Force is exploring a potential statewide HBCU internship program to be housed within the Department of Administration which will further this work.</p>
<p>Implement Tier 1 and Tier 2 Subcontracting Plan requiring corporations doing business with the state to commit to supporting HUBs through subcontracting plans</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Subcontracting Plan has been enacted within the Department of Administration.</p>

Educational Opportunities Subcommittee



<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Summary</u>
<p>Assist, advocate, and encourage the Department of Public Instruction (and other state agencies) to adopt a digital literacy toolkit accessible to all students and parents in their native languages</p>	<p>Completed/ Ongoing</p>	<p>The Department of Natural & Cultural Resources continues to work with the chosen libraries within the pilot program created while providing updated feedback.</p>
<p>Advocate for the NC General Assembly to pass funding for House Bill 924 which provides personal financial literacy education for high school students and similar content for post-secondary institutions</p>	<p>Completed/ Ongoing</p>	<p>The Department of Public Instruction and the NC Council on Economic Education received \$1 million to support the training of high school teachers poised to teach the HB 924 financial literacy course beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. Recurring funding will be necessary to continue this effort after July 1, 2023.</p>
<p>Support community health centers by implementing telehealth and telemedicine initiatives along with partnering with other groups sharing similar goals of increasing broadband access to health literacy</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>The Office of Minority Health received a two-year federal grant to advance health literacy in Durham, Mecklenburg, and Wake counties through local health and human service departments. The Health Information Technology Team at the Office of Rural Health has completed several telehealth initiatives. The Task Force continues to engage the NC Community Health Centers Association to determine best practices in long-term support for community health centers.</p>
<p>Establish a statewide health literacy coordinating council and corresponding regional health literacy councils as consistent with the Area Health Education Model</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>The Task Force continues to work with the NC Area Health Education Center to find areas of alignment between existing AHEC programs and the subcommittee's interests in expansion across the state.</p>

Environmental Justice & Inclusion Subcommittee



<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Summary</u>
<p>Support the creation of environmental justice, equity, and inclusion positions at the following NC departments: Commerce, Transportation, Natural & Cultural Resources, and DPS Emergency Management</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>All NC departments have established an environmental justice, equity, and inclusion position.</p>
<p>Utilize existing training and incentive programs to create job initiatives in disadvantaged communities geared toward remediation and resiliency work on public and low-income buildings</p>	<p>Completed/ Ongoing</p>	<p>EO 246 directs the Office of the Governor & several agencies and organizations to partner in establishing Clean Youth Apprenticeship Programs to prepare graduates for careers in the growing NC clean energy economy. The NC Business Committee for Education has been encouraged to begin these programs at additional educational institutions that serve underrepresented communities.</p>
<p>Support funding the efforts to remediate the environmental issues in public schools</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Task Force continues to monitor efforts as they are implemented through the Department of Health & Human Services.</p>
<p>Support expansion of the inventory and remediation process to include other types of infrastructure (housing, courthouses, public buildings) in environmental justice communities</p>	<p>Awaiting External Action</p>	<p>The Task Force has been exploring potential funding opportunities.</p>
<p>Support a legislative strategy to incorporate environmental justice criteria into regulatory actions</p>	<p>Completed/ Ongoing</p>	<p>The subcommittee hosted a listening session which informed its strategy. It also recommended examining environmental justice legislation passed by other states.</p>

Patient Engagement Subcommittee



<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Summary</u>
<p>Establish mandatory and uniform cultural methods of collecting patient demographic information across all healthcare systems</p>	<p>Awaiting External Action</p>	<p>The Task Force is working with the Department of Health & Human Services to refine demographic capturing best practices and in developing educational materials for health care systems on these best practices.</p>
<p>Increase funding to strengthen the capacity of federally qualified health care centers to increase the number of undocumented, low-income, and vulnerable patients served</p>	<p>Completed/Ongoing</p>	<p>The Task Force continues to support the Office of Rural Health and the Department of Health & Human Services in the expansion of this work.</p>
<p>Expand Medicaid</p>	<p>Awaiting External Action</p>	<p>The Office of the Governor and the NC General Assembly continue to advocate for statewide expansion.</p>
<p>Ensure and strengthen medical sick leave policies for essential workers, particularly that of historically marginalized communities</p>	<p>Awaiting External Action</p>	<p>The Office of State Human Resources is analyzing the effects of parental paid leave on recruitment and retention rates of state employees. The Task Force and the Department of Administration continues to estimate expansion costs with the Office of State Budget & Management.</p>
<p>Strengthen medical school admission pipeline programs for students of color and disadvantaged communities</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>The Office of the Governor and the NC General Assembly continue to advocate for statewide expansion.</p>

Under Executive Order No. 268 signed by NC Gov. Cooper on Aug. 17, 2022, the Task Force continues as the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force. With new and continuing members and liaisons, the work of Dr. Andrea Harris will continue.