Working in Partnership towards Equity: Creating Safe and Healthy Communities

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PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity by Lifting Up What Works. ®
The Convergence Partnership is a collaborative of six major funders and the CDC engaged in multi-field, equity-focused, policy and environmental change efforts to achieve healthy people and healthy places.
Steering Committee

- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Nemours
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente
- The California Endowment
- Kresge Foundation
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Technical Advisors)
Place Matters

Communities of Opportunity

- Parks
- Sidewalks
- Grocery Stores
- Financial Institutions
- Better Performing Schools
- Good Public Transportation

Good Health Status

Low-Income Communities

- Fast Food Restaurants
- Liquor Stores
- Unsafe/Limited Parks
- Poor Performing Schools
- Increased Pollution and Toxic Waste Sites
- Limited Public Transportation

Poor Health Status contributes to health disparities:

- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Infant mortality

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- Diabetes
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Low-Income Communities

Good Health Status

Communities of Opportunity

Place Matters
Policy Matters

- Policy impacts the economic, social, physical and services environments

- Policies not traditionally thought of as health policies (transportation, land use, education, economics) impact health and obesity rates.
Goal

Accelerate and amplify efforts to create environments that support healthy people in healthy places
Vision

**Healthy People Living in Healthy Places**

This vision will be realized when all neighborhoods, schools, preschools and workplaces offer fresh, local, healthy food and safe places to play and be active.

This requires the broad expertise and influence of funders, advocates, and practitioners working across multiple fields to create healthy environments.
Equity-focused
Environmental and Policy Change
Multi-field Partnerships

CONVERGENCE
National Policy Initiatives

Access to Transportation
- Federal Transportation Reauthorization

Access to Healthy Foods
- National Healthy Food Financing Initiative
- Farmers’ market access for those receiving federal food assistance
- Influencing the 2012 Farm Bill

Federal Policy Advocacy
- Health Reform
- ARRA Community Grants
- Sustainable Communities
- Healthy People 2020
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization
Building the Field Locally and Regionally

• **Philanthropic Initiatives**
  – Innovation Fund
  – Regional Convergence
    • Promote and support connections in the field
    • Increase and leverage investments to expand the intensity, reach and number of efforts focused on policy and environmental change

• **Access to Physical Activity**
  – Violence Prevention-Healthy Eating Active Living Project
  – Joint Use in School Yards
Tools

Policy Briefs

- Promising Strategies for Creating Healthy Eating and Active Living Environments
- Recipes for Change: Healthy Food in Every Community
- Fostering Physical Activity for Children and Youth: Opportunities for a Lifetime of Health

The Transportation Prescription: Bold New Ideas for Healthy, Equitable Transportation Reform
THANK YOU!

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