



February 2015

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The Convergence Partnership envisions a nation in which every community fosters health, prosperity, and well-being for all, by promoting:

- *Equity as the means to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate and prosper;*
- *Policies and practices that create conditions that sustain healthy people and healthy places; and*
- *Connections among people across multiple fields and sectors that catalyze and accelerate the work.*

If you know of efforts that focus on reducing inequities, encourage cross-sector partnerships, and stimulate action for policy change, [contact us](#) and we may feature it in the newsletter!

Federal Updates

The House of Representatives Zeros in on the Affordable Care Act

The House of Representatives has started the year with several actions focused on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) including voting for full repeal of the law on February 3. While this is the fourth such repeal vote since the passage of the ACA, it marks the first time that a bill included language to delay repeal by six months to allow time for Republicans to develop an ACA alternative. The vote remains largely symbolic, however, as it is unlikely to garner the 60 votes needed to pass the Senate and the President has indicated he would veto it if it reached his desk. On the Senate side, the first ACA vote will be on the bipartisan-supported Hire More Heroes Act (which has already passed the House) which would exempt veterans from the ACA's employer mandate count.

IRS Publishes Final Rules for Charitable Hospitals under the Affordable Care Act

On December 31, 2014 the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) published the final rules for implementing Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The final rules related to CHNAs included:

- Allowing tax-exempt hospital organizations operating more than one facility under a single license to submit a joint CHNA; and
- Clarifying that hospitals may consider multiple factors in their CHNA beyond the need to address financial and other barriers to care — including the need to prevent illness, ensure adequate nutrition, or to address social and environmental factors impacting community health.

These rules are effective immediately but continue to allow reliance on both the 2012 and 2013 proposed rules as well. For full details, click [here](#).

In the News

Kresge and Surdna Foundations Support Catalyzing Culture and Community through CDFIs

In January, the Kresge and Surdna foundations announced that they will provide a total of \$1.35 million to seven Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) over two years to support their involvement in creative placemaking. This joint initiative will provide grants ranging from \$100,000 to

\$200,000 and allows the CDFIs to invest in projects that they may not have otherwise been able to and gives them an opportunity to explore the ways arts and culture can enhance their community revitalization efforts. These grants will allow the CDFIs to support the activities of artists and art enterprises that contribute to the health and well-being of neighborhoods such as providing loans to keep low- and moderate-income artists in their homes, and supporting the development of affordable housing projects for artists, and local businesses.

The funded projects include: Economic Community Development Organization in Toledo, Ohio; The Housing Fund in Nashville; The Enterprise Center Capital Corporation in Philadelphia; Four Bands Community Fund in Eagle Butte, South Dakota; New Mexico Community Development Loan Fund in Albuquerque, New Mexico; The Community Capital Works, Entrepreneur Works Fund in Philadelphia; and the Reinvestment Fund in Philadelphia.

For more information and a list of funded projects, click [here](#).

RWJF Commits \$500 Million to Expand Efforts to Combat Childhood Obesity

In early February, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) made a 10-year commitment of an additional \$500 million to expand efforts to ensure that children across the nation grow up at a healthy weight. Over the past 10 years, RWJF has worked in partnership with various funders and leaders from a variety of sectors to support key initiatives that change policies and community environments in ways that make the healthy choice the easy choice for children and families.

Building on its previous work, the foundation will support research, action, and advocacy strategies that will:

- Ensure that all children enter kindergarten at a healthy weight;
- Make healthy school environments the norm across the United States;
- Emphasize the importance of physical activity;
- Make healthy foods and beverages affordable; and
- Eliminate the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages among young children.

Ensuring that all children grow up at a healthy weight is an important part of building a culture of health in the United States. With this \$500 million pledge, RWJF signals its commitment to accelerating progress and intensifying focus on those places and populations most impacted by childhood obesity.

For more information, click [here](#).

The Funders' Network Announces 2015-2016 PLACES Fellows

In January, The Funders' Network announced the 2015-2016 Professionals Learning About Community, Equity, and Smart Growth (PLACES) Fellows. Launched in 2008, the PLACES Fellowship challenges assumptions and exposes Fellows to new ways of thinking about the role philanthropy can play in

inspiring individuals in low-income communities and communities of color. The Fellowship is a year-long program that offers Fellows tools, knowledge, and best practices to enhance funder grantmaking decisions that promote social and economic equity.

The Convergence Partnership would like to congratulate all of the Fellows selected to participate in the extremely competitive program, with special recognition to representatives selected from our national partner organizations — Alice Carle from the Kresge Foundation and Mia Ramirez from Kaiser Permanente — as well as members of the national Convergence network — Alfredo Cruz from the Louisiana Foundation and Maranda Witherspoon from the Missouri Foundation for Health.

For a full list of PLACES Fellows or to learn more about the Fellowship, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Community Development Investments: Call for Applications

ArtPlace America is accepting applications from place-based, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for its Community Development Investment (CDI) program. ArtPlace will select six organizations interested in incorporating arts and culture strategies into the organization's work. This one-time grant program will provide up to \$3 million in funding per organization and will be open to organizations that:

- Have a defined geographical area of focus (i.e., neighborhood, city, municipality);
- Regularly partner and work across sectors;
- Have long-term vision and presence in the community/region they serve; and
- Do NOT have a significant history of working with the arts and culture sector.

The ArtPlace CDI program combines grant funds with access to experts in the field of arts and community development practice. ArtPlace will provide grantees with the resources and knowledge to investigate the unique value that arts and culture can add to their work.

Applications are due on March 12, 2015. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Events

WEBINAR SERIES: Learnings from the Field: How to Improve Your Second Round of CHNA Reporting & Using Community Commons to Prioritize Vulnerable Populations and Gather Secondary Data

Community Commons and Public Health Institute (PHI)

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

2:00 p.m. ET

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires nonprofit hospitals

Resources

[Cause & Effect: How Policy Impacts Childhood Obesity \(Video Infographic\)](#), Leadership for Healthy Communities

Government leaders nationwide have a vital role to play in helping create communities and schools that promote health. This video explores the power

to conduct Community Health Needs Assessments in 2015. During these 19-minute webinars, presenters will go over the differences in the 2015 reporting requirements, the importance of multisector collaborations, how to best define your service area, how the Community Commons CHNA Toolkit makes it easy to acquire secondary data, and how to best utilize data visualizations in your CHNA report. For more information about this webinar series or to register, click [here](#).

2015 Annual Meeting: Leading Together: Hope and Opportunity in a Destabilized World

Council on Foundations

April 26-28, 2015

San Francisco, CA

The Council on Foundations annual meeting brings together local, national, and global leaders across the philanthropic community to address some of today's toughest issues. The meeting will feature global leaders, diverse perspectives, and issue-related focus programming aimed at highlighting important issues and ideas driving the future of the philanthropic field. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

of good public policy and how strong national and local policy decisions promote a thriving economy and a healthy society.

[Mission for a New Century: Community Foundations Deploying all Resources to Build Community Wealth](#), The Democracy Collaborative

This report highlights the ways in which community foundations are potentially moving toward deploying all community resources to build community wealth, examines what is guiding this transition, and the multiple benefits and barriers to getting started. The report profiles 30 community foundations, five of which are members of the national Convergence network — [The San Francisco Foundation](#), [The Denver Foundation](#), [The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo](#), [The Chicago Community Trust](#), and [The Boston Foundation](#). To read the full report, click [here](#).

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