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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

Second Round of Promise Zones Designees Announced

Last month, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced eight additional Promise Zones. The Promise Zones designation commits the federal government to partnering with high-poverty urban, rural, and tribal communities across the United States that are addressing revitalization challenges.

In addition to ongoing support from the federal government, designees will receive preference for certain competitive federal grants, will be assigned a federal liaison from HUD or USDA to help lead and coordinate the program, will have the opportunity to engage up to five AmeriCorps VISTA members in their revitalization efforts, and if enacted by Congress, will receive Promise Zones tax incentives. In addition to HUD and the USDA, Promise Zones' federal partners include the U.S. Department of Commerce, Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Promise Zones designation will last for 10 years and could be extended to capture the full term of availability of the tax incentive if enacted.

[Learn more about the Promise Zones designation and see the full list of designees.](#)

White House Launches Rural Impact Effort to Help Children and Families Succeed

In April, the White House Rural Council announced Rural Impact. This new effort will address the unique challenges of rural child poverty by bringing together federal agencies and public and private resources to develop a strategic approach to investing in rural families and communities. With support from the White House, universities, foundations, and other community stakeholders, Rural Impact will:

- develop innovative approaches to program delivery by exploring new partnerships and increasing access to programs in underserved rural communities;
- enhance public awareness of rural child poverty and its impacts by conducting research and engaging key leaders in regional events across the country; and
- expand and improve access to high-quality early childhood education and child care through strategic investments and partnerships.

This collaborative initiative will build on the White House's efforts to support children and families including the "Invest in US" early learning initiative and the vision of middle-class economics outlined in next year's federal budget.

[Learn more on the White House blog.](#)

In the News

The U.S. Chamber Foundation Announces Partnership with RWJF to Build Health through Economic Opportunity

In April, the U.S. Chamber Foundation announced the Better Health through Economic Opportunity Campaign in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). This two-year initiative is aimed at engaging the American business community in a dialogue about the relationship between health and economic opportunity, and what role business can play in improving community health. This initiative will be housed at the Chamber Foundation's Corporate Citizenship Center and was made possible by a \$1.7 million grant from RWJF. The initiative will include a research project that explores the connection between health and economic growth, toolkits to help businesses develop strategies to improve the health of their communities, forums hosted at 10 chambers of commerce across the country, and a national summit in 2016.

[Learn more about the Better Health through Economic Opportunity Campaign.](#)

Kresge Partners with Island Press to Help Build Cities' Resilience

Earlier this month, The Kresge Foundation in partnership with the Island Press Urban Resilience project released *Bounce Forward: Urban Resilience in the Era of Climate Change*. This report offers a framework for thinking about the critical role that U.S. cities have in mitigating the impacts of climate change and explores how urban areas can anticipate and plan for turbulent times brought on by drastic changes in the physical environment.

This report is part of a wide-ranging effort from The Kresge Foundation to expand opportunities for people in cities across the United States through inclusive policies and practices, place-based strategies that cut across multiple sectors and fields, and empowering historically underserved individuals and families to build strong, resilient communities.

[Read the full report.](#)

Partners for Places Awards Grants to Eight Community Partnerships in the US and Canada

This month, Partners for Places awarded eight communities over \$500,000 to make connections with their local governments and philanthropy to invest in projects that promote healthy environments, strong economies, and well-being for all.

Supported by six investors — [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#), [The JPB Foundation](#), The Kendeda Fund, [The New York Community Trust](#), [Summit Foundation](#), and [Surdna Foundation](#) — Partners for Places is a grant matching program of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities that invests in local projects developed through partnerships between local sustainability leaders and place-

based foundations to make communities more prosperous and vibrant.

Funded projects include an energy retrofit program in the homes of low-income older adults in Blacksburg, Virginia; a program to enhance and strengthen regional food systems in Cincinnati, Ohio; and a program to engage immigrants, low-income communities, and communities of color in the environmental movement in Seattle.

[Learn more about the Partners for Places program, learn about the next round of funding, and see a list of funded projects.](#)

Events

Equity Summit 2015: All In for Inclusion, Justice, and Prosperity

PolicyLink

October 27-29, 2015

Los Angeles, CA

Equity Summit 2015 will ground inclusion, justice, and prosperity in the urgent issues of today and connect them to the creativity and bold vision of the equity movement. Advocates from across the nation will be part of interactive panels, tours, and in-depth, skills-building sessions that showcase how local leaders can impact policy change. Equity Summit 2015 will forge powerful partnerships for building an equitable and prosperous nation. [Learn more and take advantage of early bird registration which ends June 30.](#)

Resources

[Implicit Bias and Its Role in Philanthropy](#), National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP)

This special issue of *Responsive Philanthropy* explains how implicit bias impacts our thoughts and actions, how it affects the many challenges we face as a society, and how philanthropy can combat the negative impacts of implicit bias and advance a more equitable and inclusive society.

[Resources for Local Officials and Community Members Website](#), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Earlier this month, the EPA announced a new website aimed at helping local officials and community members find information for improving the physical environment. The website was developed with input from local, state, and federal partners and provides access to resources that will help communities address various concerns and is one of many ways that the EPA is supporting communities across the country working to improve public health and quality of life.

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