



July 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

HUD Announces New Fair Housing Rules to Reduce Segregation and Promote Equal Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule to assist communities that receive HUD funding in meeting their long-standing fair housing obligations. The new rule will require cities and towns all over the country to scrutinize their housing patterns for racial bias and to publicly report the results, every three to five years. Communities will also have to set goals, which will be tracked over time, for how they will further reduce segregation. This rule responds to the recommendations from a 2010 Government Accountability Office report and HUD program participants who have requested clearer guidelines, better rule compliance, and more meaningful outcomes.

By encouraging a more balanced approach — such as targeting investments to areas in need of revitalization and increasing housing choices in areas of opportunity — this rule will enable program participants to promote access to transportation, good jobs, and quality education. The rule also streamlines the assessment of fair housing planning which is aimed at helping communities assess the challenges with fair housing and establish goals and priorities to address those challenges.

In addition to assisting communities in meeting their fair housing obligations, HUD will provide additional guidance and technical assistance to support local decision-making. [Learn more about the rule and what it means for communities across the nation.](#)

Obama Administration Announces Actions to Protect Communities from the Health Impacts of Climate Change

Last month, the Obama Administration hosted the White House Summit on Climate Change and Health that brought together health and medical professionals, academics, and other stakeholders to empower people and communities with tools to protect the public's health from the effects of climate change. The summit also created an opportunity for the administration to announce actions it will take to protect communities from the health impacts of climate change. These actions include:

- **Launching the emPOWER map:** A tool that will improve the ability of health officials and emergency managers to rapidly identify the residential areas of people who rely on durable medical equipment (DME) to live independently.
- **Creating a National Integrated Heat Health Information System:** A suite of decision-support services that better serve public health needs.
- **Launching the Climate and Health Innovation Challenge Series:** This two-part series is geared toward promoting innovative approaches and highlighting technologies available for understanding the health implications of climate change and improving resilience to adverse effects.
- **Establishing a Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice and the Educate, Motivate and Innovate Climate Justice Initiative:** These initiatives will focus attention on the needs of vulnerable populations, ensuring that the many federal conversations and actions

on climate change, particularly those related to resilience and adaptation, are being informed by, and are responsive to, the needs of communities with environmental justice concerns.

- **Host a Local Climate and Energy Webcast Series: Climate Change, Heat Islands, and Public Health:** This will be a two-part webcast series for local public health officials and environmental agencies on the connections between climate change, the heat island effect, and public health.
- **Organizing a [Climate Change and Children's Health Policy Roundup](#):** This will ensure the dissemination of promising practices to raise awareness, share what is working, and encourage others to consider similar policies and actions.
- **Utilizing the CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project):** Releasing the publicly disclosed data from 61 U.S. cities that participated in CDP in 2015 will summarize the climate-risks cities are facing and the actions they are taking to improve their resilience.

In addition to the actions listed above, the administration announced that the deans from more than 70 medical, public health, and nursing colleges and schools are committing their support to ensuring that the next generation of health professionals are prepared, through education and training, to effectively address the health impacts of climate change. [Learn more about the White House Summit on Climate Change and Health and the actions the administration will take to protect communities.](#)

In the News

BUILD Health Challenge Announces 18 Inaugural Awardees

In June, the BUILD (Bold, Upstream, Integrated, Local and Data-driven) Health Challenge announced the first round of grants to 18 projects across the U.S. aimed at addressing the social and environmental factors that impact community health and improving health outcomes in low-income communities and communities of color.

The funding collaborative — the Kresge Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Advisory Board Company, the de Beaumont Foundation, and the Colorado Health Foundation — awarded 11 planning grants and seven implementation grants to support community-driven initiatives that address a variety of concerns such as healthy food access, childhood obesity, and affordable housing. Additionally, the BUILD Health Challenge will provide technical assistance for awardees in the areas of policy development and monitoring and evaluation.

The BUILD Health Challenge was created in fall 2014 to encourage partnerships between local nonprofit organizations, hospitals and health systems, and public health departments. [See a full list of awardees and learn more about the challenge.](#)

Funding Opportunities

New Healthy Eating Research Program Call for Proposals

The Healthy Eating Research Program supports research on environmental and policy strategies with the potential to promote healthy eating among children, especially those from low-income communities and communities of color. This call for proposals (CFP) is for two types of awards aimed at providing advocates, decision-makers, and policymakers with evidence to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic

Approximately \$2.55 million will be awarded, each grant will award up to \$190,000 for a maximum funding period of 18 months. Preference will be given to applicants that are either public entities or nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. The deadline for submissions is August 12, 2015. [Read the full CFP.](#)

Partners for Places Request for Proposals

[Partners for Places](#) is a successful matching grant program that creates opportunities for cities and counties in the U.S. and Canada to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. National funders invest in local projects to promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being of all residents. Through these projects, Partners for Places fosters long-term relationships that make urban areas more prosperous, livable, and vibrant.

The [grant program](#) will provide partnership investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000 for one-year projects, or \$50,000 and \$150,000 for two-year projects, with a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundations. Request for proposals (RFPs) for round seven are due August 10, 2015. [Read the full RFP.](#)

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, mobile workshops, 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 register.](#)

National Walking Summit

Resources

[Reconnect Health and Housing: Philanthropy's New Opportunity](#), The Kresge Foundation

The connection between health and housing has long been understood and the Affordable Care Act has created opportunities for reconnecting the health and housing sectors. The Kresge Foundation released a report that encourages philanthropic organizations to focus on re-establishing the link between housing and community health — specifically for low-income communities and communities of color.

America Walks

October 28 - 30, 2015

Washington, D.C.

Walking can improve our health, reduce our healthcare costs, provide equal transportation access for everyone, clean our environment, improve the economic viability of our downtowns, and more. However, safe, walkable environments do not just happen they are created by hard work and coordinated commitment. The National Walking Summit is the premier opportunity for national organizations, companies, agencies, and local partners to convene to share best practices and stories, increase the visibility of these key issues, build support among federal agencies, and create momentum for the work ahead.

[Learn more and register.](#)

[**Feeding Ourselves: Food Access, Health Disparities, and the Pathways to Healthy Native American Communities.**](#) The American Heart Association

This report explores the complex health challenges impacting Native Americans across the country. It encourages readers to become aware of the extent of the issues effecting Tribal communities — including weak food systems, poverty, obesity, and trauma — and to explore ways systematic policy changes at the state, federal, and local level can serve as a step toward long-term solutions.

[**Communities Creating Health Series,**](#) The Stanford Social Innovation Review

People want to live healthy, full lives. Health, as it is defined by the medical field, is only one part of living a healthy life and this narrow definition illustrates a gap between what society does to improve health outcomes and what communities want. In this series, the Creating Health Collaborative brings together voices of community members, advocates, and practitioners to discuss what might happen if the design, implementation, and evaluation of health interventions became something that is done with communities vs. something that is done to them.

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