



Using Place-Based Approaches to Impact Health

National Health Policy Forum

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PolicyLink

PolicyLink is a national, nonprofit research, communications, capacity building, and advocacy organization dedicated to advancing policies to achieve economic and social equity based on the wisdom, voice, and experience of local constituencies.

Why Focus on Improving Community Environments

- Evidence of disparities in access to healthy food and physical activity opportunities
- Evidence that access influences behaviors
- Other benefits





Health Disparities: A Community Factors Framework

Contextual factors

Race
Ethnicity
Economics



Components of place

Economics
Social
Physical
Services



Outcomes

Health status

Communities of Opportunity

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

Good Health Status

Poor Health Status

Contributes to health disparities:

- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Infant mortality

Low-Income Communities

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

Purpose of Framework

When policies and practices are put into place that improve the physical, economic, social and service conditions of communities, it results in improved quality of life and better health outcomes.

Healthy Eating Active Communities (HEAC)

- \$26 Million – four year policy-focused initiative
- Targeting 6 California communities
- Funded by The California Endowment
- Reduce obesity through focus on healthy eating and physical activity

Improving Community Physical Activity Environments

Walkable Communities

- Improve Pedestrian Safety
- Make Walking to School Safer
- Improve Community Design
- New and Renovated Parks

Improving Community Physical Activity Environments

Recreational Physical Activity

- Encourage Recreational Physical Activity
- Build Walking and Biking Paths
- Improve Access to Recreational Facilities
- Improve Access to Safe, Attractive Parks
- Joint Use – Use School Sites as Community Centers



Improving Community Food Environments

- Grocery Stores
- Improve Existing Small Stores
- Farmers' Markets
- Mobile Markets
- Improve Transportation
- Farm-to-School Initiatives
- Community-Supported Agriculture
- Community Gardens



Thank you!



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