



## Additional Community Health Initiative Resources\*

Below are a handful of resources intended to help you understand the impact of community and the built environment on health and well-being, as well as ways to impact the factors that influence community health. These resources have been assigned to HCAT domains to assist you in finding information, however you may find some links in more than one domain as they impact more than a single domain area.

### General Resources

#### **HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Housing (OLHCHH)**

OLHCHH created the Healthy Communities Index and its companion, the Health Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT), to help communities identify and track social, economic and environmental determinants of community health. OLHCHH provides funds to state and local governments to develop cost-effective ways to reduce lead-based paint hazards. The office also enforces HUD's lead-based paint regulations, provides public outreach and technical assistance, and conducts technical studies to help protect children and their families from health and safety hazards in the home.

#### **Healthy People 2020**

Healthy People 2020 provides national objectives for improving health. The Healthy People initiative has established benchmarks and monitored progress for more than three decades with the goal of encouraging collaborations across communities and sectors; empowering individuals toward making informed health decisions; and measuring the impact of prevention activities.

#### **Health Indicators Warehouse (HIW)**

HIW provides access to high quality data to help improve understanding of a community's health status and determinants, and facilitates the prioritization of interventions. The HIW serves as the data hub for the HHS Community Health Data Initiative, a flagship HHS open government initiative to release data; encourage innovative application development; and catalyze change to improve community health.

#### **CDC Division of Community Health (DCH)**

DCH provides a wealth of research and resources related issues that impact community health.

#### **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Commission to Build a Healthier America**

The RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America was a national, independent, non-partisan group of leaders that came together from February 2008 to December 2009 to examine factors outside of medical care that influence health. The Commission researched and reviewed evidence, collected new data and listened to experts, leaders and citizens around the country. Based on their research and this feedback, the Commission issued 10 recommendations to improve health at the local, state and federal levels.

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\* Links active as of November 2015





### **Investing in What Works for America's Communities**

What Works is a series of reports and case studies that showcase examples of policy, programs and projects designed to improve American quality of life. Developed by leaders from diverse disciplines, the site provides articles focusing on issues ranging from fighting poverty and workforce development to transit-oriented development.

### **National Neighborhood Indicators Project (NNIP)**

The NNIP is a collaborative effort by the Urban Institute and local partners to promote the development and use of neighborhood information in local policymaking and community building. The site features access to an array of data source and a library of resources for developed by Project partners or for the overall project.

### **International City/County Management Association (ICMA)**

ICMA offers a variety of resources and network of knowledge from its work with City officials, both across the United States and internationally. ICMA's Center for Performance Analytics provides analytical tools, training, and technical assistance. Its Center for Sustainable Communities provides practice research; training, education, and technical assistance; and communication about sustainability for local government professionals and stakeholders. Current focus areas include: data and technology; economic development; energy and environment; service delivery; social equity/community development; and sustainability planning. Finally, ICMA's Center for Management Strategies helps local government managers identify and implement leading practices to address organizational efficiency and effectiveness. Focus areas include: Citizen engagement; High performance organizations; priority based budgeting; collaborative service delivery; process improvement; and data driven communities

### **Center on Society and Health**

The Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University is an academic research center that studies the health implications of social factors—such as education, income, neighborhood and community environmental conditions, and public policy. The Center provides research on issues related to improving the health of Americans. The Center's work spans all geographic levels—international comparisons between the US and other countries, conditions affecting Americans nationwide, the health of states, and studies of cities, communities, and neighborhoods—with a focus on drawing the connections between society and health.

## **Demographic and Contextual Measures**

### **National Poverty Center**

The National Poverty Center provides research on the multilayered issues of poverty. The Center promotes policy-relevant research, mentors and trains emerging scholars, and informs public discourse on the causes and consequences of poverty.

### **Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity**

Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity is a non-partisan initiative that brings diverse perspectives from the political, policy, advocacy and foundation communities to find solutions to economic hardship and poverty. Spotlight provides ongoing exchange of ideas, research and data to inform policies to reduce poverty and increase opportunity in the United States.



### **Poverty and Race Research Action Council (PRRAC)**

PRRAC works to eradicate issues of poverty and racism. Current projects focus on health, housing, education, and civil research issues.

### **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Maps for Life Expectancy**

RWJF developed maps for life expectancy in several communities across the country which show that where you live has an influence on how long you can expect to live

### **American Planning Association's (APA) City Parks Forum**

The City Parks Forum provides a venue for urban leaders interested in addressing the challenges of creating and enhancing parks. It is a collaboration between the APA and the National Recreation and Park Association that seeks to utilize parks in planning vital, livable communities. The site provides case studies, briefs, and technical reports to help community leaders understand how parks play an integrated role in urban environments and how to improve access to parks and recreational areas.

## **Economic Health**

### **Corporation for Economic Development (CFED)**

CFED's Knowledge Center provides a range of resources that showcase research, publications and events in the asset building field. Visitors can find case studies and resources of best practices designed to help low-income families build assets.

### **Pew Charitable Trust**

The Pew Charitable Trust consumer banking project studies the accounts that Americans rely on to manage their finances, including checking accounts, prepaid cards, and mobile payments. The site provides research and analysis about consumer protections and the financial marketplace.

### **National League of Cities (NLC)**

NLC has developed a resource center to help local governments support entrepreneurs and small businesses in their community. The site provides case studies, research and resources designed to help cities with the tools they need to empower business owners and help foster a strong small business community.

### **Small Business Administration (SBA)**

The SBA features research and statistics to support Communities in their effort to grow and retain small businesses.

## **Education**

### **Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)**

CSSP provides resources to help communities improve opportunities for children and families. The site promotes policy solutions and provides technical assistance to help communities understand how to use data for learning and accountability, build partnerships to support change, implement effective policy to support early childhood education, and communication strategies and policies to improve educational outcomes.



### **Brown Center on Education Policy**

The Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institute provides empirical analysis on U.S. education policy. The Center's primary activities focus on quantitative social science, and its research is wide-ranging. Recent work includes studies on the impact of curriculum, academic standards and accountability, class size, instructional technology, school choice, the Common Core, student loans, preschool education, public pensions, teacher evaluation, philanthropic advocacy, the costs of assessments, the contributions of school districts and their leaders to student outcomes, math education, and the academic achievement of U.S. students on international assessments. The [Brown Center Report on American Education](#) is an annual analysis of the state of education in the U.S. and the [Brown Center Chalkboard](#) is a source of analysis and opinion from Brown Center scholars and guests.

### **National Center for Children and Families**

NCCF advances policy, education, and development of children and their families. Housed at Teachers College, Columbia University, the Center produces and applies interdisciplinary research to improve practice and to raise public awareness of social issues that affect the well-being of children and families in the United States and around the world.

### **Kids Count**

A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT is the premier source for data on child and family well-being in the United States. Access hundreds of indicators, download data and create reports and graphics on the KIDS COUNT Data Center that support smart decisions about children and families.

### **Attendance Works Toolkit**

A national and state initiative that promotes awareness of the important role that school attendance plays in achieving academic success starting with school entry. Their goal is to ensure that every district in the country not only tracks chronic absence data beginning in kindergarten or ideally earlier, but also partners with families and community agencies to intervene when attendance is a problem for children or particular schools.

### **Every Student Present**

Every Student Present is a public awareness campaign in New York designed to help school staff, parents and communities understand the impact of chronic absence—missing 10 percent of school. The goals of the campaign are to promote awareness of chronic absence and to build capacity among schools, families and communities to reduce it.

## **Employment Opportunities/Workforce Development**

### **National Skills Coalition**

The National Skills Coalition is a broad-based coalition that supports the growth of the economy by investing in workforce development ensuring that every worker and industry has the skills to compete and prosper. The Coalition promotes advocacy and communications to advance state and federal policies that support workforce development goals based on on-the-ground expertise gained from Coalition members. The site features innovative policies and a resource library.



### **What Works in Job Training**

A report from the Department of Labor that synthesizes research on building employment opportunities and provides examples successful workforce development programs.

### **The Hamilton Project**

The Hamilton Project produces innovative policy proposals on how to create a growing economy. The Project's strategy reflects a judgment that long-term prosperity is best achieved by fostering economic growth and broad participation in that growth and by enhancing individual economic security. The Project's site provides cases studies and strategy papers focused on creating effective workforce programs.

## **Environmental Hazards**

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

EPA provides evidence and practices designed to promote sustainable healthy communities by reducing air and water pollution. The site details how certain programs and steps benefit air and water quality.

### **National Service Center for Environmental Publications**

The EPA National Service Center for Environmental Publications features case studies, research, and resources to help communities reduce local health hazards.

### **Brownfields Center**

The Brownfields Center, sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute, provides resources, research and practical information about reducing the impact of Brownfields in your community.

### **National Assn of Clean Air Agencies (NCAA)**

NCAA is a national, non-partisan, non-profit association of air pollution control agencies in 41 states, the District of Columbia, four territories and 116 metropolitan areas. NCAA's site provides resources, research, and practices designed to improve air quality.

### **National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)**

NEEF helps implement public awareness and engagement campaigns to showcase how everyday actions based on sound environmental knowledge can lead to huge impacts. Campaigns are based on social and behavioral science research; success is measured through periodic national surveys. NEEF's research and best practices unit pilots projects to test the potential for environmental education for new audiences that include businesses, weathercasters, and the Latino community. NEEF also offers a wide range of grants and awards.

### **Smart Growth America (SGA)**

Smart Growth America is a national coalition of state and local organization working for smart growth across the country. SGA's work ranges from promoting sidewalk development so people can walk to their town center, and building homes near public transit, to the retention of productive farms in communities.. SGA provides research, practical solutions, and case studies to support smart growth and sustainable practices.



## **Neighborhood Green Space and Health in a Large Urban Center**

A scientific report featured on nature.com that quantifies the return provided by tree cover and green space in urban centers.

## **Housing**

### **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

Find an array of federal programs and resources to create and sustain affordable, healthy housing.

### **National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH)**

NCHH, a national nonprofit dedicated to securing healthy homes for all, integrates healthy housing advocacy, research, and capacity building under one roof to reduce health disparities. NCHH's site features myriad resources, from research to financial resources to support healthy, affordable housing.

### **Neighborworks America**

NeighborWorks America helps build strong, resilient communities by providing people with opportunities to live in safe, healthy and affordable housing, whether they own or rent. NeighborWorks offers grants, training and technical assistance to support the efforts of NeighborWorks member organizations and the community development field to develop healthy homes and communities. The NeighborWorks site provides numerous resources to promote and support community development and affordable housing.

### **Green and Healthy Homes Initiative**

The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, directed by the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, that addresses the health and energy efficiency needs of a home through a holistic intervention model. The site features resources about healthy housing and information about how to get involved in the initiative.

## **Natural Areas**

### **Trust for Public Land (TPL)**

TPL offers research to support economic and health benefits of parks and open space, along with innovative practices for public parks and green space

### **American Planning Association's (APA) City Parks Forum**

The City Parks Forum provides a venue for urban leaders interested in addressing the challenges of creating and enhancing parks. It is a collaboration between the APA and the National Recreation and Park Association that seeks to utilize parks in planning vital, livable communities. The site provides case studies, briefs, and technical reports to help community leaders understand how parks play an integrated role in urban environments and how to improve access to parks and recreational areas.

### **Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees)**

ACTrees is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to planting, sustaining, and advocating for trees in America's communities. ACTrees works with grassroots member organizations and network partners in to engage volunteers to improve the environment. ACTrees highlights successful community programs and resources.



### **Neighborhood Green Space and Health in a Large Urban Center**

A scientific report featured on nature.com that quantifies the return provided by tree cover and green space in urban centers.

## **Neighborhood Characteristics**

### **Building Healthy Places Initiative**

The Urban Land Institute's (ULI) Building Healthy Places Initiative helps make the link between human health and development. The site provides evidence-supported opportunities to enhance health outcomes in real estate developments.

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### **Public Health Law Center**

The Public Health Law Center features policies, research and resources to help increase access to healthy, affordable food.

### **Fair Food Network**

Fair Food Network is a national nonprofit that works at the intersection of food systems, sustainability, and social equity to provide access to healthy, fresh and sustainably grown food, especially in underserved communities. The Network implements model programs to bring the right stakeholders together to generate ideas, share resources, and promote policy changes to repair the nation's food system.

### **Social Compact**

Social Compact is a coalition of business leaders from across the country who promote successful business investment in lower-income communities for the benefit of current residents. Social Compact addresses some of the key impediments to private investment in inner-city communities, namely, negative stereotypes – reinforced by poverty and deficiency data coupled with a lack of dependable business-oriented market information — and an absence of effective inner-city market analysis models. Social Compact provides inner-city neighborhood market analysis, and municipal and community trainings and consulting.

### **The Community Guide**

The Community Guide is a collection of practices and policies designed to promote health. The Guide features recommendations to reduce the density of alcohol outlets.



### **National Complete Streets Coalition**

Complete Streets provides information and resources to help integrate people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our transportation networks. The Coalition promotes the development and implementation of policies and professional practices that ensure streets are safe for people of all ages and abilities, balance the needs of different modes, and support local land uses, economies, cultures, and natural environments.

### **Transportation Research Board**

TRB provides transportation practitioners, researchers, public officials, and other professionals information and research to help address the transportation challenges of the 21st century.

### **Walk On: Strategies to Promote Walkable Communities**

A brief developed by Prevention Institute

## **Public Health and Safety**

### **Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)**

The Department of Justice's BJS provides data and research on community policing policies and practices.

### **Connecting Sustainability and Public Safety**

The Sustainable City Network provides guidance on how to reduce crime through community engagement.

### **Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials (APCO)**

APCO International is the world's largest organization of public safety communications professionals. It provides complete expertise, professional development, technical assistance, advocacy and outreach. Its site offers common solutions to critical issues through research and best practices.

### **International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC)**

ICPC is a unique international forum and resource center dedicated to the exchange of ideas and knowledge on crime prevention and community safety. ICPC seeks to promote crime prevention, encourage the development of inspiring practices, and foster effective exchange between criminal justice systems and civil societies across countries and cities.

### **Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project**

The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP, pronounced "H-Cup") is a family of health care databases and related software tools and products developed through a Federal-State-Industry partnership and sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). HCUP databases bring together the data collection efforts of State data organizations, hospital associations, private data organizations, and the Federal government to create a national information resource of encounter-level health care data.





### **Project RED**

Project Re-Engineered Discharge is a research group at Boston University Medical Center that develops and tests strategies to improve the hospital discharge process in a way that promotes patient safety and reduces re-hospitalization rates. The Project RED site outlines components of the project and features a Toolkit designed to help prevent repeat hospitalizations.

### **Promising Practices for Preventing Low Birth Weight**

An Issue Brief from the Promising Practices Network that provides a concise overview of research-based information related to preventing low birth weight.

### **Attendance Works Toolkit**

The Toolkit was designed by Attendance Works, a national and state initiative, that promotes awareness of the important role that school attendance plays in achieving academic success starting with school entry. Their goal is to ensure that every district in the country not only tracks chronic absence data beginning in kindergarten or ideally earlier, but also partners with families and community agencies to intervene when attendance is a problem for children or particular schools.

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## **Social Cohesion**

### **Partners for Livable Communities**

Partners for Livable Communities is a national nonprofit organization working to restore and renew the communities we work and live in. Partners has over thirty years of experience in solving community problems by providing information, leadership and guidance that help communities help themselves. We welcome the opportunity to bring our experience to your community.

### **National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC)**

NCoC is a congressionally chartered organization dedicated to strengthening civic life in America. Its nationwide network of partners are involved in a cutting-edge civic health initiative, an innovative national service project, and cross-sector conferences. At the core of these joint efforts is the belief that every person has the ability to help their community and country thrive. NCoC is committed to supporting the growing engagement of Americans. As a bridge between partners in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, NCoC administers various programs and initiatives to help build a more active and engaged citizenry and unlock the power of the nation's most valuable resource: its citizens.

### **The Voter Participation Center**

The Voter Participation Center (VPC) is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization dedicated to increasing the participation of historically underrepresented groups in democracy. VPC seeks to boost the civic engagement of women, people of color and millennials—the three demographic groups who comprise the Rising American Electorate (RAE).



## **The Center for Voting and Democracy**

The Center offers research and analysis to help promote voting in local, state, and national elections.

## **Transportation**

### **DOT Transportation and Health Tool (THT)**

The Transportation Health Tool was developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide easy access to data that practitioners can use to examine the health impacts of transportation systems. The tool provides data on a set of transportation and public health indicators for each U.S. state and metropolitan area that describe how the transportation environment affects safety, active transportation, air quality, and connectivity to destinations

### **EPA Access to Jobs and Workers Via Transit Tool**

The Access to Jobs and Workers via Transit Tool provides indicators of accessibility to destinations by public transit. Indicators summarize jobs accessible by transit as well as workers, households, and population that can access the block group via transit. Coverage is limited to metropolitan regions served by transit agencies that share their service data.

### **Transportation Planning Resources**

The Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration provides numerous resources focused on public engagement and equity in transportation planning. It includes links to publications, legislation and guidance, recent peer events, upcoming calendar events, and related websites.

### **Transportation Research Board**

TRB provides transportation practitioners, researchers, public officials, and other professionals information and research to help address the transportation challenges of the 21st century.

### **National Center for Transit Research (NCTR)**

NCTR, located at the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida, provides research and practical solutions to help make public transportation and alternative forms of transportation safe and effective.

### **Reconnecting America**

Reconnecting America is a national non-profit that advises civic and community leaders on how to overcome community development challenges. Reconnecting America develops research and innovative public policy, while also building on-the-ground partnerships and convening key stakeholders to accelerate decision-making. The resources and documents contained within their resource center are a continuation of the Best Practices database originally funded by the Federal Transit Administration. The site features case studies, research, technical, and policy documents on almost every topic related to transit oriented development and livable communities.



### **Location Affordability Portal**

HUD's Location Affordability Portal provides access to two tools, the Location Affordability Index and My Transportation Cost Calculator, which illustrate, from different perspectives, how housing and transportation costs impact affordability. In addition to these decision-support tools, the Portal provides access to supporting resources that offer a wide range of information on current research and practice aimed at understanding, and ultimately reducing, the combined housing and transportation cost burden borne by American families.

### **Center for Transit-Oriented Development (CTOD)**

CTOD provides innovative practices, policy reform, research, analysis, and investment tools to support TOD implementation.

## **Funding Resources**

### **Grantmakers in Health (GIH)**

GIH is a nonprofit, educational organization that helps foundations and corporate giving programs improve the health of our communities. It fosters community and collaboration among grantmakers to strengthen the community's knowledge, skills, and effectiveness.

### **CDC Community Health Funding**

The CDC's Division of Community Health (DCH) manages three awards that support grantees from large and small cities and counties, tribal organizations, and national and community organizations. These awards support cross-cutting programs that prevent and control chronic diseases and improve community health.

### **County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Funding Guide**

The Funding Guide helps communities identify and access funding resources for community health initiatives.

### **Health Fund Watch**

Health Fund Watch is the Foundation Center's newsletter on health-related topics. It provides links to other health-related news, resources, as well as funding opportunities for individuals and organizations.

### **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

The National Institutes of Health produces a weekly release of Funding Opportunities and Notices. Not all relate to community health, but it is a resource to follow.

### **National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)**

NEEF helps implement public awareness and engagement campaigns to showcase how everyday actions based on sound environmental knowledge can lead to huge impacts. Campaigns are based on social and behavioral science research; success is measured through periodic national surveys. NEEF's research and best practices unit pilots projects to test the potential for environmental education for new audiences that include businesses, weathercasters, and the Latino community. NEEF also offers a wide range of grants and awards.



## U.S. Federal Agencies' Toolkit

HUD and several other federal agencies have developed a variety of tools that communities can use in conjunction with the HCAT to evaluate and monitor community health. Here are a few that HUD's OLHCHH has been working with during the development of HCAT that may be of interest to communities that adopt the HCAT:

### HUD Enterprise Geographic Information System (eGIS)

HUD eGIS Storefront is an easy-to-use site where users can search for and discover HUD's geospatial datasets, application programming interfaces (APIs), web-based mapping tools, and other eGIS initiatives.

### Location Affordability Portal (LAP)

HUD's LAP provides access to two tools, the Location Affordability Index (LAI) and My Transportation Cost Calculator (MTCC), which illustrate how housing and transportation costs impact affordability from the perspective of the community as well as the individual user. In addition to these decision-support tools, the Portal provides access to supporting resources that offer a wide range of information on current research and practice aimed at understanding, and ultimately reducing, the combined housing and transportation cost burden borne by American families.

### EPA Environmental Justice Screen (EJScreen)

EJScreen is an environmental justice (EJ) mapping and screening tool created by the EPA to aid the agency's protection of public health and the environment. The tool is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports.

### EPA Smart Location Database and Mapping

These are EPA data tools that measure the built environment and transit accessibility of neighborhoods across metropolitan regions and across the United States. The Smart Location Database summarizes more than 90 different indicators associated with the built environment and location efficiency. Indicators include density of development, diversity of land use, street network design, and accessibility to destinations as well as various demographic and employment statistics. Most attributes are available for all U.S. block groups. The Access to Jobs and Workers Via Transit Tool provides indicators of accessibility to destinations by public transit. Indicators summarize jobs accessible by transit as well as workers, households, and population that can access the block group via transit. Coverage is limited to metropolitan regions served by transit agencies that share their service data.

### The Built Environment Assessment Tool Manual

The Built Environment Assessment Tool, developed by the CDC, explains the importance of understanding and measuring the built environment and provides communities a tool which can be used to do so.

### Transportation and Health Tool (THT)

The THT was developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide easy access to data that practitioners can use to examine the health impacts of transportation systems. The tool provides data on a set of transportation and public health indicators for each U.S. state and metropolitan area that describe how the transportation environment affects safety, active transportation, air quality, and connectivity to destinations.

