



Catalyzing Communities

A ChildObesity180 Initiative

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the Catalyzing Communities Learning Collaborative March 2023 newsletter! March is Women's History Month, and the theme this year is "[Embracing Equity](#)". To commemorate this month, we're featuring resources that highlight achievements of women in science, and center topics of maternal and child health.

We've included information about one of our collaborators, the Council on Black Health, as well as several events, toolkits, and funding opportunities that may be of interest. A few of the funding opportunities have deadlines this month, and we wanted to be sure you saw them. We hope these will be helpful to you and your community partners.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to others in your community who might be interested.

Thank you for your partnership!

The Catalyzing Communities Team

Resources and articles of interest

- READ: [Call to Action: Maternal Health and Saving Mothers: A Policy Statement From the American Heart Association](#). 2021. This policy statement outlines the inequities that influence disparities in maternal outcomes and current policy approaches to improving maternal health, and suggests additional potentially impactful actions to improve maternal outcomes and ultimately save mothers' lives.
- WATCH: The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) webinar titled, [Improving Research on Children at High Risk for Obesity: Whether to Apply, Adapt, or Develop a Measure](#), discusses its new resource to improve measurement on children at high risk for obesity. This resource includes a decision tree that walks researchers and practitioners through a series of questions regarding whether to develop, adapt, or apply an instrument for obesity measures in high-risk populations. The decision tree also provides five real-world

case scenarios that describe the rationale for choosing one of the three measurement approaches. This webinar features the voices of women in the field.

- EXPLORE: [The Council on Black Health](#) is a research and action network that provides thought leadership to develop and implement a national agenda for Black health. The Council drives the agenda to realize healthy Black communities by impacting individual behaviors, social and political determinants of health, and chronic disease outcomes through our focus on partnerships, problem-solving (research), policy, and permanence. Explore their tools, publications, and other resources [HERE](#).
- WATCH: In her lecture titled, [From the Mouths of Babes: What Can Research on Babies, Moms, Stress, and Substance Use Tell Us About Resilience?](#), Dr. Laura Stroud, Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University and Director and Senior Research Scientist at the Center for Behavioral and Preventive Medicine and The Miriam Hospital Providence, RI, provides examples of findings from her laboratory focused on revealing the earliest intergenerational transmission of maternal experiences and behaviors (particularly substance use) in fetuses and babies; the importance of understanding and intervening during sensitive periods; and the need for understanding the broader “exposome” including social and structural impacts.
- READ: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) devised the [Advancing Rural Maternity Health Equity report](#) which summarizes the activities that CMS OMH implemented as part of its Rural Maternal Health Initiative between June 2019 and November 2021. The purpose of the report is to raise awareness of these efforts with rural stakeholders, identify collaborative opportunities, and thereby further advance rural maternal healthcare equity across the country.
- WATCH: [Food Literacy for All](#) is a community-academic partnership online course based at the University of Michigan. For winter 2023, the theme is “Roots: Food, Power and the Climate Crisis.” Structured as an online evening lecture series, Food Literacy for All features different guest speakers each week to address challenges and opportunities of diverse food systems. The course is free, and speakers are recorded so they can be viewed anytime. **Register [HERE](#)**.

Tools and Guides

- The [Black Mamas Matter: Advancing the Human Right to Safe and Respectful Maternal Health Care](#) toolkit provides a comprehensive overview of information and resources on Black maternal health and identifies action policymakers can take to address maternal health within the human rights and reproductive justice

frameworks. The toolkit has been used to train doulas and maternity care providers, sensitize state and federal policymakers to the issue, inform local legislation, and equip stakeholders to effect change.

- The Partnership for a Healthier America launched an interactive [Food Equity Opportunity Map](#) that uses census data to highlight communities where high Food Equity exists, where there are opportunities for improvement, and where community organizations can make the biggest impact.
- The [Racial Equity Toolkit](#), by the Clear Impact Forum, is designed to support backbone staff and partners to operationalize racial equity throughout their collective impact work. Sign up [HERE](#) to download.

Events

- CityMatCH, a national organization of urban maternal and child health leaders, is hosting the [CityMatCH Maternal and Child Health Leaders Conference](#) on September 20th- 22nd, 2023 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The call for abstracts is available until **March 10th, 2023 11:59 PM PST**. Click [HERE](#) to submit an abstract.
- The NIH will host the March session of Diverse Voices: Intersectionality and the Health of Women, titled [“Intersectional Stigma and Mental Health,”](#) on **March 23, 3:00- 4:00 p.m. ET**. The session will feature presentations from Drs. Melissa DuPont-Reyes and Janet Turan. Dr. DuPont-Reyes will discuss using an intersectional lens to examine mental health concerns among adolescents and Dr. Turan will discuss her recent work that focuses on analytical approaches for measuring intersectional stigma. Session attendees will learn about (1) how to use intersectionality to enhance understanding of the interaction between stigmatized mental health disorders and multiple marginalized identities and (2) how to advocate for health care and research interventions to expand our capacity to attend to intersectional stigma and social context. Click [HERE](#) to register.
- The New Entry Sustainable Farming Project at Tufts University is hosting an event titled [“What’s SNAP got to do with it? Accessing Food Nutrition Programs to Mitigate Risk”](#) on **Monday, April 3, 2023 6-8PM at New Entry's Incubator Farm 733 Cabot Street, Beverly MA, 01915 OR Online**. Join Rebecca Davidson (MDAR), David Webber (MDAR), and Tarissa Johnson (FNS) to learn about eligibility requirements, equipment considerations, and the application process on the state and federal level. At the end of the session eligible applicants will have the opportunity to sign up for a one-on-one enrollment session with an FNS agent. Click [HERE](#) to register.

- [The Friedman School Speaker Series](#) includes (hybrid) presentations from professionals across a wide range of topics in the field of nutrition. Our speakers include both researchers and practitioners of nutrition science and policy from academia, government, industry, and the non-profit sector. “Live” on **Wednesday afternoons from 12:15-1:15 pm (ET)** on the academic year schedule.

Funding sources/opportunities

- The CDC’s [High Obesity Program \(HOP\)](#) works at the county level to implement evidence-based strategies and leverage resources from stakeholders and sectors (e.g., agriculture, transportation, education, business, commerce, and housing) in their populations of focus related to poor nutrition and physical inactivity. This five-year program will fund land grant universities to leverage community extension services to implement evidence-based strategies that improve nutrition, safe and accessible physical activity, including family health weight and early care and education programs in counties with an adult obesity rate of over 40%. It will carry out activities that can inform future state and local level programmatic efforts and provide continued support to achieve optimal health for all Americans. **Application deadline:** March 21, 2023 11:59PM ET. **Apply [HERE](#).**
- The WIC Community Innovation and Outreach (WIC CIAO) Project Team is pleased to make available funding through a [Request for Application \(RFA\)](#) to WIC State and local agencies, including Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs), and nonprofit entities and organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate innovative outreach strategies to increase WIC awareness, participation, benefit redemption, and reduce disparities in program delivery. Up to \$10 million will be available under this WIC CIAO Subgrant RFA. **Application deadline:** March 23, 2023. **Apply [HERE](#).**
- The NIH released a Funding Opportunity Announcement for [Addressing the Impact of Structural Racism and Discrimination on Minority Health and Health Disparities](#). Research projects must address structural racism and discrimination (SRD) in one or more NIH-designated populations with health disparities in the US and should address documented disparities in health outcomes. Potential health outcomes may reflect health status; health condition-specific or all-cause disability, quality of life, mortality and morbidity; biological measures that reflect cumulative exposures to and effects of SRD; health behaviors; or access to, utilization of, or quality of healthcare. **Application deadline:** March 24, 2023 5PM local time. **Apply [HERE](#).**
- The CDC announces the availability of fiscal year 2023 funds to implement CDC-RFA-DP23-2312: [The State Physical Activity and Nutrition \(SPAN\) Program](#). Funding will support activities at the state and local governmental levels to implement evidence-based strategies and leverage resources from stakeholders and sectors (e.g., agriculture, transportation, education, business,

commerce, and housing) in their populations of focus related to poor nutrition and physical inactivity. This NOFO will fund recipients to work with state and local partners to improve nutrition and access to safe physical activity, including breastfeeding, early care and education, and family healthy weight programs. **Application deadline:** March 28, 2023 11:59PM ET **Apply [HERE](#).**

- [The RWJF Culture of Health Prize](#) celebrates communities across the country where people and organizations are collaborating to build positive solutions to barriers that have created unequal opportunities for health and wellbeing. The Prize serves to inspire others to take action and create a healthier future for everyone's children and grandchildren. **Application deadline:** March 29, 2023. **Apply [HERE](#).**
- [Healthy Eating Research](#) (HER), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is funding research on supportive family policies and programs that have strong potential to impact equitable access to nutritious food in communities, nutrition security, diet quality, and improved nutrition and health outcomes. **Application deadline:** April 5, 2023. **Apply [HERE](#).**
- NIFA requests applications for the [GusNIP Produce Prescription Program](#) for FY2023 to support projects that aim to demonstrate and evaluate the impact of prescribing fresh fruits and vegetables on (1) the improvement of dietary health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables; (2) the reduction of individual and household food insecurity; and (3) the reduction in healthcare use and associated costs. **Application deadline:** May 16, 2023. **Apply [HERE](#).**

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you'd like to receive it directly, send an email to CatalyzingCommunities@tufts.edu

For more information about Catalyzing Communities, visit:
<https://catalyzingcommunities.org>