



Catalyzing Communities

A ChildObesity180 Initiative

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the Catalyzing Communities Learning Collaborative November 2023 newsletter! Thanks to everyone who attended and spread the word about our Keynote presentation from Dr. Tashara Leak in October! We were glad to see you and your colleagues in attendance. If you missed it, or want to hear it again, we've provided a link below.

This month, we are featuring resources that highlight Dr. Leak's contributions to the field, specifically in the areas of adolescent health and community-based health interventions.

We've included several events, toolkits, and funding opportunities that may be of interest. 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

- WATCH: If you missed it, or want to watch again, [here](#) is the link to Dr. Tashara Leak's Learning Collaborative Keynote presentation— "Fostering Cross-Sector Collaborations Between Community Organizations, Researchers, and Policy Makers."
- READ: Navika Gangrade, Nisha Botchwey, & Tashara Leak. (2023). [Examining the feasibility of a youth advocacy program promoting healthy snacking in New York City: a mixed-methods process evaluation.](#)
- WATCH: [Lessons Learned from Engaging Communities in Nutrition Research](#) hosted by [The Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research at Cornell](#)

[University](#) features Dr. Tashara Leak who discusses her research and also the approach she takes when creating community partnerships that are essential for that research.

- READ: In honor of National Women's month, the [USDA](#) featured a [spotlight on Dr. Tashara Leak](#) as a leader in helping advance agriculture-related sciences.
- EXPLORE: [The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs \(AMCHP\)](#) "is a national resource, partner, and advocate for state public health leaders who work and support state maternal and child health programs and others working to improve the health of women, children, youth, families, and communities."
- LISTEN: [The Region V Public Health Training Center \(RVPHTC\)](#) seeks to advance the skills of the current and future public health workforce to improve population health outcomes. As part of their Root Cause Series, RVPHTC featured a podcast titled, "[Systems Change Through Community Engagement](#)" which "offers a unique perspective that combines academic research with real-world application, ultimately underlying the critical role of community involvement, representation, and sustained funding in promoting health equity."
- READ: [The Addressing Teen Hunger Report](#) by [Feeding America](#) serves as a "resource highlighting the struggles and resiliencies of teens experiencing food insecurity and the successes and challenges of those working to support and empower them."

Tools and Guides

- [The Birth Equity Ecosystem Map](#) is an interactive guide to assess and identify opportunities to strengthen your local birth equity ecosystem.
- [The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's State of Childhood Obesity Report](#) outlines the evolution and trajectory of their work in reaching their targeted commitment to preventing childhood obesity.
- [The Center for Science in the Public Interest \(CSPI\)](#) report: [Recommendations to Promote Healthy Retail Food Environments](#) aims "to make recommendations for policy, voluntary actions, and research areas to support in-store and online food environments that make healthy food and beverage choices easier for all consumers. The recommendations outlined in this report were informed by a convening of industry, SNAP participant, and public health stakeholders, and are grounded in the promotion of equitable access to healthy foods for all residents of the US."

- [Trust for America's Health](#) released the 2023 Annual Report titled, "[State of Obesity 2023: Better Policies for a Healthier America](#)" which reports "on the antecedents and rates of obesity in the U.S. as well as policy solutions."

Request for Information

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking feedback from the public on a proposed update of the NIH mission statement. NIH is the world's largest public funder of biomedical and behavioral research. It is important that the mission statement accurately reflect the agency's goal of turning scientific discoveries into better health for all. You are invited to review the changes and submit your input by **November 24, 2023**. Post a response [HERE](#).

Events

- [The White House Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#) notes that the intake of added sugars for most Americans is higher than what is recommended by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and calls for FDA, in collaboration with other HHS divisions and USDA, to hold a public meeting regarding future steps that can be taken to reduce added sugars consumption in the United States. FDA will host, in collaboration with other federal partners, a virtual public meeting followed by virtual public listening sessions to discuss strategies for reducing added sugars consumption in the United States. The Virtual Public Meeting will be held on **Monday, November 6, 2023, 11 AM – 4 PM ET**. The Virtual Listening Sessions will be held on **Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 10-11:30 AM ET; 2-3:30 PM ET AND Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 10-11:30 AM ET and 2-3:30 PM ET**. Register for any of these sessions [HERE](#).
- [The Food and Research Action Center](#) will host, "[The Importance of Implementing Summer EBT in 2024](#)" webinar on **Nov 9, 2023 03:00 PM ET**. Join the Food Research & Action Center, state agency administrators, and anti-hunger advocates to discuss the importance of Summer EBT benefits, advocacy efforts underway, and why states should implement the program in 2024. Register [HERE](#).
- [The Bipartisan Policy Center](#) will host, "Healthy Eating Rx: Improving Nutrition Through Health Care" on **November 14 11 am ET**. This event will feature a discussion on policies that address increasing nutrition education and access to Food is Medicine interventions for those with diet-related diseases. Register [HERE](#).
- [The Nutrition & Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network \(NOPREN\)](#) will host a [State-of-the-Science: Breastfeeding Support Policies webinar](#) featuring Cheryl Lebedevitch, Senior Policy & Communications Manager, United States

Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) on **November 13, 12:00 -1:00pm ET**. Join the webinar [HERE](#).

Funding sources/opportunities

- [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) seeks applications for [The National Rural Health Policy, Community, and Collaboration Program](#) to fund a single entity to develop and maintain projects that will help support rural communities through a broad range of activities. **Application deadline:** November 30, 2023. **Apply [HERE](#).**
- [The NIH Build UP Trust Challenge](#) seeks new approaches to improve engagement with underserved populations with a focus on increasing their participation in disease research and adoption of existing and new tools and strategies to detect, treat and monitor diseases and disorders. The NIH Build UP Trust prize challenge aims to utilize new and existing strategies to improve engagement with underserved populations, in order to generate new solutions that address trust as a barrier to the adoption of both new and existing healthcare tools and diagnostics. These new solutions can include improvements to existing tools/devices, as well as the creation of new ones. **Submissions Due:** December 5, 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>