



Catalyzing Communities

A ChildObesity180 Initiative

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the Catalyzing Communities Learning Collaborative October 2023 newsletter! In conjunction with last month's theme of "social connectedness and belonging" this month, we are featuring resources that highlight ways networks can be leveraged to increase community impact and advance health equity.

Don't forget to register for our second Keynote presentation of 2023! Dr. Tashara Leak will give a (virtual) Keynote presentation titled, "Fostering Cross-Sector Collaborations Between Community Organizations, Researchers, and Policy Makers," followed by a moderated Q&A on **Thursday, October 26, 1pm-2pm ET!** If you want to register in advance, click [HERE!](#) We encourage you to spread the word to your networks, colleagues and community members by sharing the attached PDF flyer!

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

- READ: The [Work Your Networks to Improve Community Wellbeing](#) article by the University of Minnesota outlines steps, considerations, and examples of ways to engage your networks to make community impacts.
- EXPLORE: National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed each year from September 15 to October 15 to celebrate the achievements, histories, traditions, and cultural diversity of Hispanic/Latino Americans. Check out the [Office of Minority Health Hispanic Heritage Month website](#), available in English and

Spanish, for more information, health resources, shareable graphics, social media messaging, virtual backgrounds, and downloadable templates.

- LISTEN: A recent episode of How to Talk to People, titled, [The Infrastructure of Community](#), analyzes “how American efficiency culture holds us back from connecting in public, whether social spaces create a culture of interaction, and what it takes to actively participate in a community.” [How to Talk to People](#) is a “series exploring the barriers to community building and why—in a world with endless opportunities to connect—many people still feel alone.”
- READ: The [HOW WE RISE](#) report is “part of [The Brookings Institution](#)’s How We Rise project, a larger series of research and analysis that helps to explain the dynamics of social connections and the policy solutions that intentionally focus on the social network determinants of economic mobility and equity.”
- WATCH: [Leveraging Social Networks: The Role of Community Influencers](#) hosted by [The UW Collaborative Center for Health Equity \(CCHE\) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison](#) highlights “how community influencers use responsive, culturally congruent, targeted messages and pathways intentionally designed to impact community health and community assets. Our panel of colleagues from on- and off-campus discussed how the partnership came together and highlighted community influencers’ role and key skills. They also featured the particular methods each influencer used, including corrective steps taken to refine and adjust practice mid-stream.”
- READ: [The Urban Institute](#) created [Leveraging Community Expertise to Advance Health Equity](#) which “examines the role of community engagement in informing and advancing efforts to eradicate health inequities. Here, we define “community engagement” as collaborating and sharing power with communities to identify concerns and develop and implement solutions.”

Tools and Guides

- [The Action Guide for Building Socially Connected Communities](#), developed by [The Foundation for Connection](#), is an interactive toolkit “designed for local leaders and changemakers, the interactive guide features a six-step process to engage partners and community members in implementing strategies to foster social connection.”
- The [Network Evaluation Guide](#), developed by the [Visible Networks Labs](#), “covers all the main aspects of network evaluation. It includes methods, frameworks and tools, its relationship to developmental evaluation and social network analysis, advice for analyzing relational data, and additional resources and FAQs.”

- [ENGAGE: How Funders Can Support and Leverage Networks for Social Impact](#) is a guide developed by [The Rockefeller Foundation](#) that aims to strengthen the capacity of grant-maker to support and leverage network in service of their social impact goal. The information in this guide is designed to help guide grantmaking action and offered in the service of decision-making.
- Developed by [The Centers for Disease Control](#), [Strategies for Classroom Physical Activity in Schools](#), “describes strategies for promoting and planning classroom physical activity. It also provides a list of practical resources to help school staff implement the strategies identified.”

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

- [Building Connected Communities](#) is an action forum for leaders working to address social isolation, loneliness, and connection that will feature [Healthy Placed by Design](#) along with other organizations. The event will take place both virtually and in person on **October 12-14**. **Registration for the virtual meeting is free (there is a fee for in-person registration)**. Register [HERE](#).
- The [Writing Effective Op-Eds: A Training for Researchers](#) webinar hosted by [Duke University](#) on **October 25, 12:00-1:30 PM EST** will teach participants about the role and influence of op-eds as a strategic communication strategy, how the writing style and components of op-eds differ from academic pieces, selecting an outlet, and what editors look for in an op-ed. The webinar will feature perspectives from a researcher experienced in publishing op-eds and a media professional and will give participants practical strategies for crafting their own op-eds. The webinar will also feature insights from Catalyzing Communities Co-I, [Juliana Cohen](#). Register [HERE](#).
- The NIH will host a webinar on **October 25, 2-5PM ET** titled, “[Understanding the Impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic and Promoting Health Equity Among Children, Adolescents, and Families in Canada and the United States](#)”. This webinar will highlight research to better understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and health equity issues affecting children, adolescents, and their families in Canada and the United States. The discussion will include research

on the social determinants of health and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and adolescents in diverse underserved communities. Register [HERE](#).

- The Learning Collaborative presents a (virtual) keynote presentation from Dr. Tashara Leak titled, “Fostering Cross-Sector Collaborations Between Community Organizations, Researchers, and Policy Makers,” on **Thursday, October 26 1pm- 2pm ET**. To register, click [HERE](#)!
- The NIH will host [“Introduction to the Health Disparities Calculator \(hd*calc\)”](#). The Health Disparities Calculator (HD*Calc) is statistical software designed to generate multiple summary measures to evaluate and monitor health disparities (HD). This presentation will provide the audience with an overview of creating datasets and importing the data for use in HD*Calc. Examples using an absolute and a relative summary measure will be presented. Register [HERE](#).
- Our partners in Milwaukee are hosting the fourth annual It Takes A Village Community Baby Shower & Resource Fair **on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 10am-3pm CT at The Wisconsin Black Historical Society Museum, 2620 W Center Street Milwaukee, WI 53206**. The theme this year is “One Village, One Sound!”. The objective of the event is, “to send the message to our city that our collective, community-centered voices, efforts, and commitments to better birth outcomes, are both personal and unified!”. Participants register [HERE](#).
- [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](#).

Funding sources/opportunities

- [The HFFI Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnerships Program \(HFFI Partnerships Program\)](#) is a new grant program under the expanded America’s Healthy Food Financing Initiative that will offer grants to support partnerships between organizations from different sectors that will work together at the local, state, or regional level to improve access to fresh, healthy, affordable

food by providing financial and technical assistance to eligible projects. This new program will expand the impact of the HFFI program nationally and bring in new partners to address the complexity of food access in communities across America. Through support of local and regional Partnerships, this program will build capacity for local groups serving the needs of their communities and deepen the reach of HFFI into underserved communities. **Application deadline:** November 3, 2023 11:59PM ET. **Apply [HERE](#).**

- The NIH seeks applications for [Leveraging Social Networks to Promote Widespread Individual Behavior Change \(R01 and R34 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#). This opportunity will provide funding for planning activities and research to develop social network interventions to promote health across the lifespan, especially in populations in which they are currently largely underdeveloped and untested. **Application deadline:** November 3, 2023 5:00 PM local time. **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>