



## Catalyzing Communities

A ChildObesity180 Initiative

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the Catalyzing Communities Learning Collaborative September 2023 newsletter! According to the [Center for Disease Control](#), barriers to reaching social connectedness can be “addressed through policy, systems, and environmental change approaches that can become incorporated into the structures in which we live, work, worship, learn, and play.” This month, we are featuring resources that highlight ways organizations and individuals experience and overcome challenges to social connectedness and belonging.

We are also excited to announce our second keynote speaker of the year! Dr. Tashara Leak will give a (virtual) Keynote presentation 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: [Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community](#), which “offers recommendations for increasing and strengthening social connection through a whole-of-society approach.”

- EXPLORE: “[Commit to Connect](#) is a cross-sector initiative, launched by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, to fight social isolation and loneliness by helping people connect and engage to build the social connections they need to thrive.” Check out their tools and resources [HERE](#).
- READ: [A Blueprint for Changemakers: Achieving Health Equity Through Law & Policy](#) by [Change Lab Solutions](#) “is for people who have seen what inequality looks like and are ready for a new approach that will ensure that everyone has what they need to be as healthy as possible. This executive summary presents an overview of a new approach to reducing health inequities. It includes legal and policy strategies to help policymakers, practitioners, and communities dismantle systemic barriers to health and promote health equity. And it includes guidance for working locally and collaboratively to advance innovative laws and policies that benefit all children, their families, and the communities where they live.”
- WATCH: “The Visible Networks Labs panel presented about ongoing efforts to [address social isolation and loneliness using public policy approaches](#) in the United States and United Kingdom, including social prescribing, policy advocacy, building the research foundation, policy implementation, and more.” [The Visible Network Labs](#) is a team of network scientists, developers, data analysts, evaluators and technologists working towards a shared mission of building society’s capacity to leverage and strengthen social connectedness.
- READ: “[Systems Of Cross-sector Integration and Action across the Lifespan \(SOCIAL\) Framework:The Health Sector](#)”, provides an overview of the SOCIAL frameworks and the ways it can be used “to systematically identify potential gaps and opportunities to aid in the establishment of systemic strategies within the health sector.” This resource was created by [The Foundation for Social Connection](#) which commits to “engage in education, increase public awareness, promote innovative research, and spur the development and implementation of evidence-based models that address social isolation, loneliness, and social connection.”
- EXPLORE: [Pyx Health](#) is a female led and LGBTQI+ founded, organization that provides solutions for loneliness. Pyx Health combines technology, timely human connection, and science-based programming to improve loneliness at scale. Check out their tools and resources [HERE](#).
- READ: [Healthy Places by Design](#) developed the [Socially Connected Communities Solutions for Social Isolation](#) report “to help reframe the national conversation toward one that recognizes the root causes of, and systemic solutions to, social isolation. This report seeks to inspire and equip all readers—especially grantmaking organizations and local government leaders— to intentionally redesign community-level systems to support meaningful social connections.”

- READ: [The Prevention Institute](#) is excited to announce a new resource, [Toward Equitable Transportation and Land Use Policies: Strategies for Advancing Implementation](#), which describes methods for building community power to advance equitable implementation. With support from the CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO), we partnered with 15 practitioners to identify emerging practices and models drawn from the leading edge of this work.

## Tools and Guides

- [The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) offers a series of steps to end social isolation in [Simple steps, guided by input from community members, can help reduce social isolation and improve health, wellbeing, and civic engagement](#).
- The American Cancer Societies' [Hook Line Sinker](#) guide serves as an important strategy for public health communication and advocacy. "The hook, line and sinker strategy will help ensure you cover key messages and conduct an effective and successful meeting with your lawmaker. In most meetings, you'll have more than one line and sinker to match up with the asks of the day."

## Events

- [The Social Media Summit](#) hosted by Northeastern University will take place on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at East Village, 17th Floor, Boston, MA 02120**. This free in-person event is your opportunity to connect with industry leaders, network with global peers, and stay ahead in the ever-evolving world of social media. You'll hear from Northeastern's award-winning enterprise social media team, as well as industry leaders. Register [HERE](#).
- The NIH presents the NIH OBSSR Director's Webinar: ["The Theoretical and Practical Importance of Advancing Health Equity"](#) on **September 19, 2023, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET**. Dr. Neil Lewis, Jr. will discuss what we have learned (and what we still need to learn), the implications of that knowledge and how it is generated, and why the pursuit of health equity is important for advancing theories across the sciences, which has practical benefits for broader society. Register [HERE](#).
- The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), in collaboration with other Institutes and Offices at the National Institutes of Health and federal partners, is organizing a two-day online workshop called: ["Advancing Health Equity Through Culture-Centered Dietary Interventions to Address Chronic Diseases Virtual Workshop"](#) on **September 28 - 29 from 12-5 p.m. ET**. Register [HERE](#).
- [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 Learning Collaborative presents a (virtual) keynote presentation from Dr. Tashara Leak on **Thursday, October 26 1pm- 2pm ET**. To register, click [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](#).

### **Funding sources/opportunities**

- [The U.S. Department of Transportation](#) seeks applications for the [Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods \(RCN\) Program](#) which aims to improve access to healthcare, food, and other daily needs by advancing community-centered connection transportation projects. **Application deadline:** September 28 11:59 PM ET. Apply [HERE](#).
- The NIH Department of Health and Human Services seeks applications for [Addressing the Impact of Structural Racism and Discrimination on Minority Health and Health Disparities \(R01 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#). This program provides funding to support intervention research to address the impact of structural racism and discrimination (SRD) on minority health and health disparities. **Application deadline:** October 10, 2023. **Apply** [HERE](#).
- [The Equitable Access in Child Nutrition Programs \(EA-CN\)](#) Project Team at the Food Research and Action Center is pleased to make up to \$1.1 million in funding available through a Subgrant Request for Proposals (RFP). Individual subgrant awards will range from \$100,000 to \$250,000. The purpose of the EA-CN Subgrant RFP is to support research activities that identify barriers to equitable access in the Child Nutrition Programs, as well as strategies to help overcome these barriers. **Application deadline:** October 3, 2023. **Apply** [HERE](#).
- [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 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](mailto:CatalyzingCommunities@tufts.edu)

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<https://catalyzingcommunities.org>