



# Catalyzing Communities

A ChildObesity180 Initiative

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the Catalyzing Communities Learning Collaborative March 2024 newsletter! March is [National Nutrition Month](#) and the campaign, developed by the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#), “focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.” In the spirit of this year’s theme, “Beyond the Table,” we’ve included resources that highlight nutrition equity. We’ve also included several events, toolkits, and funding opportunities. 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: Psyche Williams Forson, a recent James Beard Foundation Award Winner, published [“Eating While Black”](#) and was interviewed about the book by Dani Nierenberg, a Friedman School of Nutrition at Tufts alum and founder of [Food Tank](#) which is “a research and advocacy nonprofit organization devoted to storytelling that highlights how food and agriculture can be the solution to some of our most pressing environmental and social problems.”
- EXPLORE: [The Global Nutrition Report \(GNR\)](#) “is the world’s leading independent assessment of the state of global nutrition”. [“The '2022 Global Nutrition Report: Stronger commitments for greater action’](#) sets out the role of accountability and its ability to transform action to tackle the nutrition crisis. It analyzes the hard work underway and emphasizes the role of every stakeholder to demonstrate why coordination is the only way we can deliver sustainable nutrition outcomes.”
- LISTEN: The Leading Voices in Food podcast episode titled, [“Mississippi Delta History Describe Food Power Against and For Blacks in US”](#), explores a gripping

new book titled “Food Power Politics: The Food Story of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement,” written by African American Studies Assistant Professor Bobby J. Smith II at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The book tells how food was used as a political weapon against African Americans and describes how black people fought against oppressive regimes by creating their own food systems.

- READ: [The Urban Institute](#) published a brief titled, “[Young People and Nutrition Assistance](#)”. “This brief focuses on the circumstances under which young people ages 14 to 24 are able to access Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—the largest federal nutrition assistance program— and what is known about the program’s effectiveness for this population.”
- EXPLORE: [The Let’s Eat Healthy Initiative](#) aims to bring together educators, health professionals, change-makers and community leaders in California to elevate the health of children and families through the pursuit of lifelong healthy eating habits. Let’s Eat Healthy invites multidisciplinary coordination, collaboration and co-creation to champion community health by teaching and inspiring healthy eating habits and making healthy, wholesome foods accessible and affordable to all. Explore their resources [HERE!](#)
- READ: “[Bold Action Needed for Equitable Access to Nutrition Assistance by All](#)” by Wendi Gosliner and Lorrene D. Ritchie (2023) provides “recommendations to improve population nutrition and public health, recognizing that solutions must extend beyond the scope of the existing programs to address financial insecurity and that assistance with nutrition must extend to all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status.”
- EXPLORE: [State Health and Value Strategies \(SHVS\)](#) “is a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focused on assisting states with transforming their healthcare systems to be affordable, equitable and innovative. By connecting states with experts in the field, SHVS is able to provide timely and meaningful technical assistance to states when they need it the most.” Explore their health equity resources [HERE](#).
- READ: “[Food system dynamics structuring nutrition equity in racialized urban neighborhoods](#)” by Darcy Freedman et al. (2022) identifies “nutrition equity as an overarching goal for local food systems, which reflects a state of having freedom, agency, and dignity in food traditions resulting in people and communities healthy in body, mind, and spirit.”

## **Tools and Guides**

- [The Health Equity Policy Tool](#), developed by [The State Health & Value Strategies Program](#), “is a framework for reviewing and assessing the impact on equity of

current and/or proposed policies. This tool is a template for asking key questions to assess the likelihood that a policy will promote equity or exacerbate inequities.”

## Events

- [The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities \(NIMHD\)](#) will host the [Health Disparities Research Institute \(HDRI\)](#) from August 5 - 9, 2024 on the NIH Campus, Bethesda, MD. HDRI is a unique weeklong program that supports the research career development of promising early-career minority health and health disparities research scientists. All applications must be submitted via the HDRI online application system no later than **5:00 p.m. ET on March 14, 2024**. Apply [HERE](#).
- [The National Institute on Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#), 75th Anniversary Symposium Series is part of the Institute’s yearlong anniversary celebration. The second symposium entitled, [“Amplifying Voices and Building Bridges: Toward a More Inclusive Future.”](#) will take place on **Monday, March 18, 2024, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm ET Virtually and at the National Archives Building (701 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC)**. The symposium will explore the theme of NIMH and Society, through the lens of inclusion. Register [HERE](#) to attend!
- The NIH presents [“Weight, BMI, Fat, Muscle, and More in CKD: What Predicts What?”](#) by Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh on **March 19, 2024 1:00 - 2:00 pm ET**. Kam Kalantar studied medicine in Universities of Bonn and Nuremberg in Germany and received MPH and PhD degrees in Nutritional Epidemiology from UC Berkeley. He was trained in University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany), SUNY Brooklyn and UCSF medical schools. He is triple board certified in Internal Medicine, Nephrology and Pediatrics. Kam has authored more than 1000 papers and has had numerous NIH grants as PI. Join [HERE](#) via Zoom.
- [The National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine’s Roundtable on Obesity Solutions](#) presents [“Medications and Obesity: Exploring the Landscape and Advancing Comprehensive Care: A Workshop”](#) on **March 19 10:00 am-3:30 pm and March 20 10:00 am-1:00 pm**. This virtual workshop will explore the relationship between medications and obesity, including medications that are used to treat obesity, state of the science around the safety and efficacy of medications in people with overweight or obesity, medications that may cause changes in body composition and weight status, and medications used to treat obesity and obesity-related comorbidities. The workshop will focus on lived experiences and attention to weight bias and stigma, and will also address the implications of pharmacotherapy for obesity on policy and legislation, economics, access, public perception and discourse, and population health. Register [HERE](#).

- [The Medical College of Wisconsin \(MCW\) Office of Community Engagement](#) invites academic and community-based researchers, clinicians and learners to explore community engagement in an immersive format. [The 2024 Community Engaged Scholars Immersion Program](#) is a 3-day program that focuses on the foundational elements necessary for creating successful, sustainable and authentic community-academic partnerships and is designed for those looking to deepen and expand their existing community engagement practice. During this experience, participants will learn the principles and processes of community engagement and community engaged research (CEnR), learn from community partners' experiences with community-academic partnerships, engage in discussion with researchers who have developed and maintained partnerships, and explore approaches to relationship development. The program will run from Monday, July 22 – Wednesday, July 24, 2024. **Application deadline:** March 22, 202. **Apply [HERE](#).**
- The NIH presents, "[Demystifying Medicine — Appetite, Obesity and Beyond: The Role of the CNS and New Drugs](#)" by Jeffrey Friedman and Lorenzo Leggio on **April 2, 2024 4-6pm ET**. The Demystifying Medicine Series, jointly sponsored by FAES and NIH, includes presentations on pathology, diagnosis, and therapy in the context of major disease problems and current research. **Click [HERE](#) to join.**

### **Funding sources/opportunities**

- The USDA Food and Nutrition Service offers funding for [Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Programs Cooperative Agreement](#). This opportunity will provide funding for organizations led and staffed primarily by members of federally recognized tribes and/or Native Hawaiians to provide tailored training, technical assistance (TA), and support for school food authorities (SFAs) that serve tribal communities and participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Awardees will also develop culturally relevant nutrition education materials for students to accompany the traditional indigenous foods that are served and train school nutrition professionals and other school staff on providing nutrition education to students. **Application deadline:** March 18, 2024, by 11:59 pm ET. **Apply [HERE](#).**
- The NIH seeks applicants for [Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity \(U01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#). This opportunity will provide funding to support innovative intervention research addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) which, if successful, would have a major impact on preventing, reducing, or eliminating health disparities and advancing health equity. **Application deadline:** March 23, 2024. **Apply [HERE](#).**
- [The State Maternal Health Innovation \(State MHI\) program](#) provides funding to reduce maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity (SMM) by improving access to prenatal and perinatal care, enhancing state maternal health

surveillance and data capacity, and implementing interventions to improve outcomes for populations disproportionately impacted by maternal mortality and SMM. **Application deadline:** April 2, 2024. **Apply [HERE](#).**

- A new funding opportunity from [Healthy Eating Research](#) is focused 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 3, 2024. **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)

For more information about Catalyzing Communities, visit:

<https://catalyzingcommunities.org>