

Health and Equity in All Policies Alliance



Housing Has Significant Impact on Health

As we approach the holidays amidst a worldwide pandemic that has called on us to spend more time at home, we can all appreciate the importance of having a safe place to go home to. Where we live - both in terms of our immediate physical environment and the world outside our doors - has a significant impact on our health. Inadequate, unhealthy, and unstable housing conditions are detrimental to physical and mental health. The impacts of poor housing show up in a wide range of health outcomes and conditions such as asthma, cognitive delays, and anxiety. Inequities in housing access are often exacerbated by inequities in housing quality, leading to increasing disparities in health outcomes among races and economic classes in cities big and small, urban and rural, across the country. This month, we are excited to feature the City of Ashland, which has been working to improve access to and availability of affordable, healthy, and safe housing.

Wisconsin Community Highlight - Ashland



HIP improvements create a safer entryway

The City of Ashland's Planning and Development Department and Housing Committee, led by Megan McBride, Director of Planning and Development, is working to increase access to healthy, affordable housing. Using data from a 2017 Housing analysis and report completed by Northland College, the city is focusing on housing improvement in multiple ways, from changes to its housing rehabilitation program to updates to its zoning code, including a focus on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

First, they are targeting housing quality through expansion of their Housing Improvement Program (HIP), which offers up to \$2,000.00 in housing rehabilitation assistance geared toward projects that improve home health and safety. The program was started in 2015 through a donation from an anonymous donor for repairs to single-family homes located along visible corridors, with a maximum project amount of \$500 and a requirement that the property owner pay the majority of the project cost.



City of Ashland Guide to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's)

The City has created a local guide for ADUs

In 2018, the City shifted program priorities to focus on addressing health and safety concerns, including demolition of severely dilapidated and fire damaged structures. The maximum project cost was also increased to \$2,000 at that time, and the match requirement was removed.

[Click here to read more...](#)

News & Resources on Health and Equity

The Planner's Playbook: A Community-Centered Approach to Improving Health & Equity is a new resource from ChangeLab Solutions to help decision-makers center equity in each phase of the planning process. The playbook provides background, resources, community examples, and practical steps for planners who want to create communities where every person can thrive and prosper.

[For more information](#)

The Planner's Playbook

A Community-Centered Approach to Improving Health & Equity



ChangeLab Solutions

Photo: Pew Charitable Trust

COVID Winter: An Active Living "Play" Book for Wisconsin is a new resource from 1000 Friends of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Active Together (WAT) network - that provides ideas for communities to encourage and support active living through the 2020 pandemic winter.

[For more information](#)

COVID Winter: An Active Living "Play" Book for Wisconsin

Ideas for communities to encourage and support active living through the 2020 pandemic winter.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Active Together Program Manager, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin | November 3, 2020



Opportunities to Learn & Engage



Bang the Table: A Year of Community Engagement Alone, Together

December 18th at 12 pm CT

Meghan Ruble, Bang the Table's Head of Client Services, offers a review of 2020. We saw governments try everything from taking public comment over Zoom (eek!) to drive through public meetings (cool, cool!). So what worked and what didn't? What can we expect to see

in 2021? The future is still unknown, but the work of community engagement will remain constant. Join us for this live webinar! [Click here to register](#)

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: Resident Engagement to Achieve Racial Equity

December 15th at 2 pm CT

In the midst of the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism, people are increasingly engaging in conversations around racial equity. To achieve racial equity in access, opportunities, and power, communities across the country are having intentional and honest dialogue around needed change in policies, practices, and procedures. New Orleans, LA and Jackson, MS are two examples of communities that are engaging residents to openly talk about their histories of systemic racism and pathways to community healing. Guests from New Orleans, LA and Jackson, MS will address questions including: How to engage residents during the COVID-19 pandemic; How to build authentic resident engagement in a virtual world?; and What are some barriers to achieving racial equity?

[Learn more and register](#)

Funding/Support Opportunities

Increase Food Security Among Young Children (0-5 Years Old) Grant

This grant by No Kid Hungry is targeting community organizations, early child care centers, healthcare providers and others working to ensure vulnerable young children have access to healthy food. Grants will be between \$15,000-\$25,000 and applications are due on December 18, 2020.

[Learn more and apply](#)



Mentorship for multi-sector data sharing to improve health

Are you building new partnerships, engaging stakeholders and community members, or planning a collaborative data-sharing project? Would you like to be a part of a group of communities supporting each other? Data Across Sectors for Health is launching the third round of funding for local multi-sector collaborations who are early in their data sharing journey. The *DASH Mentor Program* provides one-on-one coaching from experienced DASH Mentors and supports participation in various peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Join an informational webinar on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST to learn more.

Applications are due January 12, 2021.

[Learn more and apply](#)

The Wisconsin Health and Equity in All Policies Alliance newsletter is published by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin and brought to you by COWS and MATCH at UW-Madison, with special thanks to our partners and collaborators at the Wisconsin League of Municipalities and the Wisconsin Counties Association.



If you have questions or would like more information, contact Katya Spear at knspear@cows.org