

Building Healthy Communities - Program Overview:

Building Healthy Communities (BHC) is a 10 year, \$1 billion comprehensive community initiative launched by The California Endowment in 2010 to advance statewide policy, change the narrative, and transform 14 of California's communities devastated by health inequities into places where all people and neighborhoods thrive. Where you live shouldn't determine how long you live, but it does.

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In fact, health has more to do with place than doctors' visits. The odds are stacked against low-income communities and communities of color. Because of a legacy of racial and economic segregation, anti-immigrant policy and a host of other historical "isms," there are many communities in California where the neighborhood environment conspires to harm residents. These environments lack basic health protective amenities like parks, grocery stores, decent schools, jobs, housing, and the list goes on. These neighborhood and community environments are not natural; they are manmade, and can be unmade.

OUR GOAL AND HOW TO GET THERE.

Our goal is healthy, fair, and just communities for all people who call California home. Our theory for how to get there is simple: We are strengthening the fabric of our democracy by investing in the social, economic, and political power of the very residents who have been the targets of exclusion, stigma, and discrimination. Transformative and sustained change also takes youth leadership, strong partnerships, and a compelling new story about how health happens—or should happen—in all communities. Youth and adult residents are harnessing this power and voice to change the rules at the local and state levels so that everyone is valued and has access to the resources and opportunities essential for health. Over time, these changes will lead to better health outcomes for all.