

BUILDING HEALTHY AND EQUITABLE CITIES AND TOWNS

RESOURCES AND POLICY EXAMPLES

Supporting Healthy, Equitable Economic Development	Example Municipal Policies	Supporting Documents & Resources
BUILDING EQUITABLE FOOD ENVIRONMENTS		
Commercial Food Retail:		
Pass local policies that protect small business owners from displacement.	New York, New York - Special Enhanced Commercial District Upper West Side Neighborhood Retail Streets	Affordable Space How Rising Commercial Rents Are Threatening Independent Businesses, and What Cities Are Doing About It, Institute for Local Self Reliance
Develop zoning ordinances and incentives that a) support existing food retailers and b) consider how new development proposals will impact existing food retailers	Brattleboro, Vermont: Zoning ordinance to protect small business owners	Licensing and Zoning: Tools for Public Health, ChangeLab Solutions
Require new development receiving subsidies to hire low-income city residents and/or pay workers a living wage		Key Reforms: Job Quality Standards, Good Jobs First
Support community benefit agreements with supermarket chains to support local hiring and affordable pricing	Community Benefit Agreement for Ballpark Village Project	Policy & Tools: Community Benefit Agreements and Policies in Effect, Partnership for Working Families Good Food and Good Jobs for All, Applied Research Center
Encourage local developers to meet community food needs by incorporating plans for grocery stores, community gardens, and cooperative kitchens		Planning Food Cities: Providing Guidance to Developers, Sustain
Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens:		
Provide long term or permanent municipal tenure for community gardens/urban farms and require reallocation of suitable land should land parcels be developed	Land Use & Planning, Cleveland - Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition	Establishing Land Use Protections for Community Gardens, Public Health Law and Policy
Pass a resolution/policy or include language in a comprehensive plan update that prioritizes urban agriculture resources and investment in low-income, underserved communities	A Plan for Managing Growth 2015-2035: City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan	Growing Urban Agriculture: Equitable Strategies and Policies for Improving Access to Healthy Food and Revitalizing Communities, PolicyLink
Community Driven Food Systems Infrastructure:		
Support food cooperatives and local buyers' clubs to reduce food-purchasing costs in underserved neighborhoods	City of Cleveland, Green City Growers	A Black-Led Food Co-op Grows in Detroit, CityLab

Support the development of community kitchens that link healthy procurement with food preparation and job training programs	What Feeds Us: Vancouver Food Strategy, January 2013	
BUILDING EQUITABLE ENVIRONMENTS FOR EXERCISE AND ACTIVE TRANSIT		
Transit Oriented Development:		
Provide local incentives and tax abatements for projects that include dense, affordable housing and community benefits	American Planning Association's Smart Codes: Model Land Development Regulations, American Planning Association	Affordable Housing and Smart Growth: Making the Connection, Smart Growth
Set up land/housing purchase funds for the purpose of building/preserving affordable housing within a development district		Equitable Development Toolkit: Transit Oriented Development, PolicyLink
Ensure that affordable housing is written into zoning ordinances for transportation plans		
Encourage financial incentives for homeownership and work with local organizations to provide ownership resources and education		
Encourage the use of form-based codes, when feasible, to encourage opportunities for small developers and businesses in development and transit districts		Building Better Communities with Transit, Smart Growth America
Require a community benefit agreement for new TOD developments	The City of Atlanta, Georgia Development Ordinance	Policy & Tools: Transit Oriented Development (TOD), Partnership for Working Families
Parks and Green Space:		
Incorporate urban agriculture and community gardens in existing or developing parks to further serve local concerns about healthy food access and job creation.	<p>The City of Fayetteville, Arkansas - Community Gardens in the Parks</p> <p>Urban Agriculture Activity Plan Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board</p>	
Ensure existing or renovated parks are accessible and for all abilities and ages (children and older adults).	New York City Parks Department - Playground Accessibility Level Updates and Definitions	<p>Why Cities Need Accessible Playgrounds, Curbed</p> <p>What Do Seniors Need in parks?, Smart Cities Drive</p> <p>The Complete Parks Playbook, ChangeLab Solutions</p>
Scatter green space interventions to provide greater access to more residents instead of concentrating development in one urban area.	Case Study: Pavement to Parks; San Francisco, USA, Global Designing Cities Initiative	Safety, Growth, and Equity: Parks and Open Space, PolicyLink

<i>Target communities experiencing health disparities for park improvements; implement upgrades in collaboration with long-standing community groups</i>	City of Toronto, Parks Plan: 2013-2017 City of Minneapolis, 20 Year Neighborhood Park Plan	Green Infrastructure and Park System Planning Great Urban Parks Campaign Briefing Papers, American Planning Association New South Carolina Park Is Furthering Equitable Development in the Deep South, Next City
Complete Streets and Bike and Pedestrian Plans:		
<i>Include equity-related principles in a Complete Streets policies or Bike and Pedestrian Plans by developing frameworks that address issues of access in your municipality</i>	The Best Complete Streets Policies of 2018, Smart Growth America	Pursuing Equity in Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning, US Department of Transportation Complete Streets in Delaware: A Guide for Local Municipalities
<i>Include social equity strategies in municipal bike share programs to ensure station sitting is equitably distributed, messaging tools are geared towards all users, and payment plans are within financial reach of low-income residents</i>	Philadelphia Bike Share Strategic Plan, 2013, The City of Philadelphia	Advancing Equity and Inclusion: A Guide for Municipalities, (City for All Women Initiative, Ottawa
<i>Increase awareness about transportation options by offering bilingual information sessions, public signage, or bike training workshops</i>		How to Engage Low-Literacy and Limited-English-Proficiency Populations in Transportation Decisionmaking, US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration
GENERAL RESOURCES FOR EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
The Anti-Displacement Policy Toolkit, Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development		
Dealing With Gentrification Toolkit		
Advancing Equity and Inclusion: A Guide For Municipalities, City for All Women (Ottawa)		
AARP Livability Factsheets: The Complete Collection, AARP Livable Communities		
From Start to Finish: Health in All Policies, ChangeLab Solutions		
Action Toolkit: To Advance Health Equity, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps		

ABOUT US

The HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Cities and Towns Campaign of the Mid-Atlantic provides free technical assistance to local government leaders to help them create healthy, prosperous communities by adopting policies and practices that improve their communities' physical activity and food environments. HEAL is a project of the Institute for Public Health Innovation, in partnership with the Maryland and Virginia Municipal Leagues, and funded by Kaiser Permanente, founding partner. For more information, visit the HEAL website at www.healcitiesmidatlantic.org and contact HEAL Campaign Manager Sydney Daigle at sdaigle@institutephi.org

