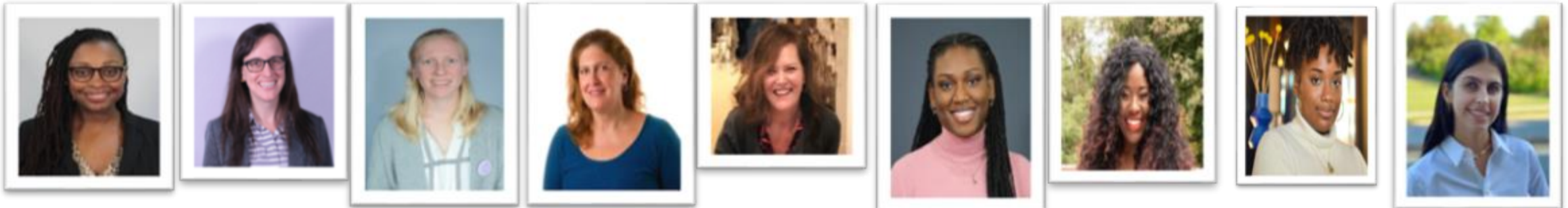


# Building Bridges: Cultivating Meaningful Cross- Sectoral and Community Partnerships to Improve Health



## About the project

Aims to strengthen partnerships between governmental public health, nonprofit, cross-sectoral and community-based organizations to promote health and well-being and advance community health.



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# Key Project Activities

- Landscape Scan
- Partner Roundtable
- Listening sessions
- Advisory Group



Photo courtesy EZ Event Photography

# Listening Sessions- Common Themes

- Partnerships started because of an event, often a crisis
- Trust is vital, but takes time
- Building power together through shared visioning
- Support and resources are vital, and many resources exist already



Photo courtesy EZ Event Photography

# Characteristics of Successful Partnerships

Relationship and Trust Building



Equity and Power Dynamics

Clear Structure and Accountability



Resource Sharing and Funding

Effective Communication and Flexibility



# Resource library

A central place to find resources to improve your partnerships!



The Bridge and Build Library features dozens of resources to help you strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations and cross-sector partners. It includes case studies, guides, webinars, and AI tools to support effective partner engagement. Explore below.

ACCESS BUILD & BRIDGE LIBRARY

LEARN ABOUT COLLABORATION

*AI-Powered*

EXPLORE STRATEGIES

*AI-Powered*



# Example “policy” resources

**ABSTRACT** Population health strategies tend to focus on individuals' behaviors, genes, or health care access, yet it is well established that sociocultural conditions are fundamental to health and strongly influenced by policy. In the US, health and other policies continue to be shaped by the country's unique legacy of racial and economic segregation. Policy reform must be at the center of population health. This requires communities to have power. We present theoretical and empirical research linking community power and health, and we share an example of our work in which communities organized to hold policy makers accountable for advancing health equity in the distribution of parks. We call this a democratic approach to health improvement and discuss how population health, whether part of public health, philanthropy, or health care, needs to focus on community power and include funding for power-building organizations. We conclude that achieving health equity requires enhancing the quality of democracy.

While health agencies, philanthropy, and hospital community benefit programs have been constrained by the persistence of population-level health disparities, for several decades, the recent COVID-19 pandemic has shined a spotlight on the compounding effect of these disparities, given that communities of color experiencing higher levels of disease illness, such as diabetes and obesity, have endured

disparities in employment, land use, housing, and access to health care. These policies continue to be shaped in the US by the country's unique legacy of racial and economic segregation and inequities. Health disparities, then, are better understood as health inequities—socially imposed and often structural, in that they are highly aligned with policies that have denied and continue to deny certain groups the opportunity to be healthy.

## Building Community Power To Dismantle Policy-Based Structural Inequity In Population Health

This resource advocates for shifting population health strategies from technocratic, individual-focused models to a democratic approach rooted in building community power to dismantle **policy**-driven structural inequities. It highlights how structural...

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OCTOBER 2021



## Healing Through Policy: Creating Pathways to Racial Justice

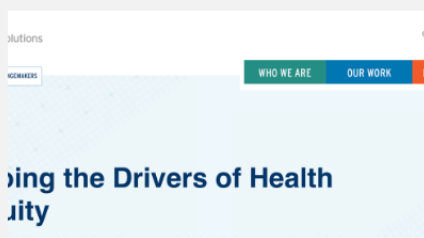
This issue brief is full of curated policies and practices that can be implemented at the local level to promote racial



## Shifting and Sharing Power: Public Health's Charge in Building Community Power

...highlights successful collaborations that have led to equitable **policy** changes. The article also discusses how these partnerships have been instrumental in driving COVID-19 responses, **policy** advocacy, and long-term equity-focused strategies...

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## Undoing the Drivers of Health Inequity

...and **policy** strategies to transform policies and systems. Examples of how communities nationwide have used equitable **policy**making to confront the drivers of health inequity and create systems change are provided...

# Bridge & Build Library

*Exploring the Potential for Cross-Sector Collaboration*



 TOOLBOX HOME  SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS  STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS  BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS  BRIDGING CHALLENGES

The **Bridge and Build Library** is designed to help you improve your partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) and cross-sector partners.



# Learning Community – Applications Open!

- **Goal:** Strengthen trust-based partnerships between state, local, tribal, and territorial (STLT) health departments and community organizations
- Participants can expect:
  - **\$10,000 in funding** per team (each team must include one STLT health department and one partner community-based organization)
  - **Learning and professional development** sessions
  - **Peer-sharing and support** sessions

## Eligibility Criteria

- The application must be a joint effort between one STLT health department and a community-based organization.
  - Both organizations must identify co-leads (one from each organization) who will collaborate on the application and serve as primary contacts.
  - Both co-leads must have the time and capacity to fully participate in the Learning Community, including virtual monthly sessions and related activities (estimated 2–6 hours per month, February through July).
- The CBO must be a registered 501(c)(3) and able to serve as the fiscal agent to receive funds.
- Both co-leads must be available to attend the kick-off meeting on February 19 at 1:00 PM ET.

# Learning Community Application Timeline

- Application office hours:
  - November 21st 2-3pm ET
  - November 24th 3-4pm ET
- **Applications due: December 16, 2025, 11:59 p.m. ET**
- Award notifications: Week of January 19, 2026
- Kickoff meeting: February 19th 1 pm ET, 2026
- Monthly meetings: February through July, alternating between learning and peer-support sessions