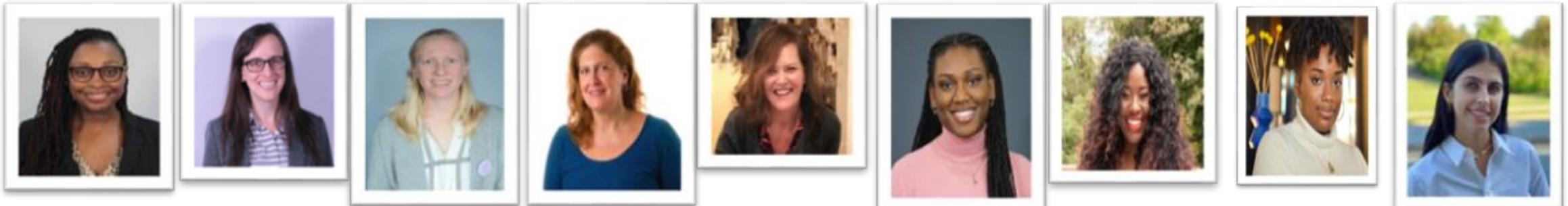


Building Bridges: Cultivating Meaningful Cross- Sectoral and Community Partnerships to Improve Health



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.



APHA Team: Tia Williams, Kate Robb, Rya Griffis, Angie McGowan, Michelle Loosli, Ursula Oguejiofor, Yeatoe McIntosh, Kristi Sprowl and Cande Vazquez

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](#)

[EXPLORE STRATEGIES](#)

AI-Powered

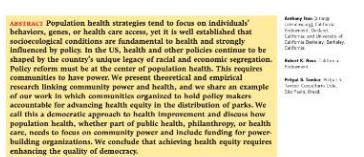
AI-Powered

Example “policy” resources

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...

[READ MORE →](#)



Public health agencies, philanthropic, and nonprofit community health programs have been constituted by the same forces that have shaped the country's racial and health inequities for several decades. This article highlights the need to shift the focus of public health to a more democratic approach that is uniquely and often structural, in that they are high-level, systemic policies that have existed and continue to deny certain groups the opportunity to be healthy.

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

May 2021

Article published in NCDAC Exchange, the primary publication by the National Association of County & City Health Officials that discusses approaches to realize the concepts of power and community power building in order to help health departments use these concepts as part of a strategy to advance health equity.

Overview

Local health departments (LHDs) around the country are making tremendous progress in explicitly committing to end structural racism as a strategy to achieve health equity. Many local and state

Materials

- Article (PDF)

Related Links

- Power Building Partnership for Health
- Health Equity Guide



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....

[READ MORE →](#)

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

1

 [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