

Building Healthy Communities



...because that's where health happens

Building Healthy Communities Is a 10-year, \$1 billion program of The California Endowment. 14 communities across the state are taking action to make where they live healthier. They're doing this by improving employment opportunities, education, housing, neighborhood safety, unhealthy environmental conditions, access to healthy foods and more. The goal: to create places where children are healthy, safe and ready to learn. Ultimately, we're aiming at nothing less than a revolution in the way all of us think about and support health for all Californians.

Place Matters. The California Endowment is a foundation committed to improving the health of all Californians, especially those in underserved communities. We've made thousands of grants since 1996, and the most important thing we've learned is this: Our health doesn't begin in a doctor's office. Where we live has an enormous impact on our health. Being able to breathe clean air, to send our kids to school without fear of violence, to have a convenient place to buy fresh foods, to live near a park where we can walk and play - these are the things that prevent us from getting sick in the first place.

Our communities are leading the way. The Endowment has a wealth of policy and research experience, and the communities have a wealth of real-world experience. The year-long planning phase brought everyone to the table - schools, local government, business leaders, neighborhood groups and individuals - and strived to give everyone a voice so that each community could create their vision for 2020 and how to get there. Success will be measured by reaching specific milestones in decreasing childhood obesity and youth violence and increasing school attendance and access to quality health care in our target communities.

Health in all systems. The research is undeniable: Our health is linked to employment, education, economic opportunity, housing, the environment and more. These interrelated problems require interrelated solutions. So we're working across all systems that impact community health - schools, human services, economic development, transportation, and land use. There is a way out of our health crisis, but it's going to take all of us to demand more from our leaders, from our communities, and from ourselves. Please join us in building a healthy California, where future generations of children are healthy, safe and ready to learn.

The Communities.

Boyle Heights

Central Santa Ana

Central/Southeast/Southwest Fresno

City Heights

Del Norte County and Adjacent Tribal Lands

Eastern Coachella Valley

East Oakland

East Salinas (Alisal)

Long Beach

Richmond

Sacramento

South Kern

South Los Angeles

Southwest Merced/East Merced County