



BUILDING THE BRIDGE

National Leaders Discuss Collaboration
Between Public Health and Community Development

Upstream Investments

Upstream investments improve structures and systems for health, while downstream investments address individual and social needs. Both are crucial for good health, but upstream investments often lack attention. Supporting these requires recognizing the benefits of multisector partnerships and understanding the **Vital Conditions for Health and Well Being**.



We need to be working at the scale of the community conditions that create health and on the issues like racism and institutional bias that have created these differences in the living conditions that we find ourselves in.

Melissa Jones, Executive Director BARHII

Discover **BARHII's framework for health equity**, which guides organizations, institutions, and governments in improving community living conditions and reducing social and institutional inequities.

Place + Spatial Justice

Spatial justice, which involves the fair distribution of power and resources in different areas, is crucial for addressing health inequities. According to the **Frameworks Institute**, a nonprofit think tank, "structural racism impacts places, and achieving spatial justice is a shared responsibility." Partnerships between public health and community development can help promote spatial justice, improve essential conditions, and advance both health and racial equity.



When you dig into the idea of why we have systemic vacancies in certain communities, you understand the inequities some communities experience. And there are direct public health impacts to living around vacant property, and solutions will touch on cross-sector approaches that provide access to food, business, etc.



*Odetta Macleish-White
Director of Engagement for the
Center for Community Progress*

The Center for Community Progress explains the root causes of **systemic vacancy** and offers tailored guidance for state and local governments to evaluate vacant properties in your community. They also recommend policy and practice solutions for equitable neighborhood revitalization.

Partnership + Collaboration

Developing partnerships is critical for addressing the root causes of health inequities. BHPN's **5-step pathway** can help assess interest, value, and potential impact of multisector partnerships and determine who should be involved in conversations on racial equity.



Collaboration between community development corporations allows for the pooling of resources, expertise and influence to create a lasting systemic change. By working together we can leverage our strengths and collectively advocate for policies and initiatives that promote health equity for all communities.

*Robyn Taylor, VP, Center for Justice in Public Health,
NACDD*

The **NACDD Social Justice Framework** emphasizes fostering individual and communal action within the public health sector. It includes five pillars designed to integrate social justice and enhance health and wellness in the communities we serve.

Take a look at the **Public Health Primer** to identify the partners in your ecosystem. Addressing the long-standing disinvestment, harm, and mistrust in marginalized communities will require the collective effort of everyone involved.



How are you centering the community in multi-sector partnerships to address health and racial equity?



Build Healthy
Places Network

Discover more resources at **Build Healthy Places Network**

The Build Healthy Places Network is a program of the Public Health Institute, Oakland, CA