



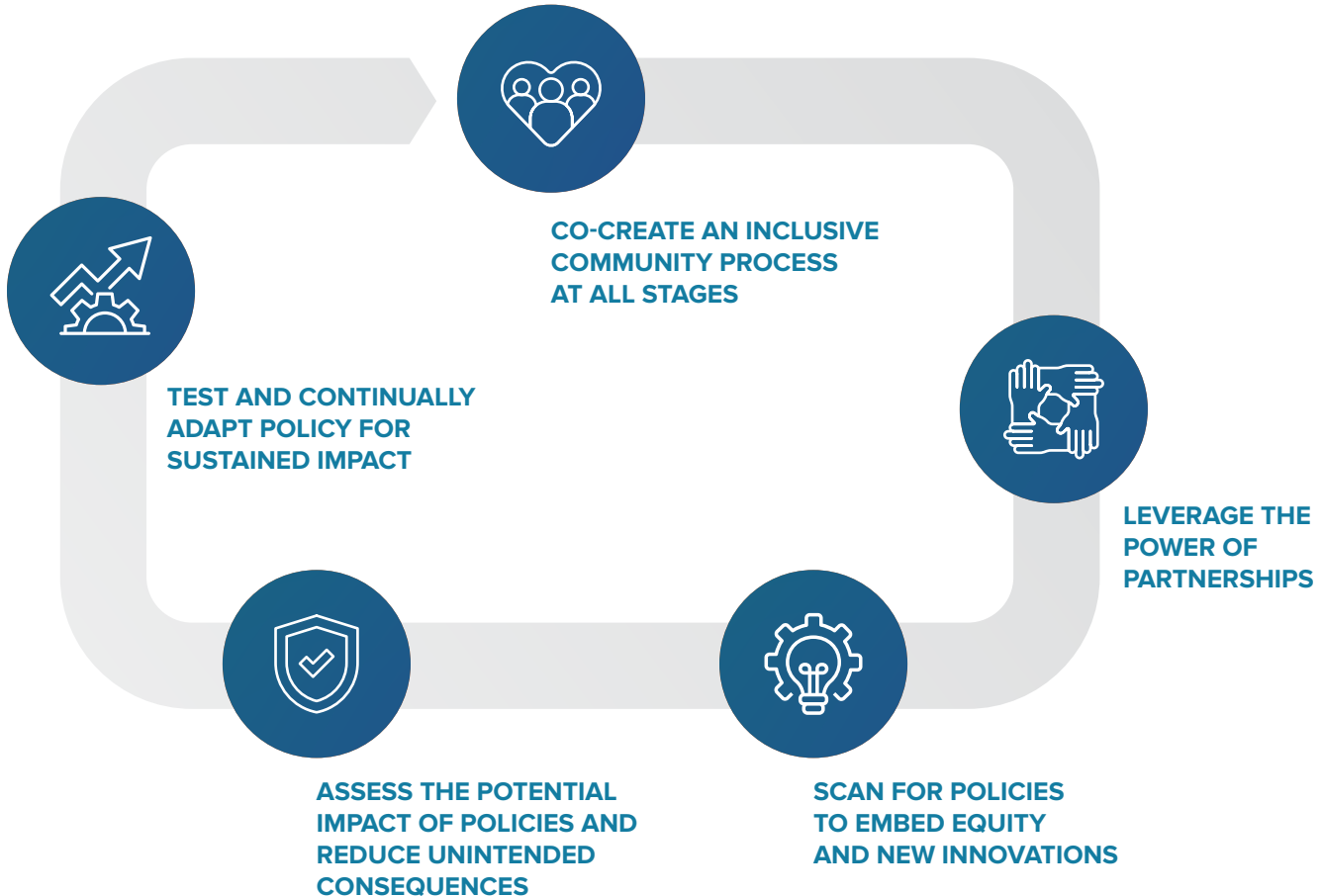
Build Healthy
Places Network

Equitable Policy Processes for Multisector Health Efforts



Public policy plays a powerful role in shaping how neighborhoods look and operate, as well as shaping places where residents can thrive. To create healthy places, the policymaking process is as important as the specific policies themselves. Building a shared future of community prosperity requires a collective responsibility to ensure that all people and communities are treated fairly.

Public policies have long prioritized the needs of white community members, devoting less attention and fewer resources to people of color. As a result, the most marginalized in our society lack basic services, critical infrastructure, and important opportunities to inform public policy priorities. Multisector coalitions that bring together the strengths of diverse stakeholders, guided and owned by those who have been most impacted by inequities, are particularly well positioned to steer and promote equitable policy change. This tool is intended to support stakeholders who may be new to public policy and are interested in building capacity for equitable and sustainable policy solutions. The following steps can be embedded into local policy processes to design with intention, equity, healing, and health.





CO-CREATE AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY PROCESS AT ALL STAGES

- Center the voices of those who have been historically excluded due to race, ethnicity or socio-economic status.
- Deepen **belonging and civic muscle** to co-create a common vision for the future.
- Put the voice and views of community members at the center using the **Spectrum of Community Engagement**.
- Establish residents as experts in defining their own challenges and crafting solutions.
- Create leadership pathways for diverse community leaders to build and sustain community agency and ongoing roles in shaping policy.
- Support community capacities to analyze and use data, organize stakeholders, and communicate a community-rooted vision to mobilize the policy process.
- Build the muscle for long-term change, particularly engaging residents most impacted by inequitable policies, to test new approaches of working together for policy change.

THE SPECTRUM OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO OWNERSHIP



Source: This tool was developed by Rosa González of Facilitating Power



LEVERAGE THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

- Create shared goals and a vision of what success looks like and for whom.
- Craft a commitment to equity to ensure it is applied as an intentional design decision and practiced across the entire policy process.
- Acknowledge the historical and persistent effects of structural racism to recognize harms and build trust toward healing.
- Make use of data and stories to reflect the lived experience of residents and allow for transparent data sharing to inform decisions.
- Take a holistic view of healthy communities by designing cross-sector, multi-dimensional policy agendas.
- Recognize the value of each sector's influence to add unique and important voices and expertise to the policy process.
- Identify sources of power and assess how power and power-sharing can be used to shape good policy and dismantle bad policy.



SCAN FOR POLICIES TO EMBED EQUITY AND NEW INNOVATIONS

- Assess levers using the [Vital Conditions for Health and Well-Being](#) to reshape notions of investing in needs to investing in conditions that allow communities to thrive.
- Continually scan for new policies to identify and build upon equitable, innovative, healing policies being tested across the United States.
- Build multisector partnerships to deepen collaboration and alignment across systems and sectors.
- Consider pursuing “umbrella equity policies” that encourage applying an equity lens across government agencies relevant to housing investments, economic security, good jobs, high-quality education and childcare, access to healthcare, and others.
- Support policies that create community-ownership models such as land and housing trusts and cooperative entrepreneurship.
- Maintain transparency in the process to clearly outline roles, flow of information, and power.

VITAL CONDITIONS FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Belonging & Civic Muscle



Thriving Natural World



Basic Needs for Health & Safety



Humane Housing



Meaningful Work & Wealth



Lifelong Learning



Reliable Transportation

Source: Rippel Foundation



ASSESS THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF POLICIES AND REDUCE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

- Define what policy success looks like, and for whom, to ensure policy is designed with a focus on both the intended audience and the aim.
- Invite diverse stakeholders to provide insights on potential policy impacts as a way to assess for blind spots that might create harm.
- Continually assess whether a policy is achieving the intended impact and mitigate potential harms by examining the potential unintended consequences of policies.



TEST AND CONTINUALLY ADAPT POLICY FOR SUSTAINED IMPACT

- Map out roles for sector stakeholders to advance policy change to maximize the collective impact of the policymaking process, adoption, and implementation.
- Generate accountability commitments in the areas of transparency, trust, and engagement to ensure community voices are engaged across the entire policymaking process.
- Establish a learning agenda to encourage continuous improvement and adaptation.



This tool was created in partnership with [Healthier Together – Pierce & St. Croix Counties](#) coalition leaders in Wisconsin and the [Wild, Wonderful & Healthy West Virginia](#) effort supporting multisector coalitions in West Virginia. It builds on tools in the field such as the [Healthy Neighborhood Investments Policy Scan and Strategy Map](#), a collection of policies being tested nationwide using the Vital Conditions for Health and Well-Being framework, the [Blueprint for Changemakers](#), and the [Healthy Planning Guide](#).