

# Economic Development, Infrastructure, Community Organizing, and Access to Resources Are Important to Health

Links between community development and health



## **\$ Economic development**

Efforts to attract business and commercial investment can improve the stability of local economies through job creation, an increased tax base, and enhanced access to necessary goods and services, which affect household income and health outcomes such as stress, chronic disease, and mental health.

## **👥 Community organizing**

Mobilizing people with shared values and concerns to influence institutions, policies, and government decision-making can facilitate health-promoting changes in a community, encourage civic participation, and strengthen relationships among residents, which can affect a range of health outcomes, including mental health, substance abuse, and cancer.

## **⚠️ Infrastructure**

Physical attributes of a community, including streets, parks and open spaces, housing, and buildings, can affect health outcomes such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, and injury by influencing residents' activity levels, sense of safety, and social interactions.

## **✳️ Resources**

Services and supports to meet individual and family needs, including housing, job training, child care, and counseling, as well as access to transportation, open space, health care, and quality schools affect residents' quality of life and health outcomes such as respiratory illness, diabetes, and mental health.

Sources: Build Healthy Places Network, "Jargon Buster," accessed Sept. 23, 2016, <http://www.buildhealthyplaces.org/jargon-buster>; and Metropolitan Area Planning Council and Health Resources in Action, "Community Development + Health: A Health Impact Assessment to Inform the Community Investment Tax Credit Program," accessed Sept. 23, 2016, [https://macdc.org/sites/default/files/documents/CITC\\_HIA\\_Executive-Summary\\_9\\_16.pdf](https://macdc.org/sites/default/files/documents/CITC_HIA_Executive-Summary_9_16.pdf)

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