

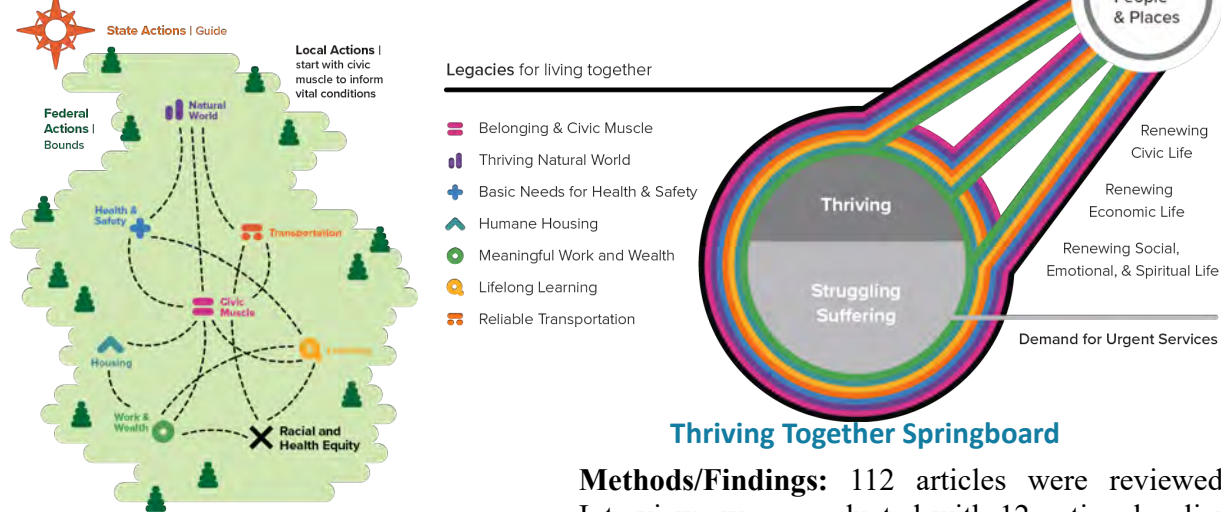
Healthy Neighborhood Investments: A Policy Scan & Strategy Map

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Introduction: With the COVID-19 pandemic and massive social unrest (due in large part to the growing tension that had been brewing due to 400 years of policies propagated by systemic racism) causing a true public health crisis, Build Healthy Places Network and Shift Health Accelerator partnered to identify policy strategies for advancing racial and health equity through cross-sector investments and to serve as a tool for community-owned priority setting that reduces inequities and strengthens neighborhood revitalization. Through this work strategies were identified that communities could take up and work in partnership with other sectors (see chart on pg.2).

A Policy Treasure Map for Racial and Health Equity



Thriving Together Springboard

Methods/Findings: 112 articles were reviewed, Interviews were conducted with 12 national policy experts, and a 38-member Policy Council was convened. with the overall goal to identify policies with the potential to impact health and racial equity across seven vital conditions of the Thriving Together: A Springboard for Equitable Recovery and Resilience (see above). This Policy Scan sets the stage for potential policies that can advance health and racial equity by utilizing the Policy Treasure map, which as identified by the Policy Council, centers *leaning into belonging and civic muscle* (The capacity for communities to engage and the structures for engagement are foundational. The incorporation of racial and health equity into citywide plans, budgeting, and voting processes can help link policies to the community's needs and wants. The power to access flexible, coordinated funding also enables cross-sector work) as the number one cross-cutting policy theme for every potential policy action.



Multi-sector partnerships for policy action

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Vital Conditions	Policy Strategies for Healthy Neighborhoods
Belonging and Civic Muscle	Equitable decision-making must include the voices of those most impacted by decisions and provide structures and spaces for people to have the power to make the collective and civic decisions that shape their future. Decision-making power is far too often held by a few people, and belonging and civic muscle efforts should grow to engage people as equals, collectively, to make change. Specific strategies: Make sure every person and their vote counts; Reform campaign finance; Fund community capacity and require community engagement; Collect and use disaggregated data; Commit to leadership development; Use comprehensive master plans (parks, housing, transport); Enact anti-displacement measures; Establish city and state racial equity umbrella policies; Improve intergovernment and interagency coordination; Promote equitable tax and revenue policy; Create flexible sources of funding.
Thriving Natural World	Natural and built environments significantly affect health, and climate change affects communities. Policy can prevent, reduce, or remediate people's exposure to toxins in the environment and bring lifestyles into harmony with the natural processes that keep people healthy and resilient. Specific strategies: Mitigate climate change; Improve climate resilience; Ensure universal access to clean, affordable water; Reduce exposure to extreme heat and air pollution; Ensure that everyone has a good park within a 10-minute walk; and Invest for multiple benefits.
Basic Needs for Health and Safety	Promoting physical health, mental health, and emotional resilience involves removing sources of harm, supporting recovery, and integrating all the aspects of care to meet the different needs of different communities and people. Safety creates freedom from harm or danger and prevents further trauma from occurring. Specific strategies: Avoid harm and facilitate recovery; Promote maternal health and reduce infant mortality; Reduce domestic violence; Provide incentives for healthcare to invest in addressing social determinants of health; Co-locate services; Develop community approaches to public safety; End violence in the policing and criminal justice system; Improve healthcare access; Promote integrated approaches to care; Transform the healthcare workforce; Get and use data; Provide access to the good food individuals and communities want.
Humane Housing	Housing is a cornerstone of community development and a human right. Having access to a safe, affordable, stable, quality place to live is essential to health and economic wellbeing. Housing policies can help ensure that housing builds wealth, health, and community ownership. Specific strategies: Build and renovate quality housing in places that need it; Help people afford and own good homes; Enable people to choose and stay in the homes they want; Provide housing for those experiencing homelessness; Promote responsible local ownership.
Meaningful Work and Wealth	Unless incomes grow for low-income families, the United States will never shrink the wealth gap associated with health inequities. With basic income security, families and communities can grow their wealth, save money, and invest to give the next generation a head start. Closing the wealth gap will require nondiscriminatory and equitable access to credit and lending, entrepreneurship, rewarding jobs, and business growth. Specific strategies: Ensure equitable procurement; Cultivate job pathways; Advocate for universal basic income; Provide opportunities to save and invest; Improve access to capital; Provide good working conditions and protections; Support small businesses and entrepreneurs; Promote digital inclusion.
Lifelong Learning	Lifelong learning creates leadership pathways, career choices, and opportunities to cultivate collective visions to advance racial and health equity. The power to dream and choose leads to health. There are opportunities to create universal access to early childhood education, shift how elementary and high school education is delivered, identify ways for education to be equitably funded, and prepare youth not just for jobs but for a choice of career pathways. Specific strategies: Provide access to early childhood development and childcare; Support outside-of-school programs; Encourage joint use of facilities; Provide student loan forgiveness/tuition support; Reduce the incidence of adverse childhood experiences; Coordinate cradle-to-career partnerships; Meet students' basic needs.
Reliable Transportation	Having access to affordable, accessible transportation options that encourage physical activity and do not cause stress is important for health. It is also important that transportation not cause harm to people or the planet (e.g., increase pollution exposure, sever communities, or increase displacement). Specific strategies: Commit to equitable transit-oriented development and anti-displacement; Provide transportation alternatives; Promote safe and accessible street design/planning; Provide flexible funding and infrastructure; Reduce commute times.

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