

ULI DISTRICT COUNCIL TASK FORCES FOR HEALTH AND EQUITY

District Council Partnership and Funding Opportunity



Background

Despite a growing understanding of connections between the built environment (the shape and patterns of the places where we live, shop, and work) and health outcomes, today many places are still being built in ways that do not support holistic health and wellness for all people. And many communities are struggling to address the legacy and impact of land use and transportation decisions that make access to affordable housing, healthy food, social services, physical activity, and other ingredients of a healthy life challenging.

Health is not just what happens in the doctor's office. Instead, health is significantly shaped by factors that include housing, transportation, education, and job opportunities—the social determinants of health. Low income people often have the least access to the ingredients of a healthy life.

Local, regional, and national policies and regulations play a vital role in hindering or promoting the development of more healthy and equitable communities. These include, for example:

- Zoning regulations (limits on density, no allowances for accessory dwelling units, challenges with affordable housing)
- Parking regulations (excessive parking requirements)
- Transportation policies, practices, and priorities (lack of investment in transit or active transportation infrastructure, funding formulas, unclear policies for “new mobility” like bikeshare or scooters)

At the same time, however, many cities are implementing innovative policy solutions and practices aimed at promoting physical and mental health and creating more-inclusive, economically vibrant communities.

The Opportunity for District Councils

Working over the course of a year and a half in collaboration with the ULI Building Healthy Places Initiative, District Councils will convene Task Forces which will illuminate local policies and practices that make health-promoting development difficult or increase the vulnerability of low-income people, build a case that reform is needed, and prepare specific recommendations for shifts in policy and practice.

This project, led by the ULI Building Healthy Places Initiative with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will engage and provide funding to up to **four** U.S. ULI District Councils to identify policy and regulatory barriers to healthier and more equitable places and provide recommendations for local policy shifts and reforms. This is an exciting opportunity for ULI members to leverage their leadership positions in communities to explore and document problematic policies and practices, and to push for reform and change.

Task Forces comprised of eight to ten ULI members and local leaders will meet regularly, working locally and with BHP over the course of a year and a half to identify key issues, working with partners gain local consensus, and developing reports. Each Task Force should have a Chair and Vice-Chair. Local action plans and strategies for moving the recommendations forward will be developed. This work will be informed by scans of research undertaken by ULI and other organizations, summarized in issue briefs. National implications of this work will be distilled in a widely shared report. A Technical Resource Group will be assembled for on-call expertise.

Funding and Logistics

District Councils may receive up to \$20,000 to support the costs of participating in this project. Grant funding may be used to support ULI staff time, meeting expenses, and other project costs. (In general, it cannot be used to compensate ULI members for their time.)

The Building Healthy Places Initiative will have a Senior Director dedicated to this project, with additional staff assigned to each participating District Council. BHP staff members will undertake most of the writing and report production associated with this project, in collaboration with District Council Task Force members.

Summary Timeline – Statements of Interest Due to health@uli.org in May

May 1, 2019	- Statement of Interest Forms Due from District Councils
June 2019	- District Councils Selected and Notified (up to four) - Technical Resource Group Assembled
Summer 2019	- Task Forces Begin Convening - Research Agenda Formulated (BHP in partnership w/ District Councils)
Fall 2019	- Local Workshops/Roundtables – Round 1 - Sharing/Learning Session at ULI Fall Meeting
Winter 2019	- Draft Findings Reports - Issues Briefs by BHP - Expert Advising and Sharing Sessions
Spring 2020	- Local Workshops/Roundtables – Round 2 - Sharing/Learning Session at ULI Spring Meeting
Summer 2020	- Final Findings Reports - Action and Outreach Planning - Local Launch Events and Working for Change Locally
Fall 2020	- National Synthesis Report Published
December 2020	- Transition to District Councils for Implementation

Participate

This opportunity is open to U.S. District Councils only. We hope that your District Council will consider participating! For more information or to request a Statement of Interest form, please email health@uli.org.