Healthy Heartlands: Building Networks for Health Equity
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- Connecting Community Organizing and Public Health Practice
- Changing the upstream determinants of health
  - Focus on Racial Equity
  - Linking Health Data & Capacity to those most impacted
  - Align Capacities
  - Deep, relational civic engagement and community building
Seeing a Wider Set of Relationships

Core Strategies of Community-Based Organizing

- Grassroots Leadership Development
- Building Democratic, Sustainable and Community-Driven Organizations
- Theory of Change Grounded in Building Power to make change
What is Health Impact Assessment?

A way to judge how a policy or plan will affect a group’s health, and to identify actions that can prevent or manage harmful health effects and maximize benefits

HIA is a tool to consider health in the policy-making process to prevent illness and promote health

Health is a shared value

Health is an indicator of quality of life

People are surprised and concerned by health inequities

#Organizing4Health
Healthy Corridor for All

A Community Health Impact Assessment of Transit-Oriented Development Policy in Saint Paul, Minnesota
Video

Imagine being dropped in the middle of the wilderness, feeling isolated, disconnected, and without the means to get where you need to go.

That’s how millions of people feel when they lack access to transportation and live in neighborhoods that are cut off from jobs, well-stocked grocery stores, and medical care.

People like Tim Vaughn, who rises each day at 3:30 in the morning to get to his job by 7 a.m. For Tim, a reliable bus route to work is a ticket to opportunity and wellbeing.

But in Indianapolis, where he lives, opportunity and wellbeing are not equally available to all.

As Congress debates funding the federal transportation budget, lawmakers should understand why investing in transit in communities like Indianapolis can help bridge that gap.

Despite some 5,000 new manufacturing jobs being added to the Indianapolis region each month, half of the children who live here go to bed hungry each night. A key reason is that workers, many of whom are parents like Tim, can’t get to the new jobs that are being created because
Critical Steps to Success

- Broad coalition of more than 120 organizations including labor, business, faith communities

- Put racial equity at the center – 1 in 9 African Americans depend on public transit vs 1 in 33 Whites

- Use trusted, credible messengers

- Enlist people who are usually excluded – they become the strongest champions for reform
Progress Across the Network

- **Minnesota**
  - Advancing Health Equity Report w MDH – Minimum Wage & Health Report

- **Ohio**
  - Social Determinants like Early Childhood victory on Cincinnati ballot

- **Indiana**
  - Historic referendum on one of America’s worst mass transit systems