

Healthy Communities



Issues

Land use decisions today tend to be driven by economic development. The result is towns and neighborhoods that have served to push established communities out in exchange for more development. Black, Indigenous, people of color and American Indian/Alaska Native people (BIPOC-AI/AN) need to be a part of determining land-use planning and zoning decisions that impact their communities.

Access to healthy spaces where community members feel safe and supported is the right of every person living in Oregon. Healthier Together Oregon (HTO) calls for equitable communities with job opportunities, access to higher education and living wages for all. The first years of the COVID-19 pandemic showed the immense power of community resilience. HTO seeks to support communities to uplift and strengthen this ongoing resilience.

Solutions

Strategies to improve the built environment, social resilience and economic development including:

- Strengthen economic development, employment and small business growth in underserved communities

- Center BIPOC-AI/AN communities in decision making about land use planning and zoning to create safer, more accessible, affordable and healthy neighborhoods

HTO seeks to build social resilience in communities in many ways:

- Addressing the needs of youth through community-based, peer-to-peer and intergenerational mentoring programs
- Promoting art and cultural events for priority populations
- Increasing social connection in older adults
- Developing awareness of the protective role that communities play such as providing social, cultural and family supports

HTO also advocates for workforce strategies that build economic resilience. Supporting small businesses creates jobs and wealth in communities that need it most. Increasing access to job trainings, vocational programs and higher education leads to decreasing income inequality in communities most impacted by institutional racism.



HTO: A Plan for Building a Better Oregon

Healthier Together Oregon (HTO) is a powerful tool for improving equity for all Oregonians. As COVID-19 has made starkly clear, not everyone has the same opportunity to live a healthy life. People of color, people with low income, people who identify as LGBTQ+, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities and people who live in rural areas of the state face considerable barriers due to inequities in the social and physical infrastructure that affects health.

of partners across different sectors that share its commitment to these ambitious goals. These sectors include health care, elected officials, employers, philanthropy, transportation, land use and planning, state, tribal and local public health, criminal justice and law enforcement, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, housing and human service providers and education.

Because health and well-being depend on a range of factors, HTO identifies a broad array of strategies that, when addressed and implemented collectively, have the potential to improve the lives of everyone who lives here.

HTO is intended to inform Community Health Improvement Plans as well as agencies' and organizations' priorities, programs and investments. It seeks a variety



Partner With Us

HTO is looking to connect with others committed to advancing equity in Oregon. For more information or to contact us:



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BECOME A PARTNER

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YOUTUBE

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Healthier Together Oregon

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An initiative of the Oregon Health Authority