

These notes have been excerpted from the drafts of forthcoming resource guides on TCE's Building Healthy Communities outcomes. The notes are designed as an interim tool offering guidance only, and are not meant to be an exhaustive list of strategies and outcomes. This tool is meant for internal use only for facilitators and site coordinators. – Planning Support Team

Outcome 7

Neighborhood and School Environments Support Improved Health and Healthy Behaviors

How community residents, advocates, health practitioners, and city and school staff can build upon each other's knowledge and experience to create a long-term, sustainable focus on healthy neighborhood and school environments. Below are a list of key strategies and progress measures within the primary elements of neighborhood and school environments.

AIR QUALITY

Bring together key stakeholders to advocate for the creation and implementation of laws and regulations that promote better air quality policy, and promote partnerships and collaboration to ensure indoor air quality issues are addressed. This results in:

Neighborhood Environments

- Decreased resident exposure to air pollution from sources like diesel powered engines, industrial sources, wood burning, agriculture activities and power plants. ([West Oakland Toxics Reduction Collaborative](#), [Bay Area Air Quality Management District wood burning rules](#)).
- An absence of environmental asthma triggers, as a result of both healthy behaviors by residents and proactive maintenance and repair by home and building owners.
- Low-income communities and communities of color are not disproportionately exposed to poor air quality in homes or air pollution in neighborhoods.

School Environments

- An absence of environmental asthma triggers in schools and child care settings.
- Adequate funding solutions that increase resources for school facility maintenance and repair. ([Williams Settlement overview](#))

WATER QUALITY

Neighborhood Environments (Inclusive of School Environments)

Educate community members around their water quality rights and/or how to become involved with the public water system's governing board, as well as how to collaborate with neighboring communities facing similar problems to advocate together for better water quality. (Advocacy and technical assistance organizations include [Environmental Justice Coalition for Water](#), [Clean Water Action](#), and the [Clean Water Fund](#)). This results in:

- A community advocacy group that is organized around water quality, and has a relationship with their local water provider.
- Open dialogue with city council members, Assembly members, County Supervisors and local Departments of Public Health around water quality issues.
- Effective media campaigns to raise awareness about water quality concerns.
- Collaborative relationship with another community that is facing similar water issues.

HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Partner with local governments and business to increase access to healthy food and opportunities for physical activity within the community, and utilize education and outreach strategies to inform decision-makers and community residents about the benefits of healthy living. This results in:

Neighborhood Environments

- Small neighborhood grocery stores carry a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy and culturally appropriate food items that are fairly priced, and displayed and advertised in a manner that attracts neighborhood customers.
- Local government staff is working with developers and store owners around new store development and the layout of existing stores to accommodate and promote fresh foods.
- Polices restrict certain types of food, such as alcohol and items containing trans fat, in local grocery stores and require a minimum square footage of grocery and convenience stores to be dedicated to fresh foods.
- Local government offers marketing programs that reward stores for selling healthy foods and limit advertising of unhealthy foods. ([Strategies that Work: Healthy Food Retailers in Hartford's Neighborhoods](#))
- Land use policies encourage farmers' markets and produce stands in residential neighborhoods and near community gathering places.
- Neighborhood stores increasingly become WIC vendors; upgrade their offerings in accordance with the new, healthier WIC food packages; and improve the infrastructure of their stores to stock and sell affordable, quality fruits and vegetables. ([Healthy Corner Store Network](#))
- Neighborhood residents are increasingly growing their own food in backyards and in community gardens. ([City Slicker Farms Backyard Garden Program](#))
- Local parks and playgrounds are safe and offer activities for children, youth and families.

School Environments

- Schools are actively partnering with local public and private agencies, public health advocates, students, and parents to solve health challenges facing children and youth.
- Schools offer healthy and culturally appropriate food options during the school day, and have decreased or eliminated unhealthy competitive food options in schools. ([Improving Child Nutrition Policy: Insights from National USDA Study of School Food Environments Policy Brief](#))
- All eligible, low-income children are enrolled in the National School Lunch Program. ([Recess from the Recession: How School Meals Can Do More to Help Struggling Families](#))
- Schools are 100% compliant with nutrition and physical education requirements.

SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

Neighborhood Environments (Inclusive of School Environments)

Use strategies that build social capital among neighbors, youth, and between youth and adults in neighborhoods and schools. This results in:

- Clean, safe public spaces such as parks and playgrounds are utilized by all community members. ([Oakland Parks Coalition](#)).
- Reduction in community violence and crime.
- Neighbors experience increased economic prosperity through great contacts and networking.
- Local youth centers and family resource centers are used by all youth and families.