

RESOURCE LIST

Supporting Equitable Development

EPA Smart Growth and Equitable Development

The US EPA offers a wide variety of tools and resources to help communities learn about and implement creative and sustainable development approaches. The links below provide background on Smart Growth and Equitable Development from the EPA's Smart Growth program.

- <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-and-equitable-development>
- <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-tools>

Focus Area 1: Facilitate Meaningful Community Engagement in Planning and Land Use Decisions

Reports, Toolkits, Case Studies

Advancing Equity in Land Re-Use Planning and Visioning

This practical guide by Groundwork USA and the Center for Creative Land Recycling offers comprehensive strategies, tools, and resources to help communities advance equity through land reuse projects. The guide specifically focuses on brownfields sites, and how to effectively and equitably engage communities in the process of land use planning adjacent to brownfields.

- https://groundworkusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/GWUSA-Equitable-Guide_071024-final.pdf

Authentic Youth Civic Engagement

An introductory guide to best practices for building or expanding youth civic engagement efforts.

- https://www.nlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/IYEF-Authentic-Youth-Civic-Engagement_web.pdf

Bright Spots in Community Engagement: Case Studies of U.S. Communities Creating Greater Civic Participation from the Bottom Up

The report provides results of a scan of 14 diverse community engagement efforts. In-depth case studies are provided from four communities.



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- <https://knightfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/BrightSpots-final.pdf>

Equitable Community Planning Toolkit

This is an equitable development toolkit that contains resources for leaders throughout their process of equitable planning goals and actions. The toolkit provides case studies across the country and tools for practices and systems changes.

- <https://www.fourtheconomy.com/equity-toolkit>

Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making Document

This guide contains promising practices around meaningful public involvement and participation that can help USDOT funding recipients comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and other existing requirements.

- <https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/equity/promising-practices-meaningful-public-involvement-transportation-decision-making>

Funding Opportunities

EPA Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Grant

Funds community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) to build collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders and develop solutions to environmental or public health issue(s) at the community level.

- <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-5>

National Civic League

National Civic League's All-America City Award recognizes communities that leverage civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness and innovation to successfully address local issues. This award does not provide funding, but does offer recognition, networking opportunities, and skill-building resources.

- <https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/2024-all-america-city-finalists/>

Rita Allen Foundation

The Rita Allen Foundation provides grants for organizations that promote civic literacy and engagement.

- <https://ritaallen.org/apply/>



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Focus Area 2: Promote a Healthy Environment

Reports, Toolkits, Case Studies

ChangeLab Solutions

ChangeLab Solutions shares resources, provides innovative legal approaches, and offers practical policy tools and technical assistance to communities and government agencies that are looking to reduce health disparities through law and policy change.

- <https://www.changelabsolutions.org/>

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

This tool maps overburdened and underserved census tracts covering a range of factors including health, transportation, climate change, and water pollution.

- <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#10.75/38.2641/-78.1355>

Community Development Done Right: Putting Environmental Justice and Equitable Development into Action

This workshop explores the principles of environmental justice and equitable development. The presenters from Groundwork USA outline effective strategies for implementing these principles and assist participants in evaluating their progress towards equitable development goals. Additionally, they share practical examples of successful equitable development projects.

- <https://groundworkusa.org/eqdevtools/community-development-done-right-putting-environmental-justice-and-equitable-development-into-action/>

ULI's Greening Building for Healthier People

Greening Buildings for Healthier People identifies building-scale opportunities to simultaneously and cost-effectively accelerate action on climate change and health, maximize their co-benefits, and manage any tensions between them.

- <https://knowledge.uli.org/en/reports/research-reports/2022/greening-buildings-for-healthier-people>

Funding Opportunities

EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant

Funds cross-sectoral partnerships with CBOs to support community-driven projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and support communities in addressing environmental and climate justice challenges.



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- <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

EPA Environmental Education Grant

Funds activities that increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental and conservation issues and provide youth with the skills necessary to make informed decisions and to take responsible actions.

- <https://www.epa.gov/education/grants>

EPA Land Revitalization Technical Assistance

EPA provides several types of free technical assistance to support local efforts to address brownfield sites.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/technical-assistance>

US Department of Agriculture Urban and Community Forestry Program

This program is dedicated to growing and maintaining urban greenspaces through grant funding and technical assistance.

- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>

Focus Area 3: Strengthen Existing Communities

Reports, Toolkits, Case Studies

The Equitable Development Toolkit

This online toolkit created by PolicyLink includes 27 tools to reverse patterns of segregation and disinvestment, prevent displacement, and promote equitable revitalization.

- <https://www.policylink.org/resources-tools/edtk>

Main Street America Knowledge Hub

The Main Street America Knowledge Hub is a comprehensive digital library containing a broad range of resources, including the signature Main Street Approach handbooks and guides, revitalization toolkits, and other materials to support existing communities.

- <https://mainstreet.org/resources/knowledge-hub>



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Promoting Equitable Development in Communities: An Overview of Five Promising Strategies

In this document the Urban Institute identifies five strategies commonly referenced in equitable development frameworks from across the United States. This synopsis provides leaders and policymakers with a foundational understanding of equitable development principles and guidance on how to adapt the principles to their own communities.

- https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/Promoting_Equitable_Development_in_Communities.pdf

Reshaping the City: Zoning for a More Equitable, Resilient, and Sustainable Future

This report provides examples of zoning updates from cities across the US. It explores their impacts on health outcomes, housing affordability, climate resiliency, and more.

- <https://knowledge.uli.org/-/media/files/research-reports/2023/uli-report-reshaping-the-city-final.pdf?rev=39f9e302029d4ab8a99c5b2d1129a642&hash=D63154AA4EC5F6222FECA99E7C085E23>

Zoned-In: Economic Benefits & Shared Prosperity with Form-Based Codes

This report is from Smart Growth America and provides information on the economic benefits and shared prosperity of form-based codes. The report gives background on form-based codes and four case studies describing the economic development benefits of this form of zoning.

- <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/resources/zoned-in-economic-benefits-shared-prosperity-with-form-based-codes/>

Funding Opportunities

Community Development Block Grants

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development offers support for a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services.

- https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg

Community Engineering Corps

The Corps works with communities who struggle to afford traditional engineering services to help complete a variety of projects.

- <https://www.communityengineeringcorps.org/>



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Rural Capacity Building

The Rural Capacity Building Program (RCB) enhances the capacity and ability of local governments, Indian tribes, housing development organizations, rural Community Development Corporations (CDCs), and rural Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low- and moderate-income families and persons in rural areas.

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/rural-capacity-building/>

Focus Area 4: Provide Housing Choices

Reports, Toolkits, Case Studies

Equitable Development: HUD Planning Tools for Affordable Housing

This page provides different planning tools for equitable development and affordable housing plans, policies, and processes.

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/increasing-the-supply-of-affordable-housing/equitable-development/#planning-tools>

Increasing the Supply of New Affordable Housing Toolkit

This HUD Toolkit is a resource for staff or members of State and local governments who are looking to be involved in affordable housing development and implementation in their communities, or those who want to partner with municipalities to explore affordable housing development options and want to explore promising strategies jurisdictions may use to address the affordability gap for low-income residents.

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6869/increasing-the-supply-of-new-affordable-housing-a-primer/>

Housing Supply Accelerator Playbook: Solutions, Systems, Partnerships

National League of Cities, in partnership with the American Planning Association, released a playbook as a resource designed to support communities in navigating their housing supply challenges.

- <https://www.nlc.org/resource/housing-supply-accelerator-playbook/>

Local Housing Solutions Lab

LHS provides case studies on policy strategies, examples of comprehensive housing plans, data and information about the real estate development process, and a comprehensive



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library of briefs focused on individual policy solutions. There are also opportunities for small and medium sized communities to directly engage with the lab through trainings on various housing issues.

- <https://localhousingsolutions.org/>

Funding Opportunities

CDBG WORKS: Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program

Section 108 Loan Guarantee to develop a housing fund or invest in a transformational project. Borrow up to 5 times your CDBG allocation in flexible, low-cost, low-interest financing.

- https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/section108/legacy-challenge

HUD Eviction Protection Grant Program

Funds no cost legal assistance by local governments, Tribes, or nonprofits to low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction.

- <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/eviction-protection-grant.html>

HUD Healthy Homes Production Program

Funds activities that help make low-income housing units lead safe and free of multiple health hazards, such as mold.

- https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/hhi

HUD Thriving Communities Technical Assistance

Supports local governments receiving federal infrastructure funds (directly or through state pass through grants) in integrating housing and transportation planning through housing production on underutilized land, affordable housing preservation, regulatory or procedural reforms, and cross-sector coordination.

- <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/ota/thriving-communities-ta-program.html>

Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing)

Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) supports communities who are actively taking steps to remove barriers to affordable housing.

- https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/pro_housing



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Focus Area 5: Provide Transportation Options

Reports, Toolkits, Case Studies

Complete Streets

Complete Streets is an approach to planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining streets that enables safe access for all people who need to use them, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

- <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/what-are-complete-streets/>

Rural Planning Organization of America

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Rural Planning Organizations of America's Resource Library is a collection of documents and presentations meant to be a point of reference for transportation and economic development professionals. These resources cover a range of transportation modes and issues.

- <https://ruraltransportation.org/resources-topic/>

Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks

The Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks report is a resource and idea book intended to help small towns and rural communities support safe, accessible, comfortable, and active travel for people of all ages and abilities

- https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/small_towns/page00.cfm

ULI's Transportation Transformations

Transforming outdated automobile-oriented infrastructure to promote resilience, health, and equity—by identifying community priorities through robust engagement practices, creating new parks and green infrastructure, and employing nature-based solutions while supporting economic activity—can help support quality of life in communities throughout the United States and beyond.

- https://knowledge.uli.org/en/reports/research-reports/2023/transportation-transformations?_gl=1*mm7ohf*_gcl_au*MTg3ODQ4MjA2NC4xNzIzNTU5MjY3*_ga*MTM4MDQ2MTU1My4xNzIzNTU5MjY3*_ga_68JJQP7N7N*MTcyMzU3NjkwNi40LjEuMTcyMzU3NzEwNy41Ni4wLjA .



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Funding Opportunities

Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School programs aim to make it safer for students to walk and bike to school and encourage more walking and biking where safety is not a barrier. Funding for projects is often administered through the state Department of Transportation.

- <https://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>

Thriving Communities Program

This planning, technical assistance, and capacity building support will enable disadvantaged and under-resourced communities to advance a pipeline of transformative infrastructure projects that will increase mobility, reduce pollution, and expand affordable transportation options, connecting communities to the essential opportunities and resources that will help them thrive.

- <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities>

US Department of Transportation

The US DOT offers numerous grants and assistance programs that allow communities to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services. A full list of available grant opportunities and programs can be found at the first link below. The second link provides information about a new “legacy highway” program that specifically addresses aging roadways.

- <https://www.transportation.gov/grants>
- <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/funding-address-legacy-highways>

Focus Area 6: Support Community and Generational Wealth-Building

Reports, Toolkits, Case Studies

Action Guide for Advancing Community Wealth Building in the United States

This action guide is for those seeking to pursue and advance a Community Wealth Building approach in their locality, including economic development practitioners, community activists and organizations, anchor institutions, local government agencies and leaders, and other interested stakeholders.



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- <https://democracycollaborative.org/publications/community-wealth-building-action-guide>

Community Land Trust National Network

Find on this page specific, technical information and academic research related to the model—what makes a CLT a CLT—as well as some resources around the history of the CLT movement in the United States.

- <https://groundedsolutions.org/strengthening-neighborhoods/community-land-trusts/>

Educate and Empower: Tools for Building Community Wealth

This report draws on case studies of 11 different community economic development initiatives from across the United States that provide strategies on helping low-income communities and communities of color build capacity and wealth.

- <https://democracycollaborative.org/publications/educate-and-empower-tools-building-community-wealth>

Financing Equitable Development

This report focuses on the challenges to accessing capital for equitable development. It provides financing sources and approaches, and identifies benefits, barriers, and challenges for leveraging for equitable development projects.

- <https://knowledge.uli.org/en/reports/research-reports/2023/financing-equitable-development-survey-of-sources-and-approaches>

Ingredients of Equitable Development Planning

This report covers the background of equitable development and nonprofit community development financial institutions, how to start equitable development, the planning process, financing projects, and implementation strategies. The report also examines three different case studies in the country.

- https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/Harvard_JCHS_Ingredients_Equitable_Development_Planning.pdf

Land Banks and Community Land Trusts

In this report, you'll learn more about the differences between land banks and community land trusts, and how they can work together, promising models and examples of land bank and CLT partnerships across the country, and what is needed to grow and expand land bank and CLT partnerships.

- <https://communityprogress.org/publications/land-banks-and-community-land-trusts/>



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Leveraging Anchor Institutions for Economic Inclusion

This brief is an introduction to developing and implementing an anchor strategy that can advance equity and economic inclusion to promote regional prosperity.

- <http://www.policylink.org/find-resources/library/leveraging-anchor-institutions-for-economic-inclusion>

Small Business Anti-Displacement Network Interactive Toolkit

This toolkit outlines seven strategies to preserve small businesses: commercial preservation and property improvement, local hiring and entrepreneurial support, tax credits and incentives, zoning and form-based codes, commercial tenant protections, community ownership, and place-based management. It offers case studies and nearly 30 implementation tools.

- <https://antidisplacement.org/toolkit/>

Funding Opportunities

EPA Brownfields Job Training Grants

Funds projects to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of communities affected by brownfield sites through multi-faceted, diversified curricula related to cleanup, remediation, redevelopment, and community involvement activities.

- <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-grants>

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Through its grants and impact investments, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation seeks to ensure that community development capital flows to the places that have long been neglected by investment, and that financing and development decisions center the priorities and solutions of local residents and safeguard against any unintended consequences, such as displacement.

- <https://www.rwjf.org/en/our-vision/focus-areas/healthy-communities-equitable-community-development.html>



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Focus Area 7: Preserve and Build on the Features that Make a Community Distinctive

Reports, Toolkits, Case Studies

How Small Towns and Cities Can Use Local Assets to Rebuild Their Economies

This report provides case studies of small towns and cities that have enhanced their economic development by emphasizing their existing assets and distinctive resources.

- <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/how-small-towns-and-cities-can-use-local-assets-rebuild-their-economies>

Preserving African American Places: Growing Preservation's Potential as a Path to Equity

This report seeks to understand different forms of place-based injustice and to identify preservation-based strategies for equitable growth that respect the historical and present-day realities and conditions of African American neighborhoods.

- https://cdn.savingplaces.org/2023/08/10/13/57/18/226/AACHAF_EquityStudyReport_lo-res.pdf

Funding Opportunities

African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Grants

The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund works to advance the broader preservation movement towards a more diverse and equitable representation of American history. Grants showcase the beauty and complexity of Black history and culture in America, while underscoring the urgent need to protect, preserve and interpret these invaluable American assets.

- <https://savingplaces.org/action-fund-grants>

T-Mobile Hometown Grants

T-Mobile awards up to \$50,000 to shovel-ready projects that foster local connections, like technology upgrades, outdoor spaces, the arts, and community centers.

- <https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants>

