

# ChangeLab Solutions

Our mission is to create healthier communities for all through equitable laws and policies.

## Who We Are

ChangeLab Solutions is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that uses the tools of law and policy to advance health equity. We partner with communities across the nation to improve health and opportunity by changing harmful laws, policies, and systems. Our interdisciplinary team works with community organizations, governments, and local institutions to design and implement equitable and practical policy solutions to complex health challenges.

## Our Work

We can help you achieve your health equity goals so that everyone in your community can achieve their full health potential.

### WHY WE DO THIS WORK: Health Equity

the most powerful risk factors in health are laws and policies that have perpetuated racism, discrimination, and segregation throughout our nation's history. Using the tools of law and policy, we can undo the fundamental drivers of inequity and thereby increase health equity.

### WHAT WE BRING: Expertise & Evidence

We share our knowledge of what is effective for advancing health-promoting policies. Our diverse team works across sectors and disciplines, bringing legal, policy, and planning expertise to inform our work. Our solutions in service of health and equity are grounded in evidence, legal precedent, and community-led change efforts. And our free online library offers legally sound policies with a proven track record of implementation.

### HOW WE WORK: Collaboration & Partnership

We believe that complex problems are best solved through partnerships across multiple disciplines and sectors in order to maximize collective resources, apply mutual learning, and align actions to advance health equity. To help communities improve their health, we provide individualized services that complement and leverage community knowledge and strengths.

### WHAT WE OFFER: Legal Know-How + Strategies That Make Policies Work

Our interdisciplinary team can create custom legal or policy research, analyses, case studies, or products tailored to your issue or community. Our trainings help communities build knowledge and skills to effect change, even after the trainings are over.

# Our Services

## Research & Analysis

Policy analysis and legal research to answer critical questions about financing, enforcement, and impact

### [Sugary Drink Warning Labels: A legal update](#)

This legal update describes important takeaways from 3 recent court cases that are relevant to sugary drink warning labels as an emerging policy strategy.

### [Equity First: Conceptualizing a normative framework to assess the role of preemption in public health](#)

A journal article in *The Milbank Quarterly* proposes development of an equity-first framework to help establish evidence-based criteria for evaluating whether preemption will enhance or inhibit equity.

## Policy & Strategy Development

Tailored development of model policies and laws; guidance in forming, improving, and assessing strategies for change

### [A Blueprint for Changemakers: Achieving health equity through law & policy](#)

This resource presents legal strategies and best practices to help policymakers, practitioners, and communities address inequities and improve health outcomes.

### [Prioritizing Health & Equity in Planning](#)

Our planning resources can help planners, decisionmakers, and their partners promote health equity in their communities.

## Individualized Coaching

Guidance on some or all of the policy process – from identifying your policy needs and building support to implementing and evaluating a recently adopted policy

### [New Rhode Island Law Says “No” to Junk Food Marketing in Schools](#)

ChangeLab Solutions provided technical assistance and model legislation to the American Heart Association in Rhode Island with the goal of passing statewide legislation to shield school kids from marketing of foods and beverages that do not meet federal nutrition standards.

### [The Fight for Health Equity in California’s Central Valley](#)

ChangeLab Solutions supported Cultiva La Salud’s efforts by offering technical assistance and guidance on how to drive more equitable infrastructure investment and how to participate in the development of Fresno’s Active Transportation Plan, which aims to make walking and biking safe and accessible for all.

## Training & Capacity Building

In-person training sessions or online webinar series for legal and non-legal audiences on public health law, policy development, or specific issues

### [Public Health Law Academy: Free trainings to advance skills & competencies in public health](#)

These trainings provide a deeper understanding of the use of law and policy to improve population health outcomes.

### [Health in All Policies: Collaborating across sectors to improve health](#)

These resources are intended for anyone interested in building the capacity of governments and communities to promote health through more collaborative and efficient policymaking.

## Communities of Practice

Convening and facilitation of working groups, multidisciplinary collaborations, or community stakeholders to discuss an issue or work toward a common goal

### [Uprooting the Structural Drivers of Health Inequity](#)

Six deep-dive discussions connect the drivers of health inequity to policy change in key areas: community health, employment, education, planning, food systems, and housing.

### [The Health & Housing Starter Kit: A guide for public health departments, housing authorities, and hospitals](#)

This guide was developed to help local institutions take their first steps toward creating bold and innovative health and housing initiatives.

## Product Development

Development of visually engaging, user-friendly fact sheets, guides, and infographics that advance new ideas and translate complex concepts into actionable solutions

### [Planning for Healthy, Equitable Communities \(infographic series\)](#)

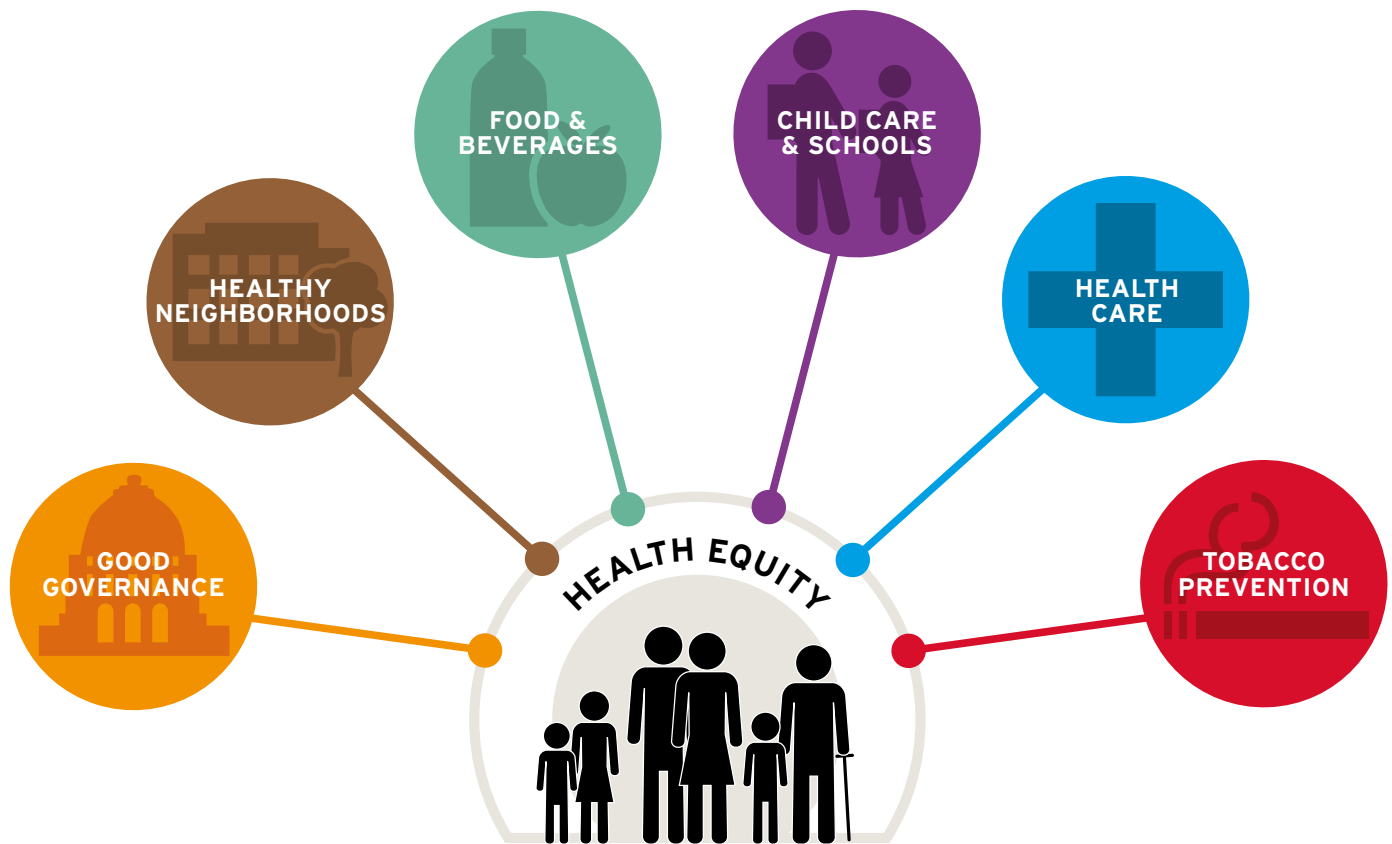
These 3 infographics are for public health practitioners who wish to partner with urban and regional planners as well as learn about how planning affects health and equity.

### [Legal & Policy Strategies for Health Care & Food System Partners](#)

This guide provides strategies for creating just and resilient food systems through cross-sector partnerships.

# Work Areas

Our innovative policy solutions address many aspects of creating healthier communities for all.



## Good Governance

Laws and policies are powerful tools for making our communities healthier and more equitable. A good governance process is inclusive, transparent, and effective, and helps foster a clear understanding of policy landscapes, local resources, and potential partnerships. We offer resources that explain the essentials of public health law and policy that can help create meaningful, lasting change in your community.

### 🎯 SUCCESS STORY

#### [Public Health Law Academy](#)

Many public health students and professionals lack the know-how to effectively navigate the US legal system. In partnership with the CDC, we founded the Public Health Law Academy to help address this need and improve population health outcomes. To date, these free online trainings have been played over 3,000 times.

## Healthy Neighborhoods

Evidence shows that where we live plays a key role in our health. Housing, workplaces, street design, and transportation all influence prominent health factors such as safety, physical activity, access to healthy food, community engagement, and affordable living. We provide planning tools that connect the dots between neighborhood resources and help communities achieve their policy goals.

### 🎯 SUCCESS STORY

#### [Engaging the Denver Community on Healthy Housing](#)

The Denver Housing Authority (DHA) has long recognized the effects of housing on health and the importance of community engagement in any revitalization project. In response to residents' desires, DHA developed convenient and reliable transit options to get them to well-paying jobs, schools, and other health-promoting opportunities.

## Food & Beverages

A healthy diet is key to maintaining good health. Well-designed food systems positively shape the health, environmental, social, and economic outcomes of neighborhoods and communities. We work on a variety of policy strategies that advance health equity through each component of the food system and ensure access to healthy, affordable foods and beverages.

### 🎯 SUCCESS STORY

#### [Rhode Island Protects Students from Junk Food Marketing](#)

Marketing to kids in schools has long been controversial within the US education system. Starting in 2017, ChangeLab Solutions provided technical assistance and model legislation to the American Heart Association in Rhode Island. The goal of this partnership was to pass statewide legislation to shield school kids from marketing of foods and beverages that do not meet federal nutrition standards. After several years of legislative wrangling, the proposed bill was signed into law in 2018, effectively protecting 142,000 Rhode Island students from junk food advertising in their schools.

## Child Care & Schools

Families have tremendous influence on the health of their children, but children are also cared for by other adults in their community. Child care and school environments often determine what children are offered to eat and drink outside the home, as well as how much time they have for physical activity. We work on child care and school policy strategies that can support families in raising healthy children.

### 🎯 SUCCESS STORY

#### [Building Safe & Uplifting School Environments in Richmond, CA](#)

Over-policed, under-resourced environments make students feel less safe and can threaten their health and prosperity. Enter RYSE, a community-based organization dedicated to empowering the youth of Richmond. Through extensive research, RYSE has gathered insights from students on how to build uplifting school environments where students feel safe and ready to learn.

## Health Care

Health care systems and hospitals have opportunities to get involved in community public health initiatives. Partnering with advocates and local agencies, providing healthier foods and beverages, and leveraging community benefits allocations from hospitals can help keep people healthy and out of emergency rooms. Our resources help health care organizations and hospitals work toward community-based prevention of health problems.

### 🎯 SUCCESS STORY

#### [Newark, NJ, Takes on Food Insecurity](#)

Given that food insecurity affects so many New Jerseyans and strong evidence that food insecurity is directly linked to health and education outcomes, ChangeLab Solutions partnered with the Greater Newark Community Advisory Board and RWJBarnabas Health to do something about it. ChangeLab Solutions identified and tailored policy options to improve Newark's food systems.

## Tobacco Prevention

Limiting access to tobacco products is the first step in preventing tobacco-related diseases. Effective strategies include eliminating the sale of tobacco products to minors, regulating electronic cigarettes, increasing enforcement of existing laws, and reducing exposure to secondhand smoke. We offer a wide range of resources to help communities tailor and implement policy options to regulate tobacco.

### 🎯 SUCCESS STORY

#### [Clark County, WA, Tackles E-Cigarettes](#)

Concerned about the significant increase in use rates of electronic smoking devices for both adults and minors, Clark County's Board of Health drafted a comprehensive policy based on ChangeLab Solutions' model ordinance and training. The board unanimously passed the ordinance in 2015, prompting healthy changes within the community.

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