NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS TO HEALTH



New Jersey Health Initiatives Building a Culture of Health in Greater Freehold

A Blueprint for Action

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Neighborhood Connections to Health is a coalition comprised of individuals representing the Greater Freehold community and a wide range of organizations who serve and have a vested interest in improving the health and well-being of the residents. In an effort to build a Culture of Health within Greater Freehold, we have developed a Blueprint for Action that will guide the coalition in improving the health of area residents by addressing underlying health factors that influence health outcomes. Using health outcomes data, the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps model and a series of six focus groups conducted among Freehold Borough residents, we present a plan that leverages existing resources within the community and increases opportunities for healthy living.

Simply stated, health begins where we live, learn, work and play. To effectively optimize health, we must address the underlying factors that affect health, such as community safety, financial instability, education, access to medical care, social isolation and more. Our action plan uses the population health model to target cardiovascular risk factors (physical inactivity and poor nutrition) and lead poisoning in children while addressing health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment of the community.

Neighborhood Connections to Health is committed to the plan outlined in this Blueprint for Action which will guide our efforts and promote sustainability in years to come. We are confident that our coalition will be successful in building a "Culture of Health" in Freehold by connecting cross-cultural and generational groups, connecting community resources, and increasing opportunities for residents to be productive.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

According to the *2017 County Health Rankings*, of the 21 counties in New Jersey, Monmouth County is ranked 7th in Health Outcomes and 5th in Health Factors. However, these rankings do not tell the entire story. The county is comprised of 53 very unique municipalities in urban, suburban and rural settings. The majority of the towns are economically sound and healthy, but some communities lag significantly behind county, state and national averages. In 2007, the Health Improvement Coalition of Monmouth County (HICMC) sought to better define the communities of need. The HICMC commissioned a study that identified significant disparities in health outcomes and social determinants in five urban areas, including Freehold Boroughlocated in the western side of Monmouth County. Whereas significant resources and improvements have benefited those communities of need in the east, there has been little investment in the western region; more specifically, Freehold Borough and the Greater Freehold Area.

The Greater Freehold Area "community" includes the Borough of Freehold, Freehold Township, Howell Township, Farmingdale Borough, Manalapan Township and Englishtown Borough. Despite seemingly relative affluence, there are pockets of significant need within each municipality that affect an imbalance in the overall infrastructure of the community, resource allocation, and the delivery of services. The most significant community of need is Freehold Borough, a population of 12,018 that is 76% white, 14% black, 4% Asian and 6% other, of which, 42% consider themselves Latinos. The uninsured range from 24.4%-36.7%, compared to 9.6% for the county. Even more alarming is the increased percentage of children ages 5-17 living in households that cannot afford basic necessities, from 19.8% to 30.7% in just 10 years. In addition, the area is home to a substantial population of undocumented immigrants whose existence is not reflected in the census statistics, but whose American-born children are clearly impacted.

Freehold Borough is a quaint, two-square mile community, nestled in the larger, more affluent Township of Freehold. It is a diverse community that is known for its history, restaurants and nightlife. Many residents are employed by local businesses or by landscapers and construction companies serving the more affluent surrounding areas. According to the

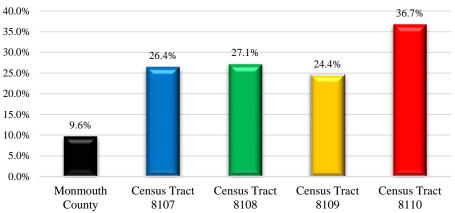
2014 U.S. Census Bureau, unemployment ranged from 5.9% to 12.1% across the four census tracts, compared to New Jersey unemployment rates of 7.8%. However, unemployment reveals only part of the story.

Many residents do not have the same opportunities to be as healthy as others because many live with conditions that make them vulnerable to poor health. These vulnerabilities primarily exist because of socio-economic differences, including employment, income, housing, education, as well as family and social support. As such, optimum health for many in the Freehold Borough community is a challenge because the opportunity for health *begins* in our families, neighborhoods, schools and jobs.





Census Tracts in Freehold Borough, New Jersey and Corresponding Uninsured Population Percentages



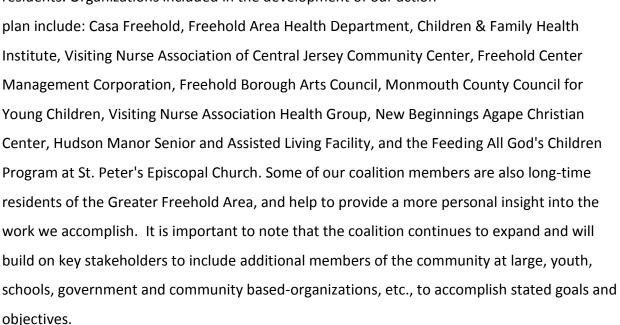
Percent Uninsured

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN

Neighborhood Connections to Health is a coalition from *within* the Greater Freehold community that seeks to improve the health of residents by addressing underlying health factors that influence health outcomes. Our Blueprint for Action provides a framework for actions that will provide opportunities for healthier living, while creating balance across social and economic factors, the physical environment, health behaviors and clinical care. Health is not defined by access to health care and is much more than the absence of disease or illness. Rather, true health encompasses happiness, well-being and how people flourish in their environment, and it starts with where we live, learn, work and play. Our strategies seek to improve the health of Greater Freehold by strengthening the community's social connectivity among population groups.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

Neighborhood Connections to Health is comprised of individuals representing a wide range of community members and organizations that live in and/or serve Freehold Area and have a vested interest in improving the health and well-being of our residents. Organizations included in the development of our action







HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED?

Our proposed Blueprint is inspired by three components:

- > The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Model
- A series of six focus groups conducted among specific
 Freehold Borough sub-populations
- Health status indicators

The Model

The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps approach is based on a model of population health. As seen in Figure 1, a population health approach goes beyond defining "health" as physical well-being. The County Health Rankings approach describes health in broader terms. This approach considers that "conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, grow, worship, and age affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks" (Healthy People 2020). These conditions include health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic

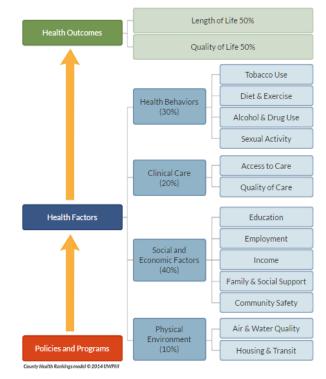


Figure 1: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Model

factors, and one's physical environment. The idea behind this model, and our Blueprint for

Action for the Greater Freehold Area, is grounded in the concept that improving these

conditions will help make our community a healthier place.

The Focus Groups

Focus group discussions served as a mechanism to learn about the needs of the community and were used to inform our Blueprint. Discussion provided insight from those individuals whose health may be negatively affected by the conditions in which they live, and included community elders, African-Americans, Latinos, youth, parents and residents who struggle to secure food or housing.



Results from the focus groups provided several opportunities for positive change in the community and the top priorities of our plan reflect the community's desire to unite and work together to enhance quality of life for all. As such, overarching aims will improve health by helping community connections in three ways:

- Uniting and connecting cross-cultural and generation groups.
- Connecting community resources in a meaningful and effective way.
- > Increasing opportunities for people to feel productive.

The Health Status Indicators

In addition to focus groups, Neighborhood Connections looked at health data to further focus our work. If we seek to improve the conditions under which people live, how will we know that we are ultimately affecting their health? Based on data gathered by the Freehold Health Department, the coalition opted for two priorities: to improve access to nutrition/physical activity in Freehold Area, and to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in children. By choosing measurable objectives that will improve health *and* address underlying conditions that make the community vulnerable, we hope to demonstrate improved outcomes as a result of our work following the principles of the County Health Rankings Model. Specifically, our action plan addresses:

- Health Behaviors By increasing opportunities for physical activity and access to healthy foods.
- > Clinical Care By increasing lead screening opportunities for at-risk children.

- Social and Economic Factors By increasing family/social support and promoting activities across cultural/generational groups to enhance community collaboration.
- Physical Environment By enacting local Ordinances that reduce the number of rental homes that have lead paint hazards and limit the sale of tainted food.

The Action Plan (See Appendix 1) outlines the coalition's goals, objectives, strategies, tactics and action steps. In addition, timeframes, outcomes, responsible parties and evidence-based strategies are listed. We view this as a living document that will flex with the advancement of the coalition and the needs of the community.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION, EVALUATION & SUSTAINABILITY

The work of Neighborhood Connections to Health is grounded in leveraging existing resources within the community to increase opportunities for healthy living. Additional resources from the Culture of Health grant will be used to support the efforts of the coalition and provide financial assistance for the development of new services that may be needed. While our proposed budget reflects the work in our Blueprint for Action, like our action plan, it will remain flexible, based on the changing needs of our community and the organizations that serve our residents on a daily basis.

Our coalition understands the importance of evaluating the processes we employ throughout and beyond this grant period. Therefore, we are dedicated to quarterly evaluations of our progress. The subgroups working on each component of the Blueprint will also provide quarterly updates to evaluate their progress in expanding the coalition to include appropriate stakeholders needed to tackle the action plan.

A sustainability plan is fundamental to ensuring that the work of Neighborhood Connections to Health continues beyond the grant period. Our steering committee will share their Boundary Spanning Leadership tools and experiences with key stakeholders and community champions who are recruited for specific Blueprint for Action components. We will continue to identify community leaders and develop a succession plan *with* these individuals, not *for* them, as they are the key to a successful and sustainable plan in improving the health of Greater Freehold.

APPENDIX 1: THE BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

Neighborhood Connections to Health understands the importance of addressing all the factors of a population health model that influence health outcomes. The following icons indicate which health factors are addressed in our Blueprint for Action strategies.

lcon	Health Factor
ě	Health Behaviors
*	Clinical Care
\$	Socioeconomic Factors
	Physical Environment

Our Action Plan is color coded to present the following components: Goals, objectives in relation to each goal, strategies to address the objectives, tactics to accomplish the strategies, evidence-based references, and short-term, intermediate, and long-term outcomes for each goal.

Neighborhood Connections to Health Blueprint for Action

Goal 1: Increase physical activity and improve nutrition among Greater Freehold residents

Outcome Objective 1: Increase the percentage of adults and children engaging in recommended physical activity per week by 10% by June 30th, 2020

Outcome Objective 2: Increase the percentage of adults and children consuming the recommended fruit/vegetable serving per week by 10% by June 30th, 2020

Strategy 1: Improve resident satisfaction of the physical environment by promoting increased physical activity through enhancing walkability and bikeability

Testie	Antion Stone	Time France	Assessments help Division
Tactic	Action Steps	Time Frame	Accountable Party
1. Establish a baseline for outcome	1. Hire a consultant to survey Greater Freehold Residents and	Jul 2017 – Sep 2017	Entire Coalition
objectives	establish a baseline measure for outcome objectives		
2. Identify and document existing	1. Review existing Community Master Plan	Jul 2017 – Sep 2017	Entire Coalition
resources	2. Identify actionable elements of the Master Plan		
	3. Explore streetscape design improvement opportunities		
	NJ Safe Routes to School		
	"Complete Streets"		
	"Walk Friendly Communities"		
	 Traffic calming 		
	 Increased street lighting 		
3. Expand the coalition	1. Identify and recruit stakeholders	Jan 2018 – Jun 2018	Entire Coalition
	Police		
	Municipal Government		
	Recreation Department		
	 Mayor's Wellness Initiatives in Township and Borough 		
	Schools		
	Local Health Department		

	 Residents (adults and young children) 2. Conduct key informant surveys with stakeholders 		
4. Determine a specific plan to implement identified improvements to physical environment	1. Utilize resources in newly developed coalition(s) to create SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) objectives to improve the physical environment	Jul 2018 – Dec 2018	G. Reilly M. Breslauer Expanded Coalition
5. Implement plan	 Develop and allocate resources to implement agreed plans Successfully execute plan 	Jan 2019 – Jun 2020	G. Reilly M. Breslauer Expanded Coalition
	Evidence Base		
Tool	Description	Source	
1. Streetscape Design Policy	"Streetscape design improvements (e.g., Complete Streets) accommodate the needs of all users and enable pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists to share and use the street. Improvements to streetscape design can include increased street lighting, enhanced street landscaping, increased sidewalk coverage and connectivity of pedestrian walkways, bicycling infrastructure, street crossing safety features, and traffic calming measures. Streetscape design improvement projects typically include elements from more than one of these categories; these projects can be implemented incrementally or comprehensively (SGA – Complete Streets)."	/streetscape-design	Ithrankings.org/policies
2. Walk Friendly Communities	"A Walk Friendly Community is a city or town that has shown a commitment to improving and sustaining walkability and pedestrian safety through comprehensive programs, plans, and policies. Communities should build programs that incorporate all of these strategies to comprehensively address walking and pedestrian safety, including: community data and evaluation, planning and policy, engineering and design, education and encouragement, and law enforcement."	http://walkfriendly.org	/

3. NJ Safe Routes to School	"New Jersey Safe Routes to School, which is created and	http://www.saferoutesnj.org/
	supported by the New Jersey Department of Transportation with	
	funding from the Federal Highway Administration, enables and	
	encourages safer and more accessible walking and bicycling	
	environments for children in New Jersey through education,	
	training, and research. Safe Routes to School projects can involve	
	physical improvements to the environment, as well as	
	encouragement programs to promote more walking and bicycling	
	to and from school."	

Goal 1 Continued: Increase physical activity and improve nutrition among Greater Freehold residents					
Image: Strategy 2: Increase access to healthy food options in Freehold Borough					
Tactic	Action Steps	Time Frame	Accountable Party		
1. Expand the coalition	 Identify and recruit stakeholders Workforce Development Superintendent/Principal Schools Shop Rite Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Community Affairs and Resource Center (CARC) YMCA Social Community Activities Network (SCAN) Et. al 	Jul 2017 – Dec 2017	Entire Coalition		
2. Expand current Farmers' Market	1. Increase utilization and access by creating mobile smaller market kiosks near school buildings, YMCA, senior housing, and local churches2. Meet with current Farmers' Market organizers to explore the potential for expansion3. Collaborate with music and craft organizations in Greater Freehold4. Advertise in both English and Spanish5. Incorporate food demonstrations to highlight fruit and vegetable preparation	Dec 2017 – Dec 2018	C. Nelson J. Friedman Expanded Coalition		
3. Food Bank/grocery store collaboration for fresh produce	1. Meet with grocery store owners regarding leftover food pick up schedules	Sep 2017 – Sep 2018	C. Nelson J. Friedman Expanded Coalition		

3. Clock 4. E	hedule meeting with Shop Rite stores and recruit as a tion member pordinate distribution of two-day-old fruit and vegetables from supermarkets to food pantries plore homegrown vegetables from Greater Freehold Area for ations to Open Door Lunch Program or Feeding All God's fren Lunch Program	
	Evidence Base	
ТооІ	Description	Source
1. Mobile Markets/ Farm Markets	 "Mobile markets, mobile farmers' markets, or fresh food carts travel to multiple neighborhoods to sell fresh fruits and vegetables, operating on a set schedule so residents know when they can shop. Mobile markets can be created from buses, trucks, vans, carts, or any other vehicle with space to display produce." "Mobile markets are a suggested strategy to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables in low income neighborhoods and food deserts, and near schools. There is some evidence that taste testing fruits and vegetables as part of a multi-component intervention increases fruit and vegetable consumption among children, adolescents, and adults. Taste testing fruits and vegetables is a suggested strategy to improve nutrition." 	http://www.greensgrow.org/Mobile-Markets/ http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/policies/ mobile-markets

Goal 1 Cont	inued: Increase physical activity and improve nutrition among Greater	Freehold residents		
Strategy 3: Enhance access to community physical activity programs throughout Greater Freehold				
Tactic	Action Steps	Time Frame	Accountable Party	
1. Expand the coalition	 Identify and recruit stakeholders Parent groups School representatives Parent Teacher Organizations Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG) County Council for Young Children (CCYC) partners YMCA Freehold Library Casa Freehold CARC School Education Foundations Senior Groups Faith Based Organizations Et. al 	July 2017 – Dec 2017	Entire Coalition	
2. Identify and document existing resources	 Review existing community groups, events, services, and programs Identify elements where there is room for expansion of current services and collaboration opportunities for seniors, parents, and youth Explore replicable concepts from intentional neighboring model 	Jul 2017 – Dec 2017	J. Andolora M. Remhoff A. Espinal Garcia T. Goldstein R. Dentino Expanded Coalition	
3. Build a coalition of youth and senior volunteers to work together in the community	 Identify community members, organizations, and other influencers Recruit and build volunteer network 	Jul 2017 – Jun 2018	J. Andolora M. Remhoff A. Espinal Garcia T. Goldstein R. Dentino	

	n F	MCA, churches, school representatives (teachers, urses), parent groups (PTOs, SEPAG, CCYC), Casa reehold, CARC, senior centers nd educate volunteers of any age to engage in physical ogether		Expanded Coalition
4. Improve connectivity among youth, community, and seniors	Intention activity (e older adu	on of SMART objectives based on the Core Components of al Neighboring to enhance access to community physical embracing the power of relationships, engagement of lts, essential design patterns, key focus on vulnerability, more generations, embracing diversity, transformational p)	Jul 2018 – Dec 2018	J. Andolora M. Remhoff A. Espinal Garcia T. Goldstein R. Dentino Expanded Coalition
5. Implement plan	enhance 2. Collabo provide n 3. Survey as well as	opportunities through the 'youth and senior coalition' to access to physical activities orate with community organization champions who nultigenerational programs or services multigenerational program users to ensure baseline data suggested increments of improvements focus groups to ensure improvement outcomes	Jan 2019 – Jun 2020	J. Andolora M. Remhoff A. Espinal Garcia T. Goldstein R. Dentino Expanded Coalition
		Evidence Base		
ТооІ		Description	Sou	
1. Intentional Neighboring		and cooperation between individuals of different ages and focus on the needs of all residents, especially	s ntergenerational-communities	

	leadership opportunities for all ages, multi- generational programming, and housing, transportation, or workforce polices that address the needs of residents of all ages."					
	Outcomes for Goal 1					
Short – Term	Intermediate	Long – Term				
1. Expand the coalition	1. Improve resident satisfaction of walkability,	1. Sustainability				
	bikeability, and access to healthy foods					
2. Establish baseline measures		2. Improved health indicators				
	2. Improve community connectedness					

Goal 2: Reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in Freehold Borough

Outcome Objective 1: Reduce the incidence of elevated blood lead levels in children in Freehold Borough by 10% by June 30th, 2020

Strategy 1: Foster collaboration among housing, community development, code enforcement, elected officials, governmental agencies, property owners, and community to advance a lead poisoning prevention program

Tactic	Action Steps	Time Frame	Accountable Party
1. Expand coalition and motivate action for primary prevention	 Mobilize community leadership and participation among parents and others to develop neighborhood-based solutions, develop political will, and secure needed resources Engage policy makers, property owners, insurers, contractors, child, health, and housing advocates, and others in developing a strategic plan for primary lead poisoning prevention 	Begin July 2018	M. Jahn B. Nance R. Pierce
2. Establish lead poisoning incidence baseline	1. Use LeadTrax data to ascertain incidence of lead poisoning	Begin July 2018	M. Jahn B. Nance R. Pierce Expanded Coalition
3. Educate policy makers and community members on the scope of the problem	 Create a lead campaign to communicate impact of lead on children and costs of inaction to the community, landlords, and affected families Highlight disparities/identify pockets of housing posing increased risk for lead poisoning (80% of Freehold Borough housing stock) Launch campaign in Freehold Borough targeting landlords, faith- based organizations, Casa Freehold, general community, parents, nurses, schools 	Begin July 2018	M. Jahn B. Nance R. Pierce Expanded Coalition
4. Increase the percent of children being screened for lead	 Secure mechanism for mobile testing Collaborate with primary care physicians and pediatricians in the area to establish on-site screening programs 	Begin July 2018	M. Jahn B. Nance R. Pierce Expanded Coalition

Strategy 2: Reduce the number of homes in Freehold Borough that have lead paint hazards					
Tactic	Action Steps	Time Frame	Accountable Party		
1. Provide incentives for homeowners to investigate and remediate lead hazards in the home	 Offer incentives to property owners to comply with lead-safe housing treatments for voluntary remediation before children are poisoned Work with local companies for paint donations as part of incentive program 	Begin July 2018	M. Jahn B. Nance R. Pierce Expanded Coalition		
	3. Develop separate incentive program for landlords				
2. Coordinate a tenant association	1. Identify and organize groups of residents across racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, community and faith-based organizations who have a vested interest in advocating for lead poisoning prevention	Begin July 2018	M. Jahn B. Nance R. Pierce Expanded Coalition		
3. Develop and codify housing and/or other ordinances to affect primary prevention	 Establish a ban or limit on the sale of candies containing lead in corner stores/bodegas in Freehold Borough (See evidence-based tool #2) 	Begin July 2018	M. Jahn B. Nance R. Pierce Expanded Coalition		
	2. Require that property owners meet certain standards at property turnover and other key junctures (2002 laws enacted in RI and MD)				
	 3. Establish an ordinance to require periodic testing of rental properties. Reference established local laws below: <u>http://phlr.org/product/local-housing-policy-approaches-preventing-childhood-lead-poisoning</u> 				
	 <u>http://www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589936091</u> <u>http://www.nchh.org/Portals/0/Contents/State_and_Local_Lead_LawBurlington_VT.pdf</u> 				
	 <u>http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/owners/Lead-Based-Paint.page</u> http://www.phila.gov/health/childhoodlead/LeadPaintLaw.html 				
	<u>https://doee.dc.gov/lead</u>				

Evidence Base				
Tool	Description	Source		
1. Preventing Lead Exposure in Young Children: A Housing-Based Approach to Primary Prevention of Lead Poisoning	"This document presents recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention for a housing based-approach The actions recommended in this report can be performed by an array of entities, including health departments and other public agencies, community- based agencies, and the private sector."	https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/publications/pr imarypreventiondocument.pdf		
2. Evidence of Candy as a hazard for elevated blood lead levels in children	"Candy imported from Mexico is found with high lead levels. Both candy and wrappers printed with lead ink have been cited (CDC 2002a; FDA 1995; North Dakota Department of Health 2004). Lead-tainted candy has been imported from the Philippines, Asian and Latin American countries. EBL cases have been reported in CA, NY, ND, OK, and TX. In CA, candy was identified as a possible lead source for > 150 children with EBLs. In Nov 2006, the FDA reduced its recommended maximum lead level for candy consumed by children from 0.5 ppm to 0.1 ppm (FDA 2006b)."	Levin R, Brown MJ, Kashtock ME, et al. Lead Exposures in U.S. Children, 2008: Implications for Prevention. Environmental Health Perspectives. 2008;116(10):1285-1293. doi:10.1289/ehp.11241.		
3. Lead Paint Abatement Programs: County Healthy Rankings & Roadmaps' What Works for Health	"Local lead laws are associated with reduced lead hazards for children, especially in rental properties (Korfmacher 2013, <u>Korfmacher 2012</u>), and local housing laws can support rehabilitation of older homes contaminated with lead (<u>Korfmacher 2014</u>). "	http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/policies/l ead-paint-abatement-programs		
Outcomes for Goal 2:				
Short – Term	Intermediate	Long – Term		
1. Expand the coalition	1. Establish collaborative effort in advancing a primary prevention lead poisoning program	1. Sustainability		
2. Establish baseline measures		2. Improved health indicators		

Goal 3: Sustainability Strategy 1: Foster sustainability of our coalition and programs by providing our community champions with the necessary tools and resources				
1. Boundary Spanning Leadership tools	 Share boundary Spanning Leadership tools with stakeholders and community champions who are recruited for specific Blueprint for Action components Identify key leaders Develop succession plan 	Ongoing	Entire Coalition	

APPENDIX 2: OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

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