



### **Convergence Partnership Praises First Lady's *Partnership for a Healthier America***

The Convergence Partnership congratulates First Lady Michelle Obama in launching the *Let's Move Initiative* to galvanize broad-based support and action to end childhood obesity in a generation.

[The Convergence Partnership](#) is a collaborative of six major philanthropic funders and advisors with the shared goal of changing policies and environments to better achieve its vision of healthy people living in healthy places. The Convergence Partnership supports multi-field equity-focused efforts to encourage policy and organizational change in creating healthy people in healthy places.

Today, 1 in 3 American children are suffering from being overweight or obese, and as a result, may live sicker and die younger than their parents. We must do more to halt these trends and ensure that all American children can live healthier, more productive lives. Too many children live in unhealthy environments, with exposure to toxins and without access to healthy foods and safe places to play. Low-income communities and communities of color are more likely to live in such unhealthy environments and, as a result, suffer from significant health disparities. The partnership understands that even when people try hard to be healthy, they will struggle if their surroundings promote disease instead of health. Therefore, the partnership believes, we must create environments that foster health. Addressing and eliminating underlying inequities is essential to changing community environments.

The Convergence Partnership recognizes that a comprehensive, community-based approach is a fundamental step to addressing this urgent health issue. This requires the attention and action of many. The Convergence Partnership supports the establishment of the Partnership for a Healthier America to serve as a catalyst for bringing leaders across the public and private sectors together to share solutions in curbing the childhood obesity epidemic. Linking and engaging the business, government, philanthropic, academic, and nonprofit sectors will help to ensure the implementation of effective solutions that have meaningful impact.

The members of the Convergence Partnership include representatives from The California Endowment, Kaiser Permanente, the Kresge Foundation, Nemours, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Convergence Partnership welcomes this new initiative and the opportunity it presents to deepen the field's commitment to preventing childhood obesity. We are proud to have five of the Convergence Partners serve as members of Partnership for a Healthier America and support efforts in connecting multiple sectors; broadening the understanding of how environments impact health; and encouraging organizations to be part of this important national effort.