



WE STAND FOR PREVENTION AND EQUITY
A Statement from the Convergence Partnership

The Convergence Partnership,¹ a group that began in 2007 and currently includes seven of the nation's leading philanthropies and health care organizations, is taking this moment to reaffirm a commitment to prevention and equity as core priorities and values in achieving its vision of Healthy People, Healthy Places.

Prevention works. More than 70 percent of American deaths each year are caused by *preventable* health conditions costing U.S. businesses alone nearly \$43 billion a year. There is overwhelming evidence that individuals are healthy when their communities are healthy. In fact, experts agree that health status is more related to where someone lives than other factors—even access to medical care.

Improving the nation's health requires addressing the underlying conditions in communities where people live and work. Investments in prevention are key to transforming all communities into communities of opportunity where residents have strong jobs, quality housing options, availability of healthy foods, active transportation options, vibrant arts and culture, affordable early childhood education and childcare, high performing schools, and safe places to be active and socialize.

Prevention has benefitted the lives of millions of families and children. From road safety, to healthy affordable food access, to the availability of decent, stable, affordable housing in areas of opportunity, prevention has made an enormous difference in quality of life, in health, and reductions in illness and death. Over the past decades, prevention efforts have brought together a wide range of stakeholders representing multiple disciplines working hand-in-hand with community leaders and residents, and effectively leveraged government and private sector resources for greater impact. The potential benefits of prevention are unmistakable: a more productive and skilled work force; significant savings for our city, state, and national budgets; a more efficient and less burdened health care system—all leading to a stronger nation and economy.

Equity is how. Equity ensures that prevention is optimized in every community. With the right policies and resources in place, the lives and health of those most vulnerable would improve significantly. When the nation targets efforts to expand opportunity to communities of color and low income communities, everyone benefits. Equity means promoting just and fair inclusion into a society where all can participate, prosper, and achieve their full potential. It assures that the voices and experiences of people who have been most left behind are elevated and take the lead in creating solutions to transform their communities. Together, prevention and equity unlock opportunity and eliminate the barriers that stand in the way of progress.

Now is the time. The Partnership is clear: this is not a time to lose focus on prevention and equity. Everyone deserves to live in a community that supports their health and allows them to thrive. The Partnership draws inspiration from the great work already taking place in states and communities across the country and stands ready to continue to work collectively in building a nation where every community fosters health, prosperity, and well-being for all.

¹ The steering committee of the Convergence Partnership includes representatives from The California Endowment, Kaiser Permanente, The Kresge Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Nemours, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides technical advice, PolicyLink serves as program director, and Prevention Institute is a strategic advisor. The Tides Foundation manages grants made through the Convergence Partnership at Tides.