**Connecting Health, Housing, and Neighborhoods**Thursday morning 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NNIP partners all share an understanding of how neighborhoods create opportunities and challenges for residents. The effects of housing and neighborhood conditions on health outcomes are illustrations of why traditionally siloed issue areas must be examined together and why cross-sector work is essential to the improvement of low-income neighborhoods.

Housing and neighborhoods affect health outcomes through four pathways ([Lubell et al.](http://www.nchh.org/Portals/0/Contents/Health%20&%20Housing%20New%20Opportunities_final.pdf)):

*• Housing quality* impacts physiological health (e.g., lead, mold), psychological health (e.g., noise, inadequate light), and safety (e.g., falls, fires).

• *Unaffordable housing costs* reduce the income that a household has available for nutritious food and necessary health care expenses, as well causes stress, residential instability, and crowding.

• *Neighborhood location and physical attributes* facilitate (or impair) health through built environment, like walkability and parks; proximity to environmental hazards; and access to basic needs, such as public transportation and jobs, healthy food.

• *Social and community attributes*, such as domestic and neighborhood violence, racial segregation, and the concentration of poverty, cause personal stress and can lead to and exacerbate poor neighborhood conditions.

NNIP partners have assembled neighborhood data, performed analysis, and engaged stakeholders in all of these areas of housing and neighborhood conditions, but not always with the explicit tie to residents’ health. Communities are recognizing that we need to focus on the upstream social determinants of health, not just health care access or health problems. The panelists will share how they have been using data to facilitate conversations and action across the health and housing and community development sectors, particularly to highlight the needs of low-income residents and neighborhoods.

***This session will promote a common understanding of the housing and neighborhood drivers of health outcomes, as illustrated by the three partners that are using data to encourage coordination across sectors. We hope to spur ideas for the partners about what role their organizations can play locally and about potential cross-site projects.***

Elizabeth Sobel-Blum from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas will introduce the session by explaining the social determinants of health and reflecting on national conversations to bridge the health and community development organizations.

Joel Stewart from Providence Plan will share how they have been demonstrating the ties between lead poisoning and child wellbeing and motivating more effective enforcement and abatement strategies.

Meg Merrick from Portland State University will describe how the Regional Equity Atlas used innovative measures and compelling visualizations to advance the community’s understanding of the connection of health outcomes to access to opportunities and the need to view all policies through a health lens..

Susan Millea from Children's Optimal Health in Austin will discuss the new initiative Partners in Austin Transforming Health (PATH) which brings together professionals across the health, education, planning, and social service sectors along with community groups

We’ll then move to a couple moderator questions before opening it up for plenary discussion.

**Discussion:**

* What are the local partner and cross-site opportunities and challenges in working at the intersection of public health and neighborhood development?
* How have organizations been able to use information about health outcomes and neighborhood built environment to advocate for changes in the built environment that can change long term health?
* What are the challenges to gathering and displaying health outcome data? How are they best used to display connections to housing/neighborhood conditions and communicate to non-health audiences?

**Panelist Resources**

Healthy Communities: The Intersection of Community Development and Health <http://www.dallasfed.org/cd/healthy/>

Portland Regional Equity Atlas  
<http://clfuture.org/equity-atlas>

Partners in Austin Transforming Health (PATH)  
<http://centexpath.org/>