

Place Matters: Ensuring Opportunities for Good Health for All Discussion Guide from The Colorado Trust

This discussion guide is a tool for individuals and organizations to discuss health policy as it relates to health equity, and specifically health policy at the community level.

To support and advance the conversation around health equity policy in Colorado, The Colorado Trust is providing two resources to create a dialogue on the topic of health equity. First, Brian Smedley PhD will share information about how states can address health equity through the Affordable Care Act, as well as other ways through which states and local communities can advance health equity on June 6. A video of the event will be available on The Colorado Trust's website (<http://www.coloradotrust.org/>) in the near future. Dr. Smedley is Vice President and Director of the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, DC. The Institute explores disparities in health and develops policy recommendations to advance health equity. Second, The Colorado Trust is distributing an article authored by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies titled *Place Matters: Ensuring Opportunities for Good Health for All* as an additional resource to spark conversations. The article provides further background and context to Dr. Smedley's June 6 presentation.

After viewing the presentation and/or reading the article, below are a set of discussion questions to consider as you further explore health equity and the application of this information to your own work and in your own community.

- In which ways do different neighborhood conditions predict who is healthy, who is sick and who lives longer in your community?
- Are these conditions different among racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups? Or are the conditions consistent across social groups?
- Where are there opportunities in your community to engage target audiences (such as policy makers, community leaders, elected officials, faith leaders, the news media, civic leaders and others) to raise awareness of and provide solutions to these conditions?
- As an individual and/or a member of an organization, what role can you play in raising awareness and advancing solutions to these conditions?
- Are there opportunities in your community to collaborate with other partners, organizations or agencies?
- Are there solutions to health disparities in your community that you view as “easy “wins?” What solutions might require bigger system level changes?