Glossary

Built Environment: The built environment includes everything we have made to live our lives. It is our homes, places of business, public spaces and parks and recreational areas; places where we live work, learn and play. The built environment influences a person's ability to be physically active.

Community Capacity: A coalition or community's ability to identify, mobilize, and address social and public health problems. This includes citizen participation and leadership, skills, resources, social and organizational networks, sense of community, community power, and an understanding of the community's history.

Environmental Change: Physical, social, or economic factors designed to influence people's practices and behaviors.

Food Deserts: Communities — usually in low-income areas — lacking grocery stores, farmer's markets, and healthy food providers. Some studies suggest that half of all low-income neighborhoods in the United States are food deserts.

Food Swamps: Communities that are saturated with unhealthy dining options, such as fast-food restaurants. A typical food swamp has four unhealthy eating options for every one healthy option.

HEAL: Healthy Eating, Active Living

Health Disparities: Differences in health outcomes between segments of the population, as defined by social, demographic, environmental, and geographic attributes.

Health Equity: The concept that everyone should have a fair opportunity to attain their full health potential.

Health Inequities: A subset of health inequalities that are modifiable, associated with social disadvantage and considered ethically unfair.

Social Determinants of Health: The physical conditions in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics.

Social Justice: The equitable distribution of advantages, assets, and benefits among all members of a society.

Systems change: Change that impacts all elements, including social norms of an organization, institution, or system; may include a policy or environmental change strategy. Policies are often the driving force behind systems change. Examples are implementing the National School Lunch Program across the state school system or ensuring a hospital system goes tobacco free.

Tobacco Retailer Density: The density of tobacco retailers, which can be measured per capita or per unit of land area, is an important predictor of youth and adult smoking rates. Policy strategies such as licensing and zoning can be used to restrict the density of tobacco retailers.

TOD: Transit Oriented Development or TOD, is a type of community development that includes a mixture of housing, office, retail and/or other amenities integrated into a walkable neighborhood and located within a half-mile of quality public transportation. TOD creates better access to jobs, housing and opportunity for people of all ages and incomes. Successful TOD provides people from all walks of life with convenient, affordable and active lifestyles and create places where children can play and parents can grow old comfortably.