



**Land Use and
Healthy Food
Access – What’s the
Connection?**

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Project Goal

Engage public health leadership working with low-income populations to change the municipal environment in order to:



- Ensure greater access to healthy food, and



- Increase opportunities for physical activity.



Low-Income Neighborhoods often present an environment that makes it difficult for residents to obtain healthy foods. Obstacles can include:

Food Deserts



- No Supermarkets

Food Deserts



- Only convenience stores, liquor stores & fast food outlets



Food Deserts

- Small stores may offer healthy foods at unaffordable prices



Cultural Appropriateness of available food



Lack of reliable public transportation...



Lack of Community Gardens



Lack of Farmers' Markets



Lack of Safety



Three Key Strategies

- General/Comprehensive/Master Plans
- Zoning Controls
- Community Redevelopment



What is a General Plan?

- "The constitution for future development"
- Statement of development policies
 - Objectives, principles, standards
- In California and some other states, all development must be consistent with the General Plan
 - The General Plan *can* incorporate public health
 - This is not traditional!

Zoning Controls

- Types of land uses are grouped together
 - Mixed use, residential, industrial, agriculture, commercial
- Can encourage or disallow certain uses
 - Relaxed or more stringent standards for promoting public health goals
 - No more fast food, "big box" or "drivethrus"
- Can condition the use of land
 - Conditional Use Permit (CUP)
 - e.g., new multi-unit housing must have x feet of play space attached

Community Redevelopment



- Redevelopment agencies revitalize "blighted" or deteriorating urban neighborhoods
 - In California, one statutory example of "blight" is a lack of a grocery store!
- Special financing mechanisms to encourage improvements
- *Can be* (but hasn't always been) a community driven process

What's the Connection?



Land Use tools can be used to address these problems



General plan & zoning policies can be established that require/encourage the development of...



– Retail stores



– farmer's markets



– other sources of healthy foods in low-income communities.

Zoning & planning policies can



– maximize access to healthy foods and

Establish restrictions on the density and location of fast food



Require sidewalks & bike paths



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Establish safe routes to schools and to food, especially in low-income communities.

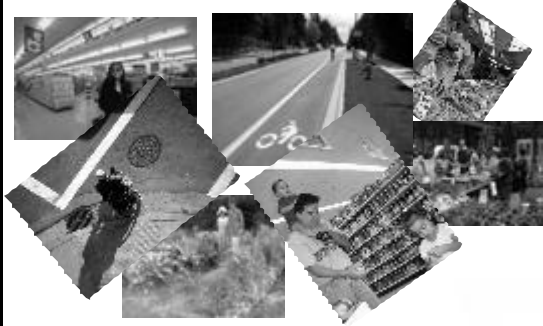


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Improve neighborhood safety



What does your community need?



Contact Information



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