



## Leadership for Healthy Community Design

Team Projects Presented at Public Health in the Rockies Conference  
September 17, 2015

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### Adams County Team Project

**Contact:** Elizabeth Murphy, Community Organizing and Advocacy Director, Community, Enterprise, [elizabeth@communityenterprise.net](mailto:elizabeth@communityenterprise.net)

The South Adams County (SACO) LHCD team chose to focus on increasing agencies' capacity around inclusive community engagement. This is specifically relevant in SACO because of the urgency of insuring community voices is incorporated in upcoming planning processes and a real history of not all community member's voices being authentically valued or incorporated in planning and development decisions. We recognize that community are the experts, on their own needs, and when these are meaningfully incorporated in (Healthy) Community Design planning and decisions, communities are healthier, safer, and more equitable, for everyone.

In order to begin conversations on how to develop a culture and value of inclusive community engagement in Adams County, the SACO team will host a workshop and begin initial discussions on how to increase awareness of the need, importance, and use of inclusive community engagement practices.

### Boulder County Team Project

**Contact:** Rachel Arndt, Built Environment and Healthy Eating Active Living Coordinator, Boulder County Public Health, [rarndt@bouldercounty.org](mailto:rarndt@bouldercounty.org), 303.441.1182.

In 2014, Boulder County completed a Community-wide Eco Pass Feasibility Study. This study assessed the potential of providing free bus service to an entire group/ community within Boulder County. Such a program could include all employees and/or residents within either Boulder County or the City of Boulder with no fare, unlimited access to the entire Boulder City or County transit network each and every day.

Having completed the initial study, Boulder County is leading policy and technical committees throughout 2015. The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) is determining the scope, cost share and funding mechanisms for such a program (property tax vs sales tax, etc.) The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is considering day-to-day matters of such a program, including how to take pass photos, how to issue cards, etc. These two working groups, however, will not be doing analysis and study of the health/ economic benefits impacts of a community-wide Eco Pass.

In an effort to provide additional support, the Boulder County RIHEL group is conducting a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to determine the health benefits and impacts of a Community-wide Eco Pass program. The Boulder County HIA team will conduct analysis in several focus areas, including: housing and transportation (h + t) cost burden, physical activity, air quality, and social and health equity. Other relevant areas may also be explored as they relate to the primary focus areas.

The timing of this HIA coincides with the timeframe for the Eco Pass working groups.



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### Eagle County Team Project

**Contact:** Katie Haas, Healthy Communities Coordinator, Eagle County Public Health and Environment, [katie.haas@eaglecounty.us](mailto:katie.haas@eaglecounty.us), 303-506-2025

The Town of Gypsum is located at the Western end of Eagle County, on the I-70 corridor just before Dotsero and Glenwood Canyon. The Town is comprised of 6,500 people, 45% of whom identify as Latino or Hispanic. The Town has experienced consistent population growth over the last few decades, and the trend is expected to continue due to the community's relative affordability (compared to the rest of the Eagle River Valley). The Town's Master Plan has not been updated since 1999; the Town is preparing to update the Master Plan in 2016, with a focus on a potential downtown area. Our team worked collaboratively with the Town of Gypsum staff to support their community input process in preparation for the Town's Master Plan revision. In partnership with Town staff, our team developed a community survey and outreach plan to gain input on what community members like about the Town, what they would like to see changed, their concerns about population growth, and what attributes they would like to see in a potential future downtown area. Over six weeks, 351 surveys were collected and informal qualitative input was gathered through semi-structured interviews with a variety of residents representing youth, the Spanish speaking community, local business owners, and more. Throughout our team's outreach process, it was evident that community members want to have more voice. A summary of the input process and the data results was presented to Gypsum Town Council by our team on August 25, 2015. The key message we conveyed back to Gypsum Town Staff and Town Council was that the survey was an excellent first step toward community engagement and that there is opportunity to do much more.

### Fort Love Team Project

**Contact:** Katie Guthrie, AICP, Health Planner, CanDo Loveland

[katie.guthrie@uchealth.org](mailto:katie.guthrie@uchealth.org) 970-667-2192

Team Fort Love is a team of professionals from Loveland and Fort Collins who have been developing an action plan to bring clarity to a set of complex issues – namely, health equity and capital-improvement investments. As such, Team Fort Love has chosen to focus on Loveland's vulnerable neighborhoods and pedestrian infrastructure. Through mapping and story-telling, the Team's goal is to showcase Safe-Routes-to-School (SRTS) infrastructure gaps, build awareness about the connection between health and built environment, and develop citizen advocates who can lobby decision-makers and City leadership for changes. The team has established critical partnerships and anticipates that implementation of the action plan will fully commence by early 2016.



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### Healthy Mesa County Team Project

**Contact:** Susana Wittrock, Executive Director Mesa County Valley School District 51,  
[Susana.wittrock@d51schools.org](mailto:Susana.wittrock@d51schools.org), 970-254-5494

Mesa County Valley School District 51 and the community will create a future in which students feel safe and confident to walk and bike to school. The Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) shows that **95.6%** of Mesa County parents feel their child is usually or always safe in their community/neighborhood. Going beyond safety, it's important to consider how improving routes to school will enhance the health of the children in the community. The 2013 Healthy Kids Colorado Middle School Survey and CDPHE cite the following statistics on childhood obesity and activity in Mesa County:

- Of students who ride bicycles, **62.9%** never or rarely wear a helmet.
- **1 in 5** children ages 2-14 are obese or overweight.
- **40.3%** of middle school students self-report they are trying to lose weight.
- The percentage of students who report attending a Physical Education (PE) class one or more times in an average week is **53%**.
- **64.2%** of middle school students reported being active for 60 minutes per day on five or more of the past seven days.

Throughout the community, broad-based support for a safe built environment for children will be expanded, enriched and sustainably continued. Once this process is successfully designed and trialed in the selected neighborhoods, the model can be applied to other school-centered areas of town and workplaces. Over time, as the principles of healthy community design become integrated, the Grand Valley community will become more supportive of children using active transportation to travel between home, school, and play.