



## Cultivating Healthy and Resilient Communities

### Our Approach to Public Health

We thrive on helping organizations address public health challenges by taking an interdisciplinary approach to craft lasting solutions and strategies. We believe housing, nutrition, mental health, social equity, and health impacts due to climate change are issues that public health systems should address. We help clients develop methods, frameworks, and tools for health research and surveillance; motivate cross-sector groups to take collective action; and use qualitative and quantitative data to help clients better understand the impact of policies, programs, and philanthropic investment. Our staff have decades of experience working at the intersection of health and environment to improve community resilience, social determinants of health, food systems, and to reduce health risks overall. We work with diverse partners to develop, implement, and evaluate programs

and policies to allocate resources for maximum impact.

#### Shaping Equitable Outcomes

Every project is an opportunity to advance equity. We are intentional in ***how we listen and engage stakeholders:*** we work with communities to identify and rectify potential bias in the questions we ask and our understanding of what we hear. We are intentional in ***how we collect and think about data and information:*** As “traditional” data only tells one side, we prefer to collect input from diverse stakeholders, including stories and insight from lived experience. We are intentional in ***how we define and analyze problems and solutions:*** we ask partners and the community to help us define the problem, looking to the past to understand root causes and to the future to mitigate unintended consequences.

**ROSS**  
STRATEGIC

Our staff are public health professionals, environmental experts, planners, researchers, and systems thinkers who enjoy working in interdisciplinary contexts to solve pressing and complex public health problems.

#### SERVICES

Strategy

Research and Analysis

Design and Implementation

Evaluation and Learning

Collaborative Processes

Information Management



# Recent Project Examples



## HOUSING

- Conducted an evaluation to help a prominent affordable housing organization improve its delivery of the health, economic, and environmental benefits of sustainable housing to low-income communities nationwide.
- Developed a toolkit that tribal officials, planners, and developers use to adopt building codes for green building practices that integrate health concerns including radon and mold.



## FOOD SYSTEMS

- Evaluated an initiative to address poverty in rural America that helped a foundation assess an approach that connects small-scale farmers with local markets to improve and sustain their livelihoods.
- Designed a state food policy council with state agencies to enhance collective action on fiscal and policy opportunities to improve the food system.



## AIR QUALITY

- Analyzed state and local policies that limit harmful exposures to indoor dampness and mold to improve legislation and public health guidance to reduce the burden of respiratory illnesses.
- Coordinated a multi-agency effort to develop and implement a clean air strategy that reduces maritime-related air quality impacts on health and the environment for a major US port.



## WATER QUALITY

- Developed a report that promotes private well testing by assessing human exposure to arsenic in well water and the extent of well testing across states.



## EPIDEMIOLOGY & SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

- Supported federal, state, and local capacity to track environmental health and improve public health with data, tools, and information.
- Updated a national set of guidelines to enable state and local health departments to develop a systematic approach to respond to community concerns regarding cancer clusters.

## SELECT CLIENTS

### FEDERAL

*Centers for Disease Control & Prevention*

- Asthma and Community Health Branch
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- Division of Injury Prevention
- Environmental Public Health Tracking Branch

*Environmental Protection Agency*

- Office of Environmental Information
- Office of Water

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Washington State Conservation Commission

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

### NON-PROFIT

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Colorado Health Foundation

Enterprise Community Partners

Kresge Foundation

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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