



WEBINAR RESOURCE GUIDE

Improve community health by strengthening social connections

February 17, 2026

CHR&R Tools and Resources

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Guidance

The UWPHI model for health helps us better understand and act on the community conditions that drive population health and well-being. CHR&R provides several measures situated in this model related to loneliness, [safety and social support](#). Explore data and evidence-informed strategies that address [disconnected youth](#), [social associations](#), and [lack of social and emotional support](#). Together, these approaches can help communities build the relationships and shared responsibility that underpin socially connected communities.

Guest Resources

Risa Wilkerson, executive director, and Joanne Lee, senior project and communications director, Healthy Places by Design

Healthy Places by Design has curated [Essential Resources for Socially Connected Communities](#), including original resource guides, webinar recordings, reports, and more.

The [Action Guide for Building Socially Connected Communities](#), co-produced by the Foundation for Social Connection and Healthy Places by Design, is an online tool to help local change makers and leaders create tailored social connection strategies for their communities.

[Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation](#), U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory is a public statement that calls attention to social isolation as an urgent public health issue and provides recommendations to address it.

[From Loneliness to Social Connection](#) is a landmark report from the WHO Commission on Social Connection that draws from evidence and outlines practical, scalable solutions to strengthen social connections.



[Socially Connected Communities: Solutions for Social Isolation](#) is a report from Healthy Places by Design that makes the case for addressing social isolation at the community level and provides recommendations for strengthening socially connected communities. Supplemental Action Guides are also available:

- [Action Guide for Local Government and Community Leaders](#)
- [Action Guide for Philanthropic Leaders](#)

[Healthy Places by Design](#) presented during the webinar and facilitated the post-webinar discussion group. Its [Community Action Model](#) was developed with insights from more than a dozen years supporting successful community health initiatives and a deep understanding of the community change process.

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Discussion Group Resources

This video from Insightformation, Inc., highlights the success of creating [Communities of HOPE](#) in Detroit by building social connections in affordable housing communities.

The Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health facilitates cross-sector collaboration to enable holistic improvements in community health. This video describes an approach they use, [Integrated Community Therapy](#).

[Recipes for Connection](#) is a tool from the Office of the Surgeon General that offers creative forms of gathering over food.

[The Social Prescribing Library](#) from Campaspe Library Service is an evidence-informed toolkit that supports public libraries in referring community members to non-medical resources with the goal of improving their health and wellbeing.