cityhealth

What if we could make America's cities healthier?

Answering that question is at the heart of Cityhealth.org, a new national policy project aimed at harnessing big cities' potential to become the healthiest places in the nation.

We're starting with cities.

Because we know for a fact that the places we live have profound effects on our health, well-being, and chances of future success. At the end of the day, preventing illness, saving lives, and being healthy isn't just about seeing a doctor when we're sick—it's about the world we live in the rest of the time. Personal decisions account for a lot, but our communities' public decisions matter, too.

America's cities are innovating faster than ever to meet the needs of their dense, diverse populations. The problem is that cross the country, and even in the same state, our nation's urban centers are an uneven patchwork of policies when it comes to what's proven to make them safer, healthier, more vibrant places to live. City decision makers don't always have a clear framework for what works. Many worry the best fixes won't be affordable in tough economic times, or that they could never compete with their bigger, wealthier peers. They don't just need more policy ideas—they need to know which ones work best for the challenges they face.

We're finding solutions.

As a project of the de Beaumont Foundation, CityHealth.org is creating a blueprint for urban decision makers to significantly improve the health, well-being, and productivity of the communities they lead. We start from the belief that place matters, and that cities are unique in what they do best. We target policy change because we believe smart policies are a great equalizer, and that all cities should have same chance at solutions that can make them thrive. And we'll be looking at the big picture of what it means for a city to be healthy: not just reducing the chances that urban-dwellers get sick or hurt, but improving the odds of creating a vibrant, resilient community.

Over the coming year, we'll analyze research, survey decision makers, and vet our findings with national experts. We'll identify the 10-15 city-level policy solutions with the best evidence of improving urban-dwellers' chances of living healthy, productive lives. We'll use the results to help city leaders understand how their cities stack up—with a clear analysis of what's on their books now, and which policy changes they can pursue to increase their communities' well-being and health.

We'll share results.

By 2016, CityHealth.org will become a fully interactive website, with a map of policy solutions to help our nation's major cities lead and innovate. The site will allow users to look into the evidence, compare and contrast cities' policies, and understand what it takes to move from status quo to cutting edge.

The project will host a series of convenings with city leaders and health experts across the country to showcase smart policy solutions and where innovation is taking hold and working. Down the line, we'll build alliances with decision makers and key local allies to spur advances in the urban policies most likely to move the dial on cities' health.

We'll challenge cities to get healthier.

At the end of the day, when one in six Americans calls a big city home, our country has a real opportunity on our hands. Because if we run cities right—with policies that can give more people a fair shot at health, productivity and success—we stand do more than just improve 48 million lives. We show that any city—no matter its size or challenges—can help create opportunities for healthier living.

They just need to know where they're starting from, what works, and where they need to go to become **the healthiest places they can be.**

To learn more about the project,
visit www.cityhealth.org.

To learn more about the de Beaumont
Foundation, visit www.debeaumont.org

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