

THE COLORADO CODE PROJECT: IMPROVING FOOD ACCESS USING LAND USE CODE

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INTRODUCTION

Improving access to healthy and affordable food can reduce chronic disease and encourage active living. Yet many communities in Colorado do not have access to these healthy and affordable foods. Though many long-range plans highlight food access goals, it is challenging to translate those goals into an applicable land use code. Furthermore, there is no singular statewide toolkit providing guidance on how to achieve food access using local land use code. The intent is to unify and implement food access goals using a model land use code language. We hope this toolkit will serve as a resource for municipalities to learn how to adapt their codes to meet their community's current and future food access needs.

METHODS

- Research: Those who have an average of 64% or more of residents who have limited access to health foods (City Health Dashboard).
- Outreach methods: Email, Phone, Zoom
- The contacts: Staff Planners at five cities and four counties
- Interview focus:
 - extracting examples of land use code language that implements food access and aligns with long range planning goals
 - discussing unique assets and challenges

FINDINGS

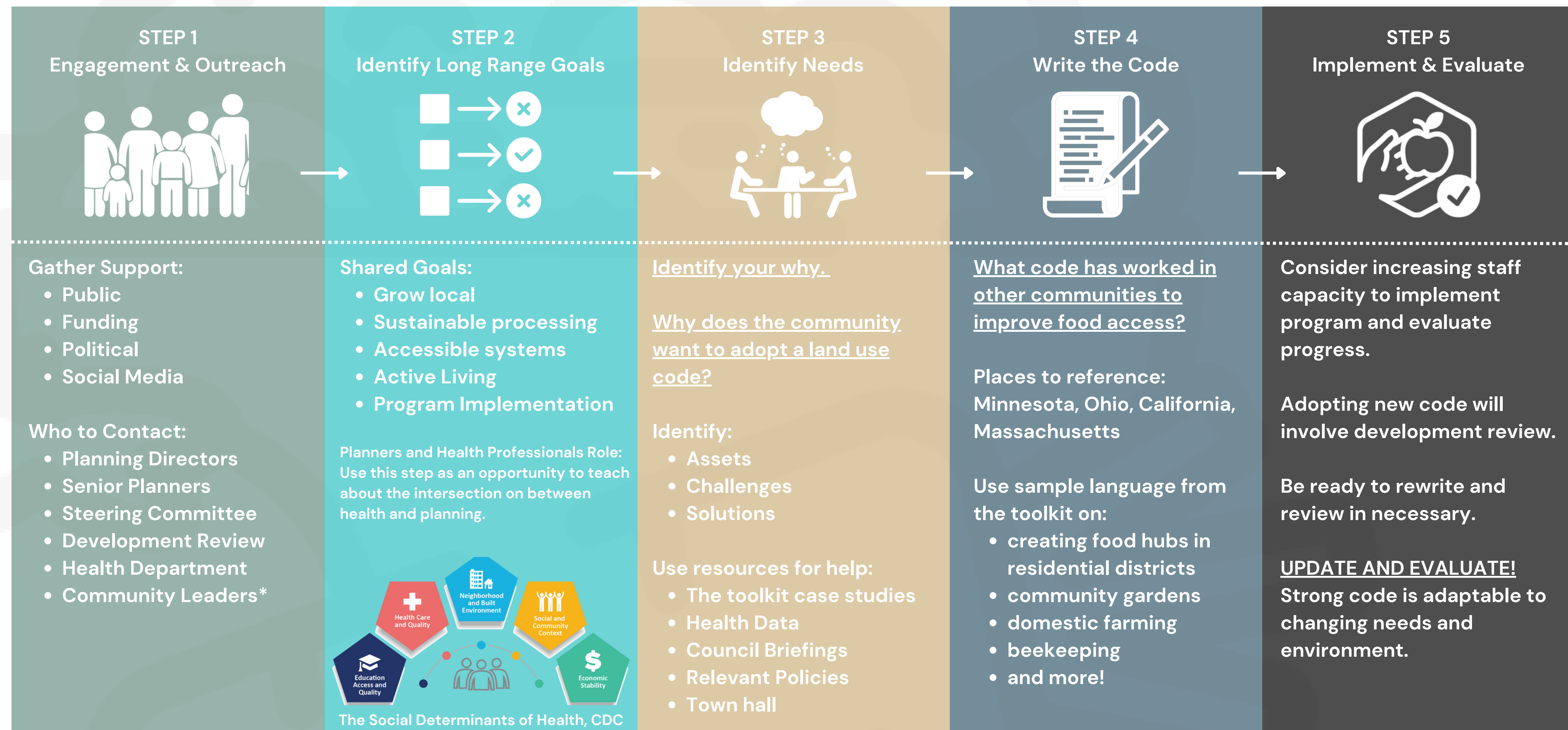
Best practices for a successful food access code:

- Developing a food access code checklist
- Collaboration between planners, public health professionals and community leaders
- Publicly accessible contact lists with roles
- Nutrition and Food Education programs
- Social media presence for outreach
- Land use code and zoning classes for communities

NEXT STEPS

- Develop a comprehensive statewide toolkit for housing, open space, place and the built environment, transportation and community support.
- Collaborate with rural municipalities

HOW TO CREATE A LAND USE CODE FOR FOOD ACCESS USING THE TOOLKIT



RELEVANT LITERATURE:

- Beck, C. (2009). Food Access in Colorado. (K. Nguyen, H. Fulton, S. O'Keefe, C. Henderson, & L. Varner, Eds.). Denver, Colorado: The Colorado Health Foundation. Retrieved from https://coloradohealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/2017-01/TCHF_Food_Access_Report_web-Food%20Access%20in%20CO.pdf
- Bell, J., Mora, G., Hagan, E., Rubin, V., & Karpyn, A. (2013). Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters: A Review of the Research. PolicyLink. Retrieved from http://thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/access-to-healthy-food.original.pdf
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