



June 2014

The Alameda County Building Blocks Collaborative brings together people with the ideas, the connections and the skills we need to create conditions where every child – in every neighborhood – can thrive.

For Alameda County residents, there is a 15-year difference in life expectancy depending on their zip code. We can't accept that, and we can change it.\*

The Building Blocks Collaborative grew out of an effort by the Alameda County Public Health Department to create comprehensive solutions to the complex health problems facing our communities. We recognize that our health problems are not isolated – our solutions should not be, either.

**Our strength is our collaborative.** Our partners are from diverse arenas – including local economic development agencies, food access projects, city and county government, community clinics, housing, and parks and recreation – all committed to improving health conditions in our most challenged neighborhoods.

The Building Blocks Collaborative is guided by a steering committee comprised of partners from Alameda County Community Food Bank, Girls Inc., Mandela Marketplace, Oakland Unified School District, and the Alameda County Public Health Department.

The Building Blocks Collaborative offers hope, inspiration and concrete solutions for improving the health of our kids and our communities. Together, we can create the conditions where every child – in every Alameda County neighborhood – **can live a healthy life.**

\*Based on 2010-2012 mortality rates, CAPE Unit

Learn more and join us!

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**Our Successes**

Launched the Food to Families Project, providing local youth with jobs and new moms in West Oakland and Ashland-Cherryland with “prescriptions” for healthy food. Families fill the prescriptions at local food businesses where local youth are employed.

Created mini-grant program that led to backyard gardens, 102 youth trained in food and financial education, 22 moms were exposed to stress reduction classes.

Launched the Prosperity Project, seeking to improve health and financial well-being in our communities by increasing availability and access to fair financial services and products where predatory financial services are disproportionately located.

Launched Best Babies Zone, a 7x12 block radius of East Oakland where we are working hand-in-hand with the organizations and residents who live and work in the neighborhood.

Engaged collaborative members countywide in strengthening our collective capacity to address health inequities. Building Blocks Collaborative members come together on a regular basis to share resources, improve skills, and create new partnerships between organizations.