

## UC Berkeley School of Public Health and Department of City & Regional Planning Engagements Strategic Partnership to Advance Health in All Policy & Practice

Under the leadership of Professor [Jason Corburn](#) and with support from The California Endowment, in the past five years faculty, staff and students from the UC Berkeley Department of City & Regional Planning and School of Public Health have been working with municipal, county, school district, and nonprofit organizations to advance overall health and reduce health disparities in Richmond through the [Richmond Health Equity Partnership](#) (RHEP). On April 15, 2014, the Richmond City Council unanimously approved the Health in All Policies (HiAP) ordinance and strategic plan which defines health equity objectives, strategies, performance indicators and policy goals, and requires the city to consider the physical and social aspects of health when making any new policies. The HiAP Ordinance and Plan represents the culmination of a decade of health equity initiatives in Richmond including the development of a Community Health and Wellness Element of the General Plan, the selection of Richmond as one of TCE's Building Healthy Communities sites, and most recently, the multi-sector RHEP.

Building on this collaborative effort, the City of Richmond, in partnership with the UC Berkeley (UCB) School of Public Health (SPH) and Institute of Regional Development (IURD) at the College of Environmental Design, are seeking seed funding to **launch the Richmond Health Equity & Design Hub (R-Hub)**. This new undertaking would harness the resources of the University to spur action-research and design innovations that support the objectives of Richmond's HiAP strategy, and ultimately, advance health equity in the City's most distressed neighborhoods (see Appendix A for partner descriptions). R-Hub would provide a physical space in Richmond where the public, especially students, can partner on research projects with UCB faculty and local residents. Located within one of Richmond's recreation centers, the new space would also host community-based organization (CBO), City and UCB-run workshops, trainings, studios and events.

### Strengthening Health Career Pathways

The School of Public Health (SPH) is partnering with the City of Richmond and local schools to strengthen health pathway opportunities. Health pathway programs provide students with academic enrichment, career exposure, mentorship and connections. The goal is for students to set and achieve high education and career aspirations, gain employment in priority health professions and come back to serve the community. Jeff Oxendine, Associate Dean of Public Health Practice, and his team are leading this work, which included an assessment of strengths, gaps and opportunities of Richmond area health pathway programs; and recommendations that informed investments by The California Endowment and other funders to strengthen area health pathway programs and expand opportunities for students. The SPH team also works with teachers and counselors at Richmond High School to promote health careers and provide guidance to students in the Health Academy and College is Real programs.

In partnerships with the Health Career Connection the SPH team also provides paid summer health internships to college students and graduate students from Richmond. Internships have enabled students to work on priority Richmond health issues with the City of Richmond, community based organizations and the county health department. Students have gained valuable exposure and experience and made a difference on priority community health issues. College and graduate students are now serving as mentors and role models for Richmond high school students. Finally, the SPH is working with the Richmond Promise help scale the health pathway program's impact through the Richmond students that receive Promise scholarships.