



# Building Healthy Places Workshop Application

## ***An Opportunity to Improve Your Community with Expert Advice: ULI Colorado's Building Healthy Places Workshop Application***

The global Urban Land Institute (ULI) is a 501-c-3 research and education nonprofit supported by 40,000 members representing the spectrum of land use and real estate development disciplines working in private enterprise and public service. ULI's mission is to provide leadership in responsible land use and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide.

Since 2013, in partnership with the Colorado Health Foundation, ULI has become a leader in best practices to create healthy and sustainable places—communities where all residents can enjoy active lifestyles, access to healthy food, clean air and water, green space and natural systems, and a safe community supporting physical and mental health.

Evidence shows that the physical environment of many communities contributes to a decline in public health, stemming from factors such as lack of sidewalks, trails, play areas, walkable destinations, or from too much traffic and crime. Key indicators are rising rates of obesity, diabetes, stress-related heart disease, and cancers. ULI is studying and applying new ways to plan, design, finance, and build the types of healthy communities that can help reverse this trend.

As leaders in real estate development, land use, affordable housing, revitalization of blighted urban areas, architecture, public policy, landscape architecture, civil engineering, and planning, the 1,400 members of ULI Colorado are well-positioned to help create a positive impact on health and the built environment.

In 2019, the Colorado Health Foundation awarded ULI Colorado a grant to continue this successful initiative and identify two new Colorado communities for participation in Building Healthy Places (BHP) Workshops. BHP Workshops provide technical assistance to communities by engaging ULI members as volunteer experts in the fields of real estate, architecture, planning, and public health, among others. In this one-day workshop, ULI volunteer panelists study and work with selected communities to provide concrete findings and achievable recommendations for enhancing community health and wellness through the built environment. Afterward, ULI Colorado provides a written report of the workshop's findings and recommendations.

Each workshop addresses the scope of work by relying on background information, stakeholder engagement, best practices, and creative problem-solving. Workshops are valued at \$15,000, which includes program staffing and coordination, report writing and design, and the estimated value of donated professional consulting services from ULI panel members.

Communities that have received Building Healthy Places Workshops have experienced progress and positive changes such as:

- successful grant applications in support of Building Healthy Places initiatives
- streetscape improvements to make communities more safe and walkable
- new recreational, parks and open space facilities
- development of new affordable housing
- improved access to trail, bike, and pedestrian corridors
- strategies for developing new partnerships and funding opportunities
- a platform to enhance community dialogue and support around improving community health
- policy initiatives that lay the framework for future changes

Copies of reports from past Building Healthy Places Workshops are available for applicants to review at [colorado.uli.org/get-involved/committee-chairs/sustainable-communities-committee/building-healthy-places-workshops](http://colorado.uli.org/get-involved/committee-chairs/sustainable-communities-committee/building-healthy-places-workshops).



Since 2013, ULI and ULI Colorado have studied and provided BHP recommendations to the following Colorado communities:

- Academy Boulevard, Colorado Springs
- Arvada
- Commerce City
- East Colfax Avenue, Aurora
- Elyria-Swansea neighborhood, Denver
- Federal Boulevard Corridor, Denver
- Westminster
- Greeley
- Highway 287 Corridor, Loveland
- Historic East Side, Pueblo
- Lamar
- Lake Creek Village apartments, Edwards
- Montbello neighborhood, Denver
- Quigg Newton Homes in Sunnyside, Denver
- South Broadway Corridor, Englewood
- South Colorado Boulevard, Denver
- Westwood neighborhood, Denver

## Criteria for Community Selection:

Through a competitive application process, ULI Colorado will choose two communities for BHP Workshops in 2019. ULI will consider both rural and urban communities throughout Colorado if they meet the following criteria. Interested communities are selected based on demonstration of need, the support of key community leaders and stakeholders, and the potential to positively influence health and the quality of life in the surrounding community.

### **Study areas for workshops may be:**

- A vacant site appropriate for development
- An existing site, neighborhood, corridor, or district in need of retrofit and renewal

### **Interested communities may qualify if they can:**

- Demonstrate community need and opportunities to address disparities and improve access to healthy and active living for underserved residents. ULI Colorado will consider community demographic data, including proportion of low-income residents, ethnic composition, geography (urban and rural will be considered), population trends, and disparities in access to active living opportunities.
- Identify a geographic study area where there is a commitment to changing the built environment to improve public health. A study area can range in scale and scope from a single site or campus to a city block, neighborhood, or district.
- Demonstrate needs in the built environment such as: poor sidewalks and bike trails, shortage of parks and open space, pollution, poor lighting and crossings for public safety, and lack of access to healthy food.
- Demonstrate community readiness and commitment to create transformative change to become an active and healthy community.
- Engage stakeholders across multiple sectors.

### **The BHP Workshops prioritizes high-need communities to improve access to active living. ULI Colorado will consider factors such as:**

- Health data demonstrating higher than normal rates of obesity and diseases related to inactivity and poor diet, as well as environmental exposures
- Disparities in access to active and healthy living opportunities
- Poor access to healthy food, sidewalks, trails, green space, walkable and bikeable destinations, and transit
- Homes, schools, and workplaces that do not provide occupants with access to natural light, fresh air, walkable destinations, and access to green space.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Any nonprofit, community organization, or public agency (with the potential for a private sector partner) may apply. City or county governments, redevelopment or transit agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community-based organizations (with potential for a private sector partner) are all eligible. Private businesses or property owners may apply if they can demonstrate a strong partnership with a public, nonprofit, or community-based organization.

**Each application must be accompanied by:**

*Required:*

- 1) A letter of support from an elected or public official for the jurisdiction of the study area
- 2) A letter of support from a public health, planning, social service, or some other public agency with direct jurisdictional oversight and/or from a local nonprofit or community-serving organization demonstrating evidence of community support.

*Optional, but strongly recommended:*

- 3) Photos of your community including key places or sites
- 4) Site plans or area maps, especially outlining the proposed study area
- 5) Data from the area, such as: demographics, traffic counts, pedestrian activity, area health, and health discrepancies
- 6) Any previous planning studies or reports

If chosen, the applicant will also be required to sign ULI Colorado's standard Letter of Agreement for a workshop and comply with workshop procedures for planning and hosting a Building Healthy Places Workshop, which typically takes around 3 months.

**Community responsibilities for hosting a workshop include:**

- Producing a digital Advance Packet of information about the study area for workshop panelists (samples provided on request) due a month before the workshop
- Developing a stakeholder list for the workshop and inviting stakeholders to attend
- Orchestrating a site tour for the panelists during the workshop
- Providing an appropriate venue for the workshop

## Submission Instructions & Timeline:

To receive a Building Healthy Places Workshop, applicants must define their study area, and demonstrate workshop need and eligibility by 1) **completing the questions on the application** and 2) **submit supporting information** as referenced above. Submitted applications and supporting information to Marianne Eppig, Manager, ULI Colorado, [Marianne.Eppig@uli.org](mailto:Marianne.Eppig@uli.org).

**Applications due Monday, April 22, 2019.**

ULI Colorado will notify two finalists Wednesday, May 1, 2019, pending potential site visits and phone interviews with the selected communities. The BHP Workshops will take place in July and August 2019. Each workshop concludes with a public presentation of findings and recommendations to stakeholders. Communities will receive a brief written report in PDF format following the workshop.



# Building Healthy Places Workshop Application

1. **Lead Applicant Information**

Organization:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

2. **Lead Contact Information**

Name of Executive Director, President, or authorized representative of lead organization:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

3. **Please describe any partner groups or organizations submitting this application. Include any relevant information on mission, goals, or initiatives, the effort's lead organizations, and the communities impacted by or intended to benefit from your efforts.**

4. **Describe the geographic study area you are proposing as the focus of the workshop and where there is a commitment to changing the built environment to improve public health. A study area can range in scale and scope from a single property site or campus, to a city block, neighborhood, or district. Include relevant information regarding location, population, current vision for the site or district, and what has occurred there recently regarding planning processes, etc.**

5. **Please describe your community's needs. Be sure to name the key opportunities and challenges related to the built environment and active living in your community. What are the physical and socio-economic challenges? What questions would you like ULI to address?**

A. Describe the community's needs and opportunities to address disparities and improve access to healthy and active living for underserved residents. Consider referencing demographic data including proportion of low-income residents, ethnic composition, geography (urban and rural will be considered), population trends, and disparities in access to active living opportunities.

B. Describe built environment barriers to improving public health. Examples could include: poor sidewalks and bike trails, shortage of parks and open space, pollution, poor lighting and crossings for public safety, or lack of access to healthy food.



C. What specific questions would you like the ULI volunteer experts to address? Most workshops include around 3-5 questions for the panelists. Questions could address specific challenges and/or ways to implement potential solutions through policy changes, financial strategies, community consensus-building, or meeting a community's particular needs, for example.

6. **Demonstrate community readiness and commitment to create transformative change to become an active and healthy community.**

A. Describe and quantify, if possible, your community's level of support to work toward change for health in the built environment. Successful applicants will have strong and explicit support from many of the following: elected leaders and other public officials, nonprofits/community organizations, educational institutions, the faith-based community, neighborhood groups, etc.

B. List the local organizations and community stakeholders you plan to engage in the BHP workshop process. ULI seeks communities that will engage stakeholders across different sectors, including local government, community organizations, businesses, and residents.

7. **Please include as attachments, the below supporting information:**

*Required:*

- 1) A letter of support from an elected or public official for the jurisdiction of the study area
- 2) A letter of support from a public health, planning, social service, or some other public agency with direct jurisdictional oversight and/or from a local nonprofit or community-serving organization demonstrating evidence of community support.

*Optional, but recommended:*

- 1) Photos of your community including key places or sites
- 2) Site plans or area maps, especially outlining the proposed study area
- 3) Data from the area, such as: demographics, traffic counts, pedestrian activity, area health, and health discrepancies
- 4) Any previous planning studies or reports

Submit applications and supporting information to [Marianne.Eppig@uli.org](mailto:Marianne.Eppig@uli.org) by **Monday, April 22, 2019**. For questions, please contact Marianne Eppig at [Marianne.Eppig@uli.org](mailto:Marianne.Eppig@uli.org), or call (303)893-1760 ext.2.

Thank you for your interest in ULI Colorado's Building Healthy Places Workshops.

This program is supported by the Colorado Health Foundation.



The Colorado Health Foundation™