



## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH\*

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) companies across the country are working in their local communities to break down barriers and build up opportunities so all Americans have the ability to live their healthiest lives.**



### ECONOMIC STABILITY

- POVERTY
- EMPLOYMENT
- FOOD INSECURITY
- HOUSING INSTABILITY

- **Regence BlueShield** in Washington helps fund an emergency shelter that provides housing and health resources to families experiencing homelessness. In 2017, this partnership helped 150+ families find stable housing.

- A grant from **BCBS Nebraska** enables a youth services program to support homeless and at-risk youth with emergency shelter and provide life skills education. On average, this program serves 168 youth every month.



### EDUCATION

- HIGHER EDUCATION
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
- LANGUAGE & LITERACY
- EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

- In Indiana, the **Anthem Foundation** committed \$1 million to a pre-kindergarten assistance program that provided 1,400 children from low-income families with scholarships to high quality schools.

- Middle school students at one Pennsylvania school receive weekly mentorship and needed supplies and equipment from **Highmark BCBS** and their employees.



### HEALTH & HEALTH CARE

- ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
- ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE
- HEALTH LITERACY

- **BCBS Hawaii** partnered with a local university and department of health to start a Virtual Dental Health system to provide oral healthcare services. The program will reach more than 1,700 children and 360 adults in 2018.

- In Maryland, **CareFirst BCBS** supports regional healthcare organizations to improve the health of un- and underinsured mothers and their babies. Since the program's launch in 2009, Baltimore's infant mortality rate has dropped by 36 percent.



### NEIGHBORHOOD & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- ACCESS TO QUALITY FOODS
- QUALITY OF HOUSING
- CRIME & VIOLENCE
- ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- Families living in rural Arizona have access to affordable fruits and vegetables through **BCBS Arizona's** partnership with the Farm Express Mobile produce market. In four years, Farm Express has sold nearly 220,000 items and made more than 1,000 stops.

- **BCBS North Carolina** has teamed up with the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association to establish community gardens throughout the state. To date, gardens have been established or enhanced in each county across the state.



### SOCIAL & COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

- SOCIAL COHESION
- CIVIC PARTICIPATION
- DISCRIMINATION

- The **Florida Blue** Foundation helps fund the Florida Health Literacy Grant Initiative that provides statewide emphasis on health literacy and seeks to address literacy disparities for many adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners.

- **BCBS Minnesota** has partnered with non-profits led by and serving immigrants and refugees to help create safe and welcoming communities.

\*Social Determinants of Health: [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)