



Built Environment: Recommendations to Advance Social Connection



Coalition to End
Social Isolation
& Loneliness

We envision a society where every individual will one day have the opportunities and supports necessary to be socially engaged.

The Challenge

Social isolation and loneliness take a toll on individuals, leading to poorer health outcomes, higher rates of mortality, and higher healthcare costs. Social connection, or lack of social connection, is a social determinant of health that influences physical, mental, and emotional health outcomes. A lack of social connection has been compared to the health impact of smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Our Recommendations

The Coalition believes that investment in community environments, infrastructure, and technologies will lead to the development of more accessible community spaces and platforms for individuals to gather and form social connections.



To provide access to a built environment that fosters social connection, policymakers should:

1. Support federal legislation that would establish grants and opportunities for braided funding for state and local governments to implement social interventions and foster social connection in health, education, employment, housing, transportation, environment, and arts sectors.



2. Increase funding and expand the scope of current Federal Communications Commission (FCC) broadband initiatives.



3. Require the FCC to coordinate with relevant agency partners to create a cross-agency plan to maximize joint use of broadband and technology affordability programs with braided funding and coordinated enrollment.



4. Address transportation insecurity by improving access to non-emergency medical transportation and non-medical transportation programs, which provide social interaction opportunities, connect individuals to healthcare services, and improve quality of life.



5. Enhance funding for public spaces like libraries, community art spaces, and green spaces where community members across generations and abilities can engage in social connectivity and access social and emotional learning.



6. Promote housing services and supports that increase connection and reduce social isolation through expanding Service Coordinator funding to all Section 202 HUD funded properties and prioritizing housing investments that structurally build in resources for onsite services and resident support.



Join us in advocating for solutions that encourage greater social connection. Read our full 2023-2024 Policy Priorities [here](#).

About Us

The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness, founded in 2018, advocates for policy change that combats the adverse effects of social isolation and loneliness. The Coalition represents some of the most influential consumer groups, patient advocates, health plans, community-based organizations, behavioral health groups, and private sector innovators in the United States. Visit our website at www.endsocialisolation.org