Alliances with community and labor organizing: Building people power to address fundamental causes of obesity

Jim Bloyd, MPH  Cook County, Illinois, Department of Public Health
Bonnie Rateree, Harvey, Illinois, Community Leader, Human Action Community Organization
Felipe Tendick-Matesanz, Restaurant Opportunity Centers United
“...pinpointing which dietary factors are directly responsible for obesity has proved difficult. Food patterns are the result of complex interactions between the person and the social and economic environment. Although individual behavior is clearly involved, diet quality is reliably predicted by education, occupation, incomes and by other, often unobserved, indices of social class” [emphasis added] 
Adam Drewnowski (2012)
Felipe Tendick Matesanz, ROC
United High Road Coordinator
Bonnie Rateree: School Bd Member-Master Gardener-Leader, Human Action Community Organization
PLACE MATTERS Model

Source: G. Christopher, V. LaFronza, N. Burke (2010)
Cook County PLACE MATTERS

POLICY

PLACE

power
Recognition from Cook County, Illinois, Board President Toni Preckwinkle

• “I want to thank the Cook County PLACE MATTERS team for this report...It’s shameful that we live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world and that a person’s life can be cut short by more than a decade because of factors outside her or his control.”
Average Life Expectancy (2003-2007) by Median Income of Census Tract/Municipality (2009), Cook County

Source: Life expectancy calculated by the VCU Center on Human Needs from 2003-2007 data provided by Cook County Health Department: Median Income from 2009 Geolytics Premium Estimates.
Child poverty more than 6 times greater in Harvey, IL vs. North Suburban Cook County

Source: CCDPH Community Profile 2006-2008
Obesity Rates: North and South Suburban Cook County (2010-2012)

Source: CCDPH Brief, September 2013
Two thirds of residents of south suburban Cook County, IL are people of color.

South Suburban Cook Percent Racial Composition 2010

- 52.4% Latino
- 33.7% White
- 11.5% Black
- 1.2% Asian/Pacific Islander

Source: CCDPH Community Profile 2006-2008
Two thirds of residents of north suburban Cook County, IL are white.
Metro Chicago: Poverty Composition of Neighborhoods of Poor Children By Race

Source: Diversitydata.org, (2011, from 2000 Census Data)

Neighborhood poverty level

- **Black**
- **Hispanic**
- **White**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood poverty level</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%-20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%-40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>40%+</td>
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State sponsored segregation through finance-1930s HOLC Map

“Geography does the work of Jim Crow laws.”

john powell
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
Stop taking the National Restaurant Association’s corporate cash!

- 9to5, National Association of Working Women
- Alliance for a Just Society
- Andy Fisher (Co-founder; founding Executive Director; Community Food Security Coalition)
- Anna Lappé (Head of Real Food Media Project, bestselling author of *Diet for a Hot Planet* and food movement leader)
- Brandworkers
- Community Food and Justice Coalition
- Cook County PLACE MATTERS
- Corporate Accountability International
- Diane Hatz (organizing food)
- Family Values @ Work
- Food Chain Workers Alliance
- Food Tank Think Tank
- Food & Water Watch
- Jewish Alliance for Law & Social Action
- Kshama Sawant, Seattle City Councilmember*
- Michele Simon (founder of Eat Drink Politics)
- National Domestic Workers Alliance
- National Family Farm Coalition
- National Organization for Women
- PICO National Network

- Planting Justice
- The Praxis Project
- Progressive States Action
- Puget Sound Sage
- Raj Patel (Bestselling author of *Stuffed and Starved* and food movement leader)
- Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- United Workers Congress
- Wider Opportunities For Women
- Working America (Community Affiliate of the AFL-CIO)
- Working Families Party

* Institutional affiliation listed for identification purposes only

We are a broad and growing list of co-signers that includes food system and public health organizations, activists and writers; women’s organizations; workers’ organizations; corporate accountability groups; policymakers, and more.
Restaurant Workers & A Human Rights Movement

- Tipped restaurant workers live in poverty at 3X the rate of the U.S. workforce.
- In states with a tipped minimum wage of $2.13, the poverty rates for workers of color is nearly double that of the seven states without a tipped minimum wage, with one in four living in poverty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>People of Color</th>
<th>All</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rates in $2.13 states</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rates in states with no tip credit</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TIPPED WORKERS AND THE RISING AMERICAN ELECTORATE

EDUCATION
44%
HIGHER EDUCATION

MARITAL & PARENTAL STATUS
Married 32%
Parents 31%
Dads 22%
Moms 36%
Single Moms 17%

AGE
MEDIAN AGE
≤24 33%
25-34 25%
35-44 17%
45+ 26%

RACE
White 61%
Latino 18%
Black 11%
Asian 10%
Other 1%

46% of tipped worker moms are single moms
Strengthening Voices in Policy on Education, Nutrition, and Neighborhood Conditions
Thank you

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