

2023 in Review & Goals for 2024

The [Foundation for Social Connection](#) (F4SC) and [Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness](#) (CESIL) have been hard at work in 2023. This year, we saw an unprecedented level of momentum toward building connected communities and addressing our loneliness epidemic - which would not have been possible without the impressive breadth and diversity of our members, partners, and team. Check out our 2023 successes as well as our 2024 goals below.

We are counting on your continued engagement to help us build on our impressive track record to create a healthier, more socially connected society, and end social isolation and loneliness. Your dedication makes a difference.



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Foundation for
Social Connection

F4SC in the News

Since the release of the [Surgeon General's advisory](#) on social connection, public interest in advancing social connection has skyrocketed. The Foundation was honored to help raise this awareness by providing our expertise to multiple articles, podcasts, and presentations. These included USA Today, Business Insider, the Boston Herald, Gallup x Semafor, National Safety Council, and more.

- We commit to partnering with more media platforms to raise awareness, inspire more dialogue, and invite an even greater diversity of stakeholder involvement.



Surgeon general lays out framework to tackle loneliness and 'mend the social fabric of our nation'

Boston Herald

Coyle, Harris & Racoosin: Building strong communities starts in Boston



WHO Calls Loneliness A 'Pressing Health Threat' With Commission Launch



The New Plague on Campus: Loneliness



2023 Building Connected Communities

We hosted our fourth annual [action forum](#) with our partners at [Healthy Places by Design](#) and Harvard University's [Human Flourishing Program](#) and with generous support from [Einhorn Collaborative](#). This three-day hybrid event empowered local leaders to make real, evidence- and system-based change in their communities. In addition to hearing from speakers like the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, Dr. Robert Putnam, and Dr. Jean Twenge, we also conducted six experiential learning tours throughout Boston neighborhoods to see how community leaders were fostering connection in their communities.

- We were thrilled to award our second [Marcia Slater Johnston Award](#) to Jared Seide, Executive Director of the Center for Council, for his exemplary work fostering a culture of community connection, engagement, and resilience through dialogic practices.
- **We look forward to continuing this collaboration with our Building Connected Communities partners next year!**

This year, we embarked on our groundbreaking Building Connected Communities Initiative with our friends at Healthy Places by Design, Harvard University's Human Flourishing Program, and Einhorn Collaborative. Under this initiative, we not only hosted our annual action forum, but we also worked with community members, local leaders, and national philanthropy groups to develop the **Action Guide for Building Socially Connected Communities**.



Representing the culmination of nine months of dedicated research and development, this interactive website is tailor-made for local leaders seeking to amplify social connection within their communities. Grounded in evidence-based strategies, hands-on guidance, and real-world illustrations, we hope the Action Guide equips local leaders with the knowledge and tools necessary to implement tangible initiatives that foster social unity and elevate the overall well-being of individuals residing in communities all across the United States. Since its launch, we have witnessed an overwhelming surge of interest and website visits, highlighting the resonance and impact of this invaluable resource. **As we look forward to 2024 we are excited to go deeper with community leaders through bespoke engagements, activations, and trainings.**

The Steps

- 1 Reflect
- 2 Review
- 3 Assess Community Social Connection
- 4 Conduct a Social Connection Workshop
- 5 Track & Measure
- 6 Evaluate & Share Out

The Activities & Resources

- Social Network & Partnership Mapping
- Informational Flyers and Slide Decks
- County Data Dashboard
- Vision & Goal Setting Worksheets
- & More!

Our Scientific Advisory Council (SAC)

Members of the SAC advised on a number of significant projects this year. In fact, SAC Chair Dr. Julianne Holt-Lunstad served as the lead scientific editor for the Surgeon General's advisory! Other impressive work includes:

- Providing advisory for social connection evaluations for numerous projects.
- Participating in discussions to support the development of the Social Connection Measurement Tools Inventory.
- Developing a proposal to host a convening on measurement.
- Providing public education through presentations of research at conferences including APHA, Gallup & Meta State of Social Connection, our Action Forum, and more.

Translating Research

In February, we released another **SOCIAL Framework Report - the Work, Employment & Labor Sector** - exploring how we can leverage workplaces to advance connection. Our subcommittee was led by Dr. Jessica Grossmeier, author of *Reimagining Workplace Well-being*, and Karen Moseley, President and CEO of the Health Enhancement Research Organization, and comprised of researchers and experts on workplace wellbeing.

- We look forward to releasing our Built Environment Sector Report in 2024!

In collaboration with the **Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness**, Prachir Pasricha, our summer fellow, spearheaded the creation of **an inventory of 55+ social connection measurement tools**. This essential resource is intended to provide practical support for practitioners, researchers, and others involved in capturing and measuring social isolation, loneliness, and social connection. It simplifies the process of selecting the most appropriate measures and navigating through them efficiently.



Supporting Practice

Alongside a team of our SAC members, we advised [Building H](#) on ways to evaluate the social connection of products and services included in the [Building H index](#). The index assesses and ranks the products and services of companies in different industries across health-related behaviors. This approach is crucial in understanding the diverse sources of influence that contribute to social connection and disconnection across society.

With support from Pinterest Purpose Partners, The Foundation supported [Only7Seconds](#) to develop a facilitator training to bring their connection curriculum into more schools. The curriculum includes 30 interactive lessons and a robust resource library. The team is also piloting the program in schools, learning more about and supporting students experiencing loneliness.

With funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, we started the **Community Providers and Local Students (PALS) pilot program** in Houston, Texas. This program aims to advance equity and connection for seniors residing in nursing homes by pairing them with current health science students. We look forward to continuing this project in 2024 and increasing the pipeline of medical students into the gerontological profession.

Our Expanding Network

This year, we welcomed many new faces to our network.

- **Our Board.** In 2023, our Board of Directors added four new members with a wealth of expertise and impressive backgrounds in the research, healthcare, and technology sectors. These additions include Dr. Julianne Holt-Lunstad, Dr. Kristine Gloria, and Annette Fellows.
- **Our Scientific Advisory Council.** We are proud to have added Dr. Ashwin Kotwal to our Scientific Advisory Council.
- **Our Team.** We are thrilled to have grown our team by 5 additional team members - including a Program & Implementation Manager, Communications & Programming Coordinator, two Social Connection Fellows, and a Communications & Public Affairs Intern.

We Need You!

- **ENGAGE & SHARE** Help us share our collective work by engaging with, reposting, and spreading the word about us with your networks! You can find us on LinkedIn ([F4SC](#), [CESIL](#)), Twitter ([@fdn4sociconnect](#), [@endsocisolation](#)), Instagram ([@fdn4socialconnection](#), [@endsocialisolation](#)), and on our Foundation and Coalition websites. You can also sign up to receive our [weekly research reports](#) or [monthly newsletter](#)!

- Let's make our voice heard! **Call your members of Congress at (202) 224-3121** and let them know you support Senator Murphy's (D-CT) National Strategy for Social Connection Act and Representatives Trone (D-MD) and Flood's (R-NE) Improving Measurements for Loneliness and Isolation Act

- **CONTRIBUTE** Get involved! We encourage active participation in our monthly full Coalition member meetings and are always looking for new voices on our [subcommittees and working groups](#). If you have special interest in communications/awareness, policy, older adults, or younger adults, reach out to Meg Wallace (margaret@social-connection.org) to learn more about the subcommittee that is right for you.

- **GROW** We are stronger together! We are always looking for new and unique perspectives to add to our efforts; if you know an individual or group whose voice would be a valuable addition to our Coalition or partner with our Foundation, please let us know!

YEAR IN REVIEW



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Coalition to End
Social Isolation
& Loneliness

CESIL in the News

This year, we saw a lot of momentum in the news surrounding social connection, isolation, and loneliness. The Coalition was proud to contribute our expertise to various articles, speaking engagements, and podcasts like Vanity Fair, Politico, Business Insider, the Messenger, Hollywood & Mind x Bumble, and more.

- We commit to strengthening our relationships with national news outlets and platforms to raise public awareness and educate various stakeholders about the importance of legislative and regulatory solutions to bolster social connection and reduce social isolation and loneliness.

BUSINESS INSIDER

Our crisis of loneliness, the new bet investors are going after

VANITY FAIR

Chris Murphy Wants to Make America a Little Less Lonely

AXIOS PRO

Loneliness gets its own legislation

TheMessenger. It's time to break the news.

A Federal Office to Combat the Loneliness Crisis? New Bill Introduced

Senator Chris Murphy aims to establish government interventions to bring Americans together, but will they work?

2023 Global Loneliness Awareness Week: Advocating for Connection

At this year's Global Loneliness Awareness Week event, *Connections at the Capitol*, we heard Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) announce his intentions to introduce the nation's first piece of legislation to advance social connection. We also learned about current efforts to foster belonging and resiliency among our most vulnerable populations.



Save the Date!

We are thrilled to announce that our 2024 event will be hosted at 555 Pennsylvania Ave in Washington, D.C. on June 11th.

In addition to individual meetings with federal champions, we catalyzed our members to join a unified voice about policies needed to address social isolation and loneliness during Global Loneliness Awareness Week. Dozens of Coalition members joined our advocacy and activation efforts in person and virtually that week, and we were pleased to share a letter to Congressional leadership requesting legislative action to address social isolation and loneliness. The letter included over 60 organizational signatures.

- We commit to ensuring our members have the opportunity to have important conversations with their policymakers. In addition, we commit to ensuring our members are supported with adequate talking points ahead of these meetings.



Global Loneliness Awareness Week, *by the numbers:*

24+
Coalition
members

12
meetings

60+
signatures
of support

New Legislation

We had the opportunity to provide feedback and support to Senator Chris Murphy's Office following the introduction of the **National Strategy for Social Connection Act**, which would create an Office of Social Connection Policy within the White House. In addition, we were honored to provide feedback and support to Representative Mike Flood's office during the drafting of the **Improving Measurements for Loneliness and Isolation Act** which would establish a working group that would develop standardized measures for loneliness and isolation. We are actively working with the respective offices to support the passage of both bills.

- We commit to continuing to build close relationships with key Congressional and Agency offices with the support of the Coalition's Policy Committee. The Policy Committee meets regularly to judiciously iterate on how to best advocate for policy approaches and actions to create and support a more socially connected community, society, and nation.

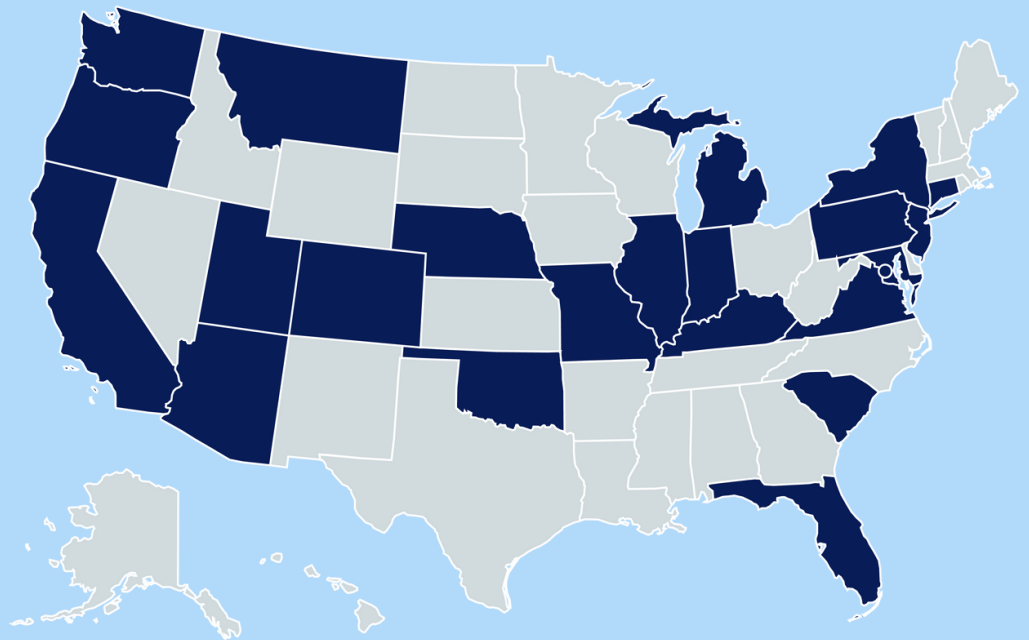
Our 2023 Reach

We met and shared our policy priorities with bipartisan members of Congress including leaders in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. This included leaders within various committees including the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Education and the Workforce Committee as well as the Senate Finance Committee, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and Special Committee on Aging.

- We commit to ensuring policy conversations with members of Congress reflect the ongoing research by the Foundation for Social Connection's Scientific Advisory Council.
- We commit to building upon the momentum in the 118th Congress to pass groundbreaking legislation on social isolation, loneliness, and social connection in the 119th Congress. The legislation will reflect key trends in health care and include innovative, common-sense solutions that are actionable, practical, inclusive, and steeped in research.

23
States

36+
Officials



Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ)
Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)
Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT)
Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)
Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)
Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN)
Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN)
Rep. Erin Houchin (R-IN)

Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)
Rep. David Trone (D-MD)
Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI)
Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)
Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)
Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)
Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)
Rep. Mike Flood (R-NE)
Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
Rep. Dan Goldman (D-NY)
Rep. Nick LaLota (R-NY)
Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY)

Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)
Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)
Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)
Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA)
Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA)
Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)
Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)
Rep. John Curtis (R-UT)
Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)
Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rogers (R-WA)

New Members

We welcomed new members to the Coalition in 2022 including

Hinge, For All Ages, Samaritan, and Active Minds

- We commit to continuing our efforts to ensure we have broad and diverse stakeholders at the table with us so we may strengthen our efforts to end social isolation and loneliness. If you know of an organization that would be a great addition to our collective, please let us know!



Young Adults Working Group

In 2023, the Coalition was thrilled to partner with Steering Committee member Eventbrite on forming a working group focused specifically on young adults, a population we know to be at particular risk for loneliness and social isolation. The working group continues to refine its objectives and has begun developing advocacy materials to educate lawmakers on the urgency of addressing this issue among 18-25 year olds head-on.

Membership Meetings

The Coalition was honored to hear from some amazing speakers throughout the year on a range of topics relevant to our collective work, including:

- Dr. Graham Bodie, Listen First Project
- Steve Downs, Building H
- Tricia Ashby, ASHA
- Dr. Charlotte Yeh, AARP
- Dr. Jeremy Nobel, Project UnLonely
- Kate Carney & Calista Small, More in Common
- Christina Wu, National MLTSS Health Plan Association

Our Board of Directors & Team

In addition to growing our membership base, we have been thrilled to expand our Board of Directors and team. This year, Dr. Carla Perissinotto, Mary Ann Boccolini, and Orriel Richardson joined our board - bringing with them a wealth of knowledge and experience in the healthcare space. Additionally, we added a Communications and Programming Coordinator, two Social Connection Fellows, and a Communications & Public Affairs Intern.



We Need You!

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