



SOCIAL Framework & The Built Environment: Key Terms, Definitions, and Acronyms

Companion Resource

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SOCIAL Framework & The Built Environment

Key Terms, Definitions, and Acronyms

Social Connection Related Terms

Belonging	A fundamental human need—the feeling of deep connection with social groups, physical places, and individual and collective experiences
HiAP	<u>Health in All Policies</u>
Loneliness	A subjective unpleasant or distressing feeling of isolation. A perceived discrepancy between one’s actual and desired level of social connection
SIL	An acronym referring to both Social Isolation and Loneliness
SILC	An acronym referring to Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Social Connectedness
Social Capital	The resources to which individuals and groups have access through their social connections - often used as an umbrella for both social support and social cohesion
Social Cohesion	The sense of solidarity within groups, marked by strong social connections and high levels of social participation, that generates trust, norms of reciprocity, and a sense of belonging
Social Connection	The (i) structure, (ii) function, and (iii) quality of relationships with others. Social connection includes not only the size and diversity of one’s social network and roles, but the functions these relationships serve, and their positive or negative qualities
Social Connectedness	The degree to which an individual or population falls on the continuum of social connection
SOCIAL Framework	Systems of Cross-sector Integration and Action across the Lifespan
Social Isolation	Having objectively few social relationships, social roles, group memberships, and infrequent social interaction
Social Support	The perceived or actual availability of informational, tangible, and emotional resources from others, commonly one’s social network
Socio-Ecological Model	A framework used in public health to understand the individual behavior as influenced by multiple levels of interaction, including personal, interpersonal, organizational, community, and societal factors.

[Learn more of the language of social connection in the Action Guide for Socially Connected Communities](#)

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Built Environment Related Terms

5 D's	Five design factors intended to create efficient, sustainable, and accessible spaces: design, density, diversity, distance, and destination
Active Design	A strategy in building development that leverages architectural and urban planning techniques to promote physical activity and facilitate social interactions in new constructions
Age Friendly Communities (AFC)	A city or community that modifies its services and physical infrastructure to better accommodate and respond to the needs of its residents and support aging in place and a higher quality of life across the lifespan
Blue/ Green Space	Blue spaces are areas featuring water elements like rivers, lakes, and oceans, while green spaces are natural or landscaped areas with vegetation, such as parks, gardens, and forests
Broadband	High-speed internet access
Built Environment	The human-made or modified structures that provide people with living, working, and recreational spaces
Co-Housing	A form of cooperative housing where private residences are centered around shared spaces
Collective Impact	A collaborative strategy designed to address complex issues by bringing together diverse stakeholders through a structured approach to seek change
Community Listening Session	A strategy in the Action Guide for Building Socially Connected Communities for a collaborative discussion involving residents, changemakers, and leaders to gain a deeper understanding of community strengths and challenges, amplify historically underrepresented voices, focus on socially connected initiatives with community input, brainstorm local solutions, and foster a network of changemakers committed to enhancing social connections
Complete Streets	A method for creating streets that are safe and accessible for everyone by focusing on serving groups historically overlooked or underserved by traditional transportation planning
Cooperative Housing	A living arrangement where residents become partial owners of a building or complex typically owned by a nonprofit corporation
Digital Equity Planning	The process of designing and implementing strategies to ensure all individuals and communities have equal access to digital tools, resources, and services
Green Prescribing	The practice of referring individuals to nature-based activities and interventions to improve mental and physical health
Intergenerational Community	A space that supports the safety, health, education, and basic needs of individuals of all ages by fostering cross-generational cooperation and interaction through mutually beneficial programs and policies
Multi-Solving	An approach to addressing multiple issues or achieving various objectives at once with a single solution

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Built Environment Related Terms

Open Streets	A concept, also known as Ciclovía, that temporarily closes streets to motor vehicle traffic and opens them up for recreational activities (e.g., walking, cycling) and community-based programming (e.g., markets, festivals)
PANACHE	Acronym for six evidence-based design guidelines or creating built environments that support connection: sense of place, accessibility, nature, activation, choice, and human scale
Physical Infrastructure	Systems that provide our homes and other physical spaces with water, electricity, connectivity (broadband/technological infrastructure), and transportation (roads, bridges, paths for diverse modes of transit)
Placemaking	A collaborative process that reimagines public spaces to boost community engagement and connection
Proxemics	The study of how people perceive space and use it in social contexts
Public Open Space	Generally refers to land that is primarily undeveloped, open to public access, and designed to be highly accessible - attracting users of different ages, genders and cultural backgrounds
Social Connection Workshop	A strategy in the Action Guide for Building Socially Connected Communities for gathering a coalition of partners to create a 'Social Connection Coalition' and hosting one or more workshops aimed at building momentum and transforming discussions into actionable steps
Social Infrastructure	The crucial organizations, spaces, and groups that facilitate social connection and enable communities to form and sustain relationships that help them thrive
Social Prescribing	A method for supporting patients' social needs through community-based interventions and tailored social connections
Stakeholder	Individual or group of individuals with an interest in any decision or activity of an organization or topic area
Third Place	Social spaces separate from an individual's typical social environments (e.g., the home and workplace)
Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)	A way to build communities that make it easy for people to get around without needing a car, by centering transit stations
Universal Design	The design of buildings, products, or environments to make them accessible to all people, regardless of age, disability, or other factors
Urban/ Regional Planning	The professional practice of designing and managing the use of land and infrastructure in urban, suburban, and rural areas to guide community development and address environmental, economic, and social issues
Zoning Codes	The process by which municipalities and/or cities divide and allocate space for different use types