

CASE STUDY

Action Guide Technical Assistance Pilot

Equipping Local Leaders to Build Socially Connected Communities

PARTNER



TA PARTNER



ADVISORY SERVICE

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Opportunity

Communities across the country are recognizing social connection and belonging as essential to community health and resilience, but many local leaders need support translating that interest into action. After launching the [Action Guide for Building Socially Connected Communities](#) in 2023, F4SC saw an opportunity to give local leaders the hands-on support to move from a shared priority to a practical, community-informed plan.

Our Approach

F4SC and Healthy Places by Design launched a national call for applications that drew 96 proposals from 39 states, then curated a cohort of five pilot communities spanning rural, suburban, and urban settings. Over six months, F4SC delivered **technical assistance** that paired **1:1 coaching** with **peer learning sessions** built around each step of the Action Guide. Teams were equipped to lead community listening sessions, host social connection workshops, and produce local action plans, applying the guide's Data Dashboard and partnership mapping tools along the way. Coaching helped each partnership adapt in real time to its own context, from trust-building in divided neighborhoods to engagement across long rural distances.

The Impact

The pilot expanded each community's capacity to lead this work, building new relationships and local infrastructure to advance social connection.

Little Rock, AR

Residents launched DreamSpace and resident-led working groups focused on issues including public safety and Black business development.

Isabella County, MI

Leaders established a standing Community Club to continue building social connection across the county.

West Sacramento, CA

Health Education Council integrated social connection into local public health planning and advanced a Volunteer Paid Time Off policy for consideration by local leaders.

The pilot also generated lessons for scaling community-based social connection work. F4SC is now re-engaging cohort communities to support implementation and measurement while expanding the model through new cohorts in New York and California.

"F4SC's Action Guide has been an invaluable tool that has encouraged us to consider quantitative and qualitative data with equal consideration to get a full and accurate picture of who is most likely to experience social isolation in our community."

— BJ Woods, Action Guide Pilot Cohort Leader
and Executive Director of The Village Place

Explore More

Visit our [Communities in Action](#) page to learn more about our community partners' work.

Contact us to learn more about this project and explore how F4SC can support your work below.

[Contact Us →](#)

[Download Services Menu →](#)

