

## Policy, Systems, and Environmental Changes (PSE)



Policy, systems, and environmental changes (PSE) are self-sustaining interventions that can improve health on a population-wide basis for years, affecting the ways through which health and public health services are delivered. The Connecticut Cancer Plan, 2014-2017 embraced the use of the PSE approach to achieve results, following the recommendations of the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) in 2012 requiring that cancer control plans “implement PSE changes to guide sustainable cancer control.”

NCCCP continues to identify the PSE approach to strengthen state cancer control programs. Examples include:

- Policies to protect communities from harmful agents or elements (such as indoor tanning policies to limit exposure to ultraviolet rays or smoke-free policies to limit exposure to secondhand smoke)
- Systems to increase the use of client reminders to get people screened for cancer or to increase access to healthy food choices in schools and workplaces
- Environments to encourage communities to be active (such as pedestrian- and bike-friendly streets)

### **STRATEGIES**

To achieve success in eliminating cancer disparities, it is imperative to address social determinants of health through culturally appropriate approaches, while taking the following steps:

- Identify resources enabling sustainability of new PSE initiatives
- Perform needs assessments to focus on areas of greatest need or inequities
- Collect, analyze, and report on data to track progress over time
- Solicit input and commitment among populations of focus to educate communities and leaders and design and carry out culturally competent interventions
- Promote measures to ensure diversity of workforce
- Establish plans for appropriate evaluation as well mid-term recommendations for redirection