

Building the Foundation: Defining and Advancing Wellbeing for Cities

5/14/2026





OUR MISSION

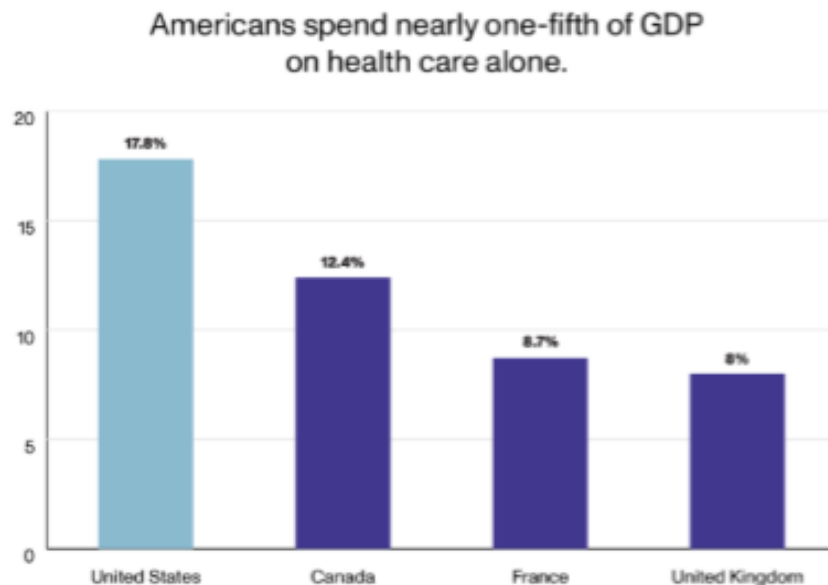
To relentlessly advocate for, and protect the interests of, cities, towns, and villages by influencing federal policy, strengthening local leadership, and driving innovative solutions.

NLC

How do Cities define Wellbeing?

For cities, wellbeing means creating the conditions for all residents to meet their basic needs, feel connected and safe, and have the opportunity to thrive—regardless of zip code.

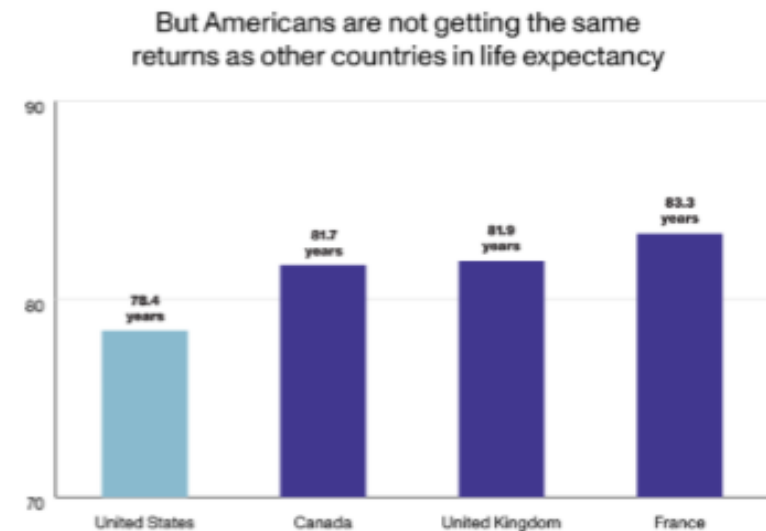
Figure 1.1 U.S. Spending on Health Care, as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product, Compared with Other Countries



Source: Data are from U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2024.
Note: These estimates are current as of 2024.



Figure 1.2 U.S. Life Expectancy, in Years, Compared with Other Countries



... and their reported levels of life satisfaction follow similar patterns.

Source: Data are from OECD Better Life Index, undated-a.
Note: These estimates are current as of 2024.



City Leaders are Health Leaders

- Your role directly shapes local wellbeing outcomes
- Wellbeing starts with a shared definition
- Consider how this work requires engaging partners across your city
- Leadership practices drive lasting changes

Where is your city already advancing wellbeing?

NLC

Fireside Chat



**Anita Chandra, Dr
P.H.**

Distinguished Chair in
American Social Policy &
Senior Principal Policy
Researcher | RAND



Lourdes Aceves, MPP

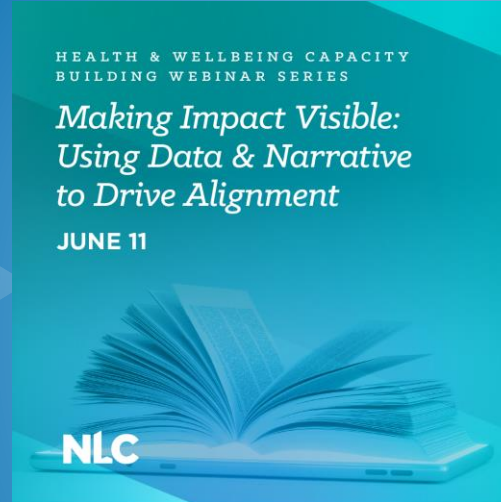
Director, NLC Health &
Wellbeing

Upcoming Capacity Building Sessions



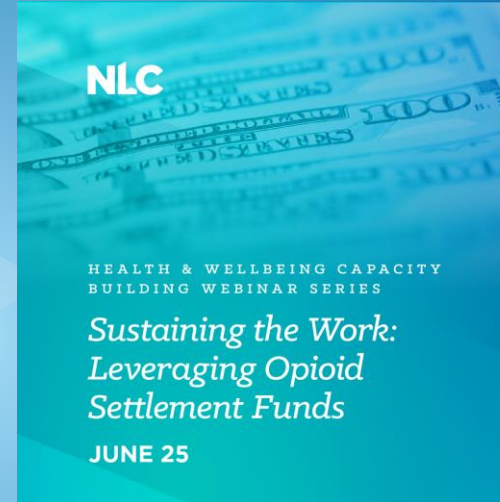
May 28th

**Frameworks for
Action: Policy Tools
& Real-World
Examples**



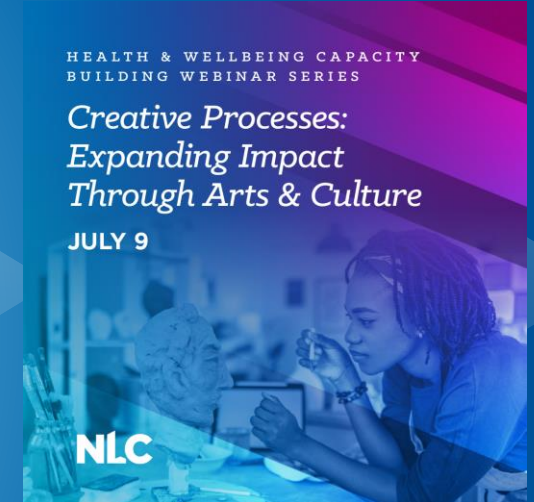
June 11th

**Making Impact
Visible: Using Data &
Narrative to Drive
Alignment**



June 25th

**Sustaining the Work:
Strategically
Leveraging Opioid
Settlement Funds**



July 9th

**Creative Processes:
Expanding Impact
Through Arts &
Culture**

Thank you!

