



Risa Wilkerson
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Risa Wilkerson is executive director of Healthy Places by Design. She provides overarching leadership and strategic vision to fulfill the organization's mission of advancing community-led action and proven, place-based strategies to ensure health and well-being for all. Wilkerson is the lead author of *Socially Connected Communities: Solutions to Social Isolation*, a report released in March 2021. This report seeks to inspire and equip all readers to embed multi-faceted, community-level supports for strong social connections as an ongoing practice. Wilkerson joined the Healthy Places by Design team in 2008 as senior project officer and provided coaching, technical assistance and grant oversight to multidisciplinary community-based partnerships across the country, with a focus on improving health through policy, systems and environmental change strategies. Before moving to North Carolina, Wilkerson was the vice president of active communities for the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports, where she led project teams in a statewide effort to create active communities. She brings wide-ranging experience in coalition building, community assessment, public health program planning and implementation, grant writing and nonprofit management. Wilkerson has ensured that every team member receives racial equity training as part of the organization's commitment to a just and healthy society for all. She holds an M.A. in communication degree from Michigan State University. She is also an alumna of the University of South Carolina's Physical Activity and Public Health Course, a training program sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).