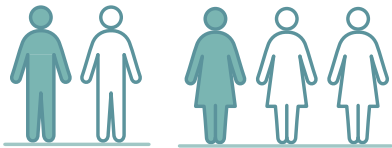


# Driving Cancer Prevention for a Healthy, Equitable Future

## INTRODUCTION

We all want to live, learn, work and play in healthy and safe places, but hazardous chemicals and pollution have put this simple goal out of reach for far too many of us.

### CANCER REMAINS A BURDEN FELT BY TOO MANY



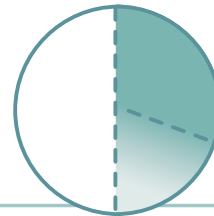
**1 in 2** and **1 in 3**  
**MEN** and **WOMEN**

will be diagnosed with  
cancer in their lifetime.



Cancers in children  
are climbing, with a

**41% INCREASE**  
since 1975.



The World Health  
Organization estimates

**30%–50%**  
of all cancer deaths  
could be prevented.

These data are alarming. And health and science experts from the Cancer Free Economy Network (CFE) believe rates of preventable cancers are likely even higher. We know that we can and must do more to prevent cancer.



*It's within our  
power to end cancer  
as we know it.*

– President Biden

## DARCIE'S STORY



*Yesterday was the anniversary of my grandmother's passing... She fought many battles in her life, but her battle with cancer was the only one she lost. My grandmother worked in the fields of Bakersfield, California... My mom can recount the stories my grandmother would tell about the planes that would fly overhead spraying pesticides as she worked... My grandmother did her part... she could not escape with her individual habits or behavior because of where she worked, because of where she lived, and because of the limitations of her income.*

*And here we are today, at a time when Latinos, people of color, low income families, recent immigrants, Indigenous communities and people not unlike my grandmother, and maybe some of your grandmothers, are still facing the same environmental injustices that we as a community have battled for decades. When will it be enough?*

To view the full recording click [here](#).

## CANCER: A GROWING AND OFTEN PREVENTABLE PROBLEM

It is increasingly common knowledge that our society is exposed to toxic chemicals on a daily basis and that some communities have been experimented on for years without their knowledge or consent. Sadly, health impacts of preventable exposures to tens of thousands of untested and unregulated chemicals are rising not waning. However, those risks are not borne equally, low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately exposed.

On September 17, 2020 CFE held a live teleconference to launch a joint statement on cancer prevention titled *'Cancer and Health Leaders Call for Action to Reduce the Burden of Cancer by Addressing Environmental Risk Factors.'* During the call, Darcie Green, Executive Director of Latinas Contra Cancer (a CFE member), shared her family's story.

(See "Darcie's Story" at left.)

## OUR COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Today, stories like Darcie's are all too common, as exposures to toxic chemicals, and subsequent cancer, have become more prevalent. To make matters worse, many corporations and governments accept this "business as usual" as an avoidable cost of economic progress.

CFE is a dynamic network with [leading representatives](#) from the health, labor, business and policy fields collaborating to strategically shift the systems, practices and mindsets that have created, and that help to maintain, an economy that relies on hazardous chemicals. We recognize our current economy is one in which Black, Brown, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) individuals and people of low-wealth suffer disproportionately from that reliance, and because of this, equity and the impact to BIPOC communities are at the forefront of our strategies as we plan and implement network projects and policies.



### GARFIELD FOUNDATION

*The Garfield Foundation is proud to be a long-term supporter of this innovative systems-based collaborative network. Acting systemically is about engaging different voices, thinking across the multiple levels of an issue, leaning into a more iterative and experiment-based approach. We're grateful for the opportunity to be part of such an endeavor and to learn alongside so many committed, inspiring and strategic partners, as they empower, support, and align with each other as we move towards our shared goal of an economy that is safe and healthy for all!*

#### — MOTAZ ATTALLA

Program Officer & Technical Advisor,  
Garfield Foundation



## THE PURSUIT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH + EQUITY

In April of 2021, President Biden told a joint session of Congress that it's in our power to "end cancer as we know it," as he called for major investments in research on prevention, early detection and treatment. A month prior to his speech, CFE released [A Path to Cancer Prevention and Environmental Equity: The Cancer Free Economy Network's Agenda for the Biden-Harris Administration](#). This policy agenda outlines four priority areas:



**1** Protect people from toxic exposures, like PFAS, pesticides and other known and suspected carcinogens, while prioritizing BIPOC communities, highly exposed workers and children.



**2** Promote regenerative economies and a just economic transition utilizing green and sustainable chemistry.



**3** Prevent more cancers by addressing air pollution and the climate crisis.



**4** Fund research that supports toxics-related cancer prevention and addresses health inequities.

CFE is calling upon the Biden administration to go beyond everyday preventive measures like health screenings and personal choices, to tackle prevention at the root by research and regulation of cancer-causing and suspected carcinogenic chemicals and environmental toxics.


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*There is a great need to fix the damage done to public health and environmental protections during the previous administration. But there is an even greater need to go beyond repairs and build a regulatory structure that frees all people from the burden of toxic exposures that increase cancer risks.*

– **KATHRYN ALCANTAR**

Co-Lead of CFE's Policy and Legal group;  
Policy Director at the Center for Environmental Health





*By replacing the most harmful chemicals with safer alternatives, we can create a healthier future for ourselves, loved ones, and future generations.*

## EMPOWERING EMERGING LEADERS

As part of our commitment to equity, CFE launched the Emerging Leaders Cohort to cultivate, empower and resource leadership from those most impacted by our toxic economy.

This program combines mentorship and training to support early-career individuals, particularly Black, Brown and Indigenous individuals and staff from organizations working in and with frontline communities, to move into leadership roles within the Network and in the organizations and movements in which they work. Emerging Leaders are advancing critical initiatives, including CFE's Climate, Toxics, Health & Equity project; Reducing Toxics in Affordable Housing; our Chemicals, Cancer & the Economy training program; and dealing with the disposal of PFAS ("forever chemicals").

“

*Throughout this project, I felt fully supported by my mentor. In addition to the workshops, I learned a lot from the trainings on writing grant proposals and green chemistry. The project leaders did a great job at creating a safe space for mentees and mentors to share any concerns or challenges that we were facing.*

— **ROXANA AMAYA-FUENTES**  
ELC Mentee  
Program Assistant,  
Eco-Healthy Child Care®,  
Children's Environmental  
Health Network



“

*I was a mentee, in this process, as much as I was a mentor. It was one of the highlights of my year with the Cancer Free Economy Network.*

— **POLLY HOPPIN**  
ELC Mentor  
Research Professor/  
Program Director,  
Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences/  
Lowell Center for Sustainable Production  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell





## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### AMPLIFYING PREVENTION LEADERS AND NARRATIVES

CFE is amplifying the voices of many trusted leading researchers, scientists and health professionals, who are [speaking out](#) to shift the narrative on cancer prevention to include the elimination of toxics as a critical pathway to prevention.

*I thought that all chemicals were tested before they were put on the market. Turns out not to be true. I thought that anything that's known to be a carcinogen would be regulated. Also not true. And I thought that if there were regulations about something, that the regulations would be enforced. Which is also not necessarily true.*

— **DR. MARGARET KRIPKE**

Professor Emerita at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

### PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND WORKERS

There are two interconnected and systemic problems facing vulnerable communities and at-risk workers: disproportionate exposure to chemicals and economic inequality. CFE's [Chemicals, Cancer and the Economy training program](#) provides accessible information and

resources to help communities and groups learn about toxic chemicals, understand the economic incentives that have led to our current situation, identify helpful resources, and take protective action together.

### PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH COMMUNITY AND CROSS-SECTOR MOBILIZATION

CFE members conceived and wrote a report [Childhood Cancer: Cross-Sector Strategies for Prevention](#) that helps uncover the fact that genetics alone are not responsible for an alarming increase in cancer diagnoses in children since 1975. Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States, and that's why CFE stepped up as a founding partner of the [Childhood Cancer Prevention Initiative](#) (CCPI). Building on the CCPI and the report, CFE is working towards a National Childhood Cancer Prevention Plan, a National Childhood Cancer Research Plan and other critical reforms.



### HELP US CREATE A CANCER-FREE ECONOMY THAT PROTECTS EVERYONE

*I have participated in CFE since fall of 2015 in various leadership positions because of the unique and urgent mission that we have to prevent cancer and long-term illness related to environmental hazard exposures. Myself and the Children's Environmental Health Network have gained great value through the huge networking opportunities and the ability to participate in leveraging the importance of preventing childhood cancer, a topic of critical importance to our organization and to our society as a whole.*

— **NSEDU OBOT WITHERSPOON, MPH**

Executive Director for the Children's Environmental Health Network





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 CANCER FREE ECONOMY

#### CANCER FREE ECONOMY NETWORK'S GUIDING STAR

Within our generation, we will lift the burden of cancer and other diseases by driving a dramatic and equitable transition from toxic substances in our lives, our communities, and our economy to safe and healthy alternatives for all.

*We can do more to prevent cancer by replacing harmful chemicals and reducing toxic exposures.*

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our most immediate need is to support one of our projects

- **\$5,000** could sponsor a mentee from CFE's Emerging Leaders Cohort.
- **\$10,000** could support a series of Childhood Cancer Prevention Initiative webinars with experts.
- **\$25,000** could train ten community leaders as Chemicals, Cancer and the Economy educators.
- **\$50,000** could support a coordinator for a convening of experts and community stakeholders to address health issues of PFAS.
- **\$100,000** could support CFE's Household Cleaners Lab providing advocacy and expertise to support the health and safety of vulnerable domestic workers.



Sponsor our events  
or webinars.



Sign up for our  
monthly newsletter  
for information and  
ways to take action.



Make a personally  
meaningful gift  
of your own.

We invite you to support our work, and if you are interested in learning more please contact CFE's Strategic Director, Debra Erenberg ([Debra@CancerFreeEconomy.org](mailto:Debra@CancerFreeEconomy.org)).