

About This Document

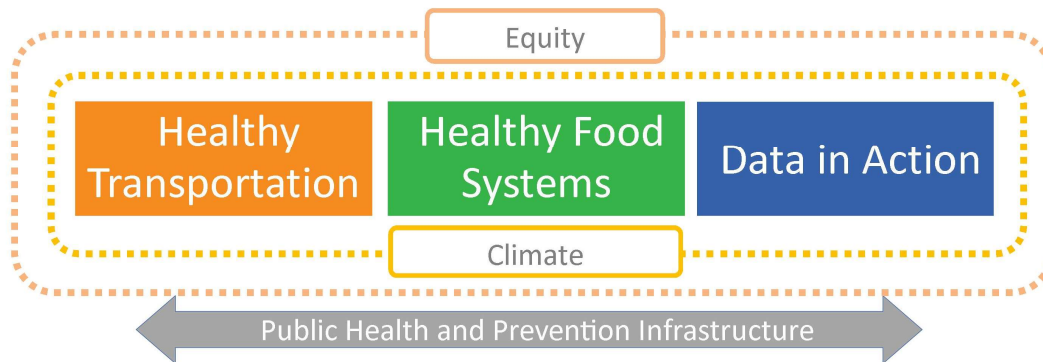
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority initiative areas. Sample language is drawn upon evidence-informed, federal, state and local best practices accompanied by references and resources. Development of policy and policy recommendations is part of Public Health’s Essential Health Services as defined by the [American Public Health Association 2014](#).

Disclaimer: Contents of this resource are not intended to reflect positions of Alliance members.

About the Alliance

The Public Health Alliance of Southern California (Alliance) is a collaboration of local health departments in Southern California. Collectively our members are statutorily responsible for the health of nearly 60% of California’s population. Our vision is “All Southern California communities are healthy, vibrant and sustainable places to live, work and play.” The Alliance builds healthy communities through upstream multi-sector policy, systems and environmental change; and mobilizes and amplifies the Southern California local health departments’ regional voice in three Priority Initiatives: **Healthy Transportation and Land Use, Healthy Food Systems and Data in Action**. The Alliance work is grounded in two overarching frameworks including: **1) Equity/Opportunities for All and 2) Climate and Health**.

Priority Initiatives:



The Suggested Legislative Platform Language statements are grouped around these priority initiatives and overarching framework categories, with sections devoted to each. A sixth section provides recommended language for supporting overall Public Health and Prevention Infrastructure.

Document Structure

This document provides a set of sample legislative platform policy statements that support and advance the three Alliance Initiative Priorities and overarching approaches to address equity and climate change. These policy statements were identified by the Alliance within the context of our current work to achieve significant policy, systems and environmental change for the Southern California region. References provided in the document demonstrate how each policy statement is aligned with leading public health organizations, other prominent regional, state and national organizations, research centers and local laws and ordinances.

Guiding Principles

The Alliance's efforts to reduce the burden of chronic disease and build healthy communities will be guided by core principles to protect health, equity and sustainability, and ensure the greatest near- and long-term benefits:

- Take substantial and timely action toward primary prevention
- Support strategies with the highest potential impact through policy, systems and environmental change that can shift population health
- Promote health equity and environmental and social justice by identifying and addressing the social determinants of health to reduce health disparities.
- Engage the community in assessment, planning, decision-making and policy development to address health inequities
- Support greater resource allocation for communities suffering a disproportionate burden of social and behavioral determinants that lead to chronic disease
- Maximize health, environmental and economic co-benefits, including climate change adaptation, readiness, mitigation and community resilience especially for the most vulnerable with chronic illnesses
- Prioritize prevention for children and youth, the aged and other vulnerable groups
- Support better quality health care and self-management for those already affected by chronic disease
- Promote "Health in All Policies" approaches within government and non-governmental organizations to improve population health
- Build collaboration between public health, healthcare, transportation, land use planning, energy, housing, agriculture and environmental health sectors to improve population health

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Address the impacts of climate change on those natural and human systems upon which human health depends (e.g. air quality, water quality and quantity, food systems, weather systems, sea level).

References

U.S. Climate and Health Alliance	<p>Statement of Principles- Health in All Policies: Sustainable, resilient communities can only be achieved through mutually reinforcing changes in transportation, energy, housing, agriculture, commerce, water, health care, and other systems; collaboration across sectors and a “Health in All Policies” approach are thus required to ensure that systems are sustainable and aligned with the needs of both people today and future generations.</p> <p><i>(U.S. Climate and Health Alliance, Statement of Principles, February 2014;</i> http://usclimateandhealthalliance.org/about/statement-of-principles/)</p>
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Connect preservation of natural lands with climate resilience: expand wetlands, watersheds, recharge areas, streamside areas, and floodplains.

References

California Natural Resources Agency	California Natural Resources Agency, Safeguarding California includes action plans for Ocean and Coastal Resources and Ecosystems and Land Use and Community Development. <i>(California Natural Resources Agency, Safeguarding California, March 2016; http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/)</i>
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Support policies, programs, and funding to reduce heat islands, which are associated with increased levels of ozone as well as to create attractive shaded streets, including urban greening, green infrastructure, energy efficiency, and cool roofs and pavements.

References

<p>CDPH</p>	<p>Support urban greening and access to green spaces.</p> <p><i>(Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 3, 2010, 1.C1, page 9; http://sgc.ca.gov/pdf/HiAP_Task_Force_Executive_Summary_Dec_2010.pdf)</i></p>
<p>California Natural Resources Agency</p>	<p>Utilize green infrastructure, “low impact development” and low-energy strategies to manage building site storm water runoff, reduce the urban heat island effect, and cool indoor air. Examples include: installing rain gardens, bioswales, and solar-reflective/light-colored permeable pavements.</p> <p>Plant trees, vegetation (such as green walls and green roofs) , and use building shade to lower indoor air temperatures and alleviate the urban heart island effect.</p> <p><i>(California Natural Resources Agency, Safeguarding California, March 2016 Public Health Sector Plan, page 163; http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/)</i></p>
<p>California Office of Planning and Research</p>	<p>Increased urban greening and cool surfaces can decrease temperatures and lessen the effects of extreme heat. Green roofs can also produce health benefits by reducing exposure to heat and improving air quality. Healthy tree canopies can provide shade from heat, help carbon capture and improve air quality.</p> <p><i>(California Office of Planning and Research Draft General Plan Guidelines for Public Comment, 2015, page 222; https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/DRAFT_General_Plan_Guidelines_for_public_comment_2015.pdf)</i></p>

Establish a climate risk analysis for large-scale infrastructure investments.

References

<p>California Governor's Executive Order B-30-15</p>	<p>In April 2015, Governor Brown signed Executive Order B-30-15 establishing a 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels, addressing the need for climate adaptation, and directing State government to: Incorporate climate change impacts into the State's Five-Year Infrastructure Plan; Update the State's comprehensive strategy for safeguarding against climate impacts; Factor climate change from a lifecycle perspective into State agency planning and investment decisions; Implement measures under existing agency and departmental authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
	<p><i>(California Governor's Executive Order B-30-15, April 29, 2014;</i> https://www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18938)</p>

Estimate the economic and non-economic benefits of resilience investments.

References

Environmental Research Letters	Implications of Incorporating Air-Quality Co-Benefits into Climate Change Policy Making <i>(http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/5/1/014007/meta;jsessionid=F532D28A7B2CC918F1DB7D707ECAAB73.c2.iopscience.cld.iop.org)</i>
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