

About This Document

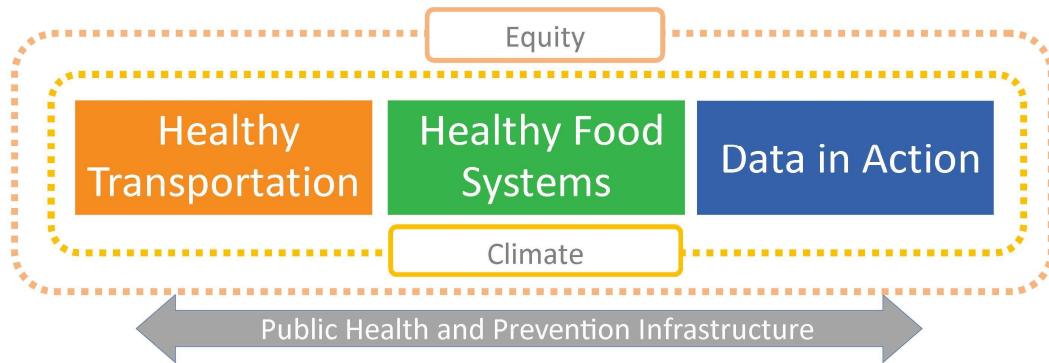
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction's legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority 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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Data 3.7

Provide timely, appropriately-scaled chronic disease data and proxy indicators to inform place-based decision-making. Work to make chronic disease data and proxy indicators publicly available at smaller geographies and provide shorter turnaround times between collection/surveillance and release.

References

CCLHO	<p>Timely, reliable, and valid information is fundamental to the effective and efficient operation of local health departments. Population-based public health data should be available at a relevant geographic level to facilitate planning to improve the health of the community, prevent outbreaks, and reduce premature deaths. It is increasingly important to move towards electronic submission of public health data, such as communicable disease reporting (including laboratory results), immunization registries, death registration, and chronic disease registries. Cogent analysis of data is needed for health officers to be able to promote the concept of “health in all policies” with local governments.</p> <p>(CCLHO Policy Platform, Fall 2010, page 25; https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cclho/Documents/CCLHOPolicyPlatform.pdf)</p>
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Data 3.8

Strengthen surveillance data for chronic disease incidence, prevalence, awareness, control and outcomes and facilitate access

References

California Health and Human Services Agency

The California Health and Human Services Agency ([CHHS](#)) has launched its Open Data Portal initiative in order to increase public access to one of the State's most valuable assets – non-confidential health and human services data. Its goals are to spark innovation, promote research and economic opportunities, engage public participation in government, increase transparency, and inform decision-making. "Open Data" describes data that are freely available, machine-readable, and formatted according to national technical standards to facilitate visibility and reuse of published data.

(*California Health and Human Services Agency Open Data Portal;*
<https://chhs.data.ca.gov/about>)