

About This Document

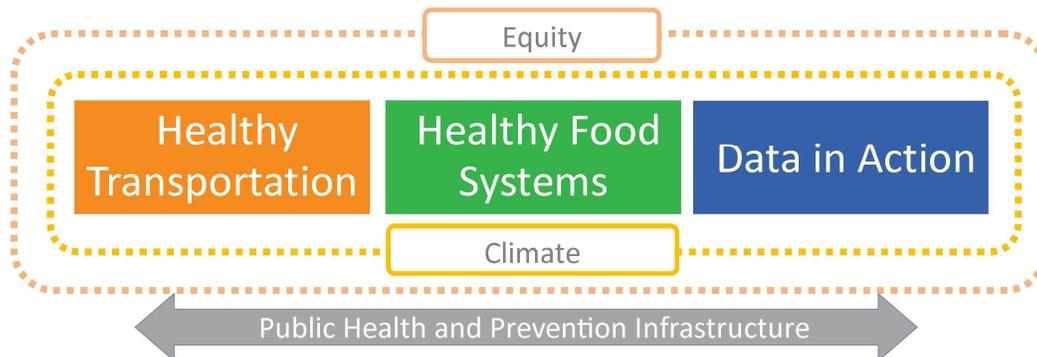
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority 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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Develop standardized indicators for healthy communities that are accessible both within public health, and for use by cross-sector partners and residents.

References

National Prevention Strategy	<p>Expand and increase access to information technology and integrated data systems to promote cross-sector information exchange. Identify and implement strategies that are proven to work and conduct research where evidence is lacking.</p> <p><i>(National Prevention Strategy – Healthy and Safe Community Environments, Recommendations 6 and 7;</i> http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/prevention/strategy/healthy-and-safe-community-environments.html)</p>
CDPH	<p>State agencies and their contractors, where feasible and appropriate, should incorporate health and health equity indicators into data collection tools and accountability measures, and endeavor to standardize data elements and indicators to facilitate data collection, sharing, and accessibility.</p> <p><i>(Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 3, 2010 – Promote Healthy Public Policy Recommendation II.C1, page 31;</i> http://sgc.ca.gov/pdf/HiAP_Task_Force_Report-Dec_2010.pdf)</p>
California Health Disadvantage Index	<p>The Public Health Alliance has developed a composite index to identify cumulative health disadvantage in California. The purpose of this Health Disadvantage Index (HDI) is to prioritize public and private investments, resources and programs. HDI includes diverse non-medical economic, social, political and environmental factors that influence physical and cognitive function, behavior and disease. These factors are often called health determinants or social determinants of health and form the root causes of disadvantage. Indicator data used for HDI comes from publicly available sources and is produced at a census tract level. HDI materials are freely available online for use by communities and public and private agencies.</p> <p><i>(Public Health Alliance of Southern California, Methodology for a California Health Disadvantage Index Version 1.1, January 26, 2016;</i> http://phasocal.org/ca-hdi/hdi-reports-data-files/)</p>

<p>CDPH Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project (HCI)</p>	<p>The Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project (HCI) enhances public health by providing data, a standardized set of statistical measures, and tools that multiple sectors can use for planning healthy communities and evaluation the impacts of plans, projects, policy, and environmental changes on community health.</p> <p><i>(California Department of Public Health, Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project (HCI), revised 5/16/12;</i> http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Documents/CDPH_Healthy_Community_Indicators1pager5-16-12.pdf)</p>
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Encourage coordination of community needs assessments and implementation plans between hospitals, health departments, workforce housing providers and other sectors.

References

<p>NACCHO</p>	<p>NACCHO is committed to helping local health departments strategically align community health assessments with other assessment initiatives such as those of non-profit hospitals.</p> <p><i>(NACCHO Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning;</i> http://www.naccho.org/programs/public-health-infrastructure/community-health-assessment)</p>
<p>Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)</p>	<p>The IRS published the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and implementation strategies final rules on December 31, 2014 for tax-exempt hospitals as a result of the Affordable Care Act. These assessment and strategies provide an opportunity to improve hospital community benefits and meet the needs of their communities. CHANs must take into account input from persons who represent the community served by the hospital facility as well as those with special knowledge or expertise in public health.</p> <p><i>(Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Health Systems Transformation, Community Health Needs Assessment, downloaded June 2016;</i> http://www.astho.org/Programs/Access/Community-Health-Needs-Assessments/)</p>