

About This Document

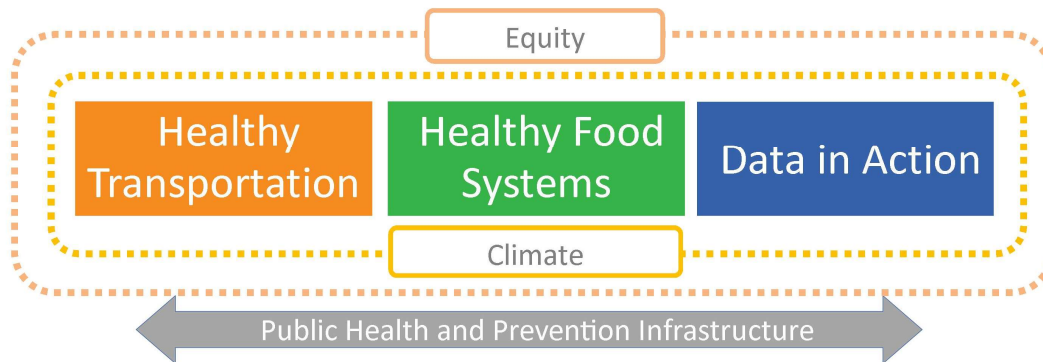
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority 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 and standardize Social Determinants of Health measures to prioritize funding for health disadvantaged areas.

<p>California Health Disadvantage Index</p>	<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; http://phasocal.org/ca-hdi/hdi-reports-data-files/)</i></p>

Support prioritization of resources toward disadvantaged communities based on socio-economic metrics.

References

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Include social determinants of health and health disparities in data collection tools and accountability measures, both within health and in non-health sectors.

References

<p>National Prevention Strategy</p>	<p>Increase availability and use of prevention research to identify effective environmental, policy, and systems [sic] that reduce chronic diseases, promote safety, and eliminate health disparities.</p> <p><i>(National Prevention Strategy, 2011 – Healthy and Safe Community Environments, Actions;</i> http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/prevention/strategy/healthy-safe-environments.pdf<i>)</i></p>
<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</p>	<p>Increase the availability and quality of data collected and reported on racial and ethnic minority populations. The capacity of HHS to identify disparities and effectively monitor efforts to reduce them is limited by a lack of specificity, uniformity, and quality in data collection and reporting procedures. Consistent methods for collecting and reporting health data by race, ethnicity, and language are essential.</p> <p><i>(HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, 2011 – Goal IV: Advance Scientific Knowledge and Innovation, Strategy IV.A, page 29;</i> http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/files/plans/hhs/hhs_plan_complete.pdf<i>)</i></p>
<p>California Health and Safety Code</p>	<p>Conduct demographic analyses on health and mental health disparities and inequities ... include, to the extent feasible, an analysis of the underlying conditions that contribute to health and well-being.</p> <p><i>(Office of Health Equity Statute, Section 131019.5 of the California Health and Safety Code;</i> http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=hsc&group=130001-131000&file=131000-131020<i>)</i></p>
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Support efforts to integrate interventions related to the social determinants of health into health care financing and delivery.

References

<p>Let's Get Healthy California</p>	<p>Significant health disparities or differences in health outcomes exist by race/ethnicity, income, educational attainment, geography, sexual orientation and gender identify and occupation. These disparities related to differences in social, economic and environmental conditions as well as to issues within the healthcare system. Efforts to address many of the goals and indicators of Let's Get Healthy California such as infant mortality, asthma or obesity, will need to reach beyond the boundaries of the traditional health and health care sectors and take a multi-sectoral approach.</p> <p><i>(Let's Get Healthy California Taskforce Final Report, December 19, 2012, page 1, 25;</i> http://www.chhs.ca.gov/LGHC/___Let%27s%20Get%20Healthy%20California%20Task%20Force%20Final%20Report.pdf)</p>
<p>National Prevention Strategy</p>	<p>Reduce disparities in access to quality health care.</p> <p><i>(National Prevention Strategy, 2011- Elimination of Health Disparities;</i> http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/prevention/strategy/elimination-of-health-disparities.html)</p>