

## About This Document

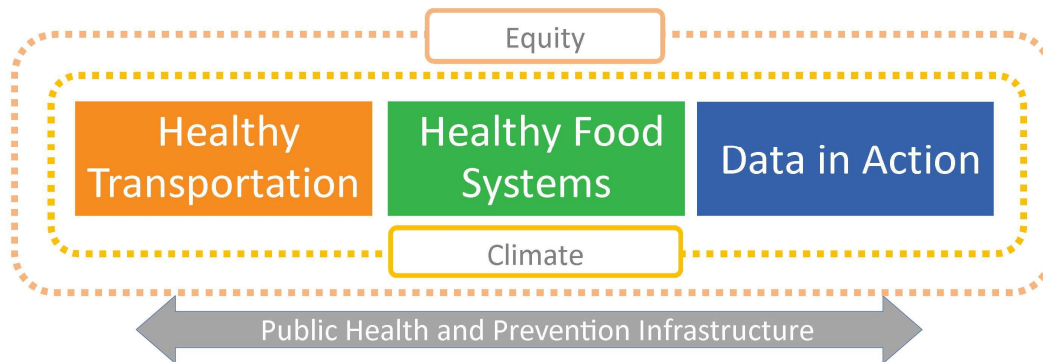
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority 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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**Support initiatives that provide funding for comprehensive rehabilitation, recidivism, and diversion programs for individuals at high risk of incarceration.**

References

US Department of Justice	<p>In the past 20 years, state and local spending on corrections has grown at a rate faster than nearly any other budget item. Despite increasing corrections expenditures, recidivism rates remain high, with half of all persons released from prison returning within 3 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Further, every state has a handful of high-risk communities to which most ex-offenders return, which places significant financial burdens on already strapped local jurisdictions. In recent decades, justice responses to crime relied substantially on incarceration strategies alone, resulting in exponential growth in:</li><li>• Incarceration Rates. Approximately 2.3 million American adults are currently incarcerated in federal, state, and local prisons and jails.</li><li>• Corrections Spending for State, Local, and Tribal Governments. State corrections spending has increased over the past 20 years from \$12 billion in 1987 to \$48 billion in 2007,<sup>3</sup> while local corrections spending has increased from \$6 billion to \$24 billion during the same time period.</li><li>• Probation and Parole Rates. Approximately 5.1 million Americans are currently on probation or parole, more than triple those reported in 1982.<sup>5</sup> These expensive and unsustainable approaches also lead to jail and prison overcrowding, budget constraints within the justice system and local government, and overwhelmed community supervision agencies, programs, and service systems left to supervise high numbers of clients.</li><li>• BJA's Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) is a strategic and data-driven process that helps state, local, and tribal communities better assess their systems and implement policy options that generate and reinvest substantial cost savings.</li></ul> <p><i>(Improving Criminal Justice and Reducing Recidivism Through Justice Reinvestment 2011 US Department of Justice: Office of Justice Program, Bureau of Justice Assistance.</i> <a href="https://www.bja.gov/Publications/JRI_FS.pdf/">https://www.bja.gov/Publications/JRI_FS.pdf/</a>)</p>
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