

About This Document

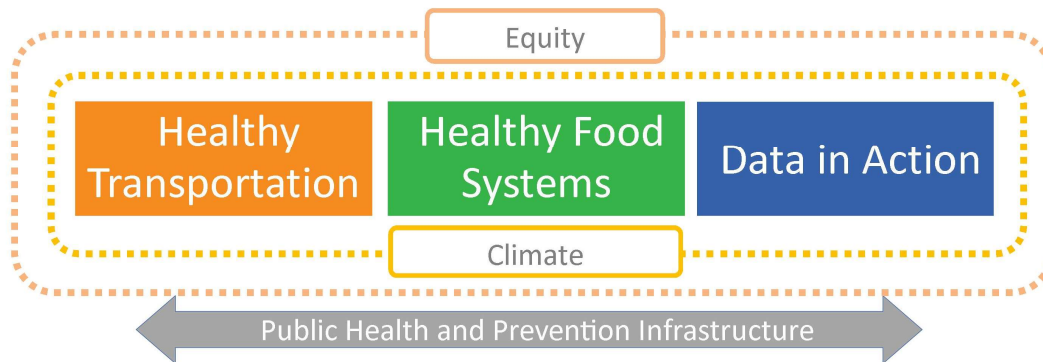
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority 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 policies and programs to reduce the unjust impact of violence in communities.

References

<p>CDC</p>	<p>Veto Violence a national initiative led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent youth violence. The Veto Violence website: http://vetoviolenecdc.gov/resources pulls together information from multiple sources to help communities connect with evidence-based youth violence prevention approaches. The strategies included have been rigorously evaluated and shown to impact factors for youth violence and/or lower the occurrence of youth violence.</p>
<p>HHS Task Force for Community Preventative Services</p>	<p>The Community Guide includes recommendations for preventing youth violence based on systematic reviews of evidence-based strategies.</p> <p><i>(HHS Task Force for Community Preventative Services The Community Guide for Violence Prevention: http://www.thecommunityguide.org/violence/index.html accessed 6/23/16)</i></p>
<p>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)</p>	<p>The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) supports NREPP to help connect the public to information about evidence-based approaches that promote mental health, prevent substance abuse, and treat mental health and substance abuse. The registry includes interventions with violence outcomes.</p> <p><i>(SAMHSA The National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/)</i></p>

Support efforts to reduce gun-related injury and death by strengthening background checks, limiting access to high capacity magazines and assault-style weapons, and participating in gun buy-back/take back programs.

References

Urban Institute	<p>“Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis” John Hopkins University Press 2013. Academic researchers unanimously agreed on basic strategies including: 1) Establish mandatory universal background-check system and prohibit “high-risk” individuals from obtaining guns such as: (individuals on the terrorist watch list, violent individuals with restraining orders, accelerate laws to keep violent and mentally ill from having guns) 2) Appoint a permanent director to ATF with authority to develop sanctions against those that violate laws 3) encourage research on “personalized” guns and gun triggers 4) ban assault weapons, carefully defined, and with them magazines that fire more than ten rounds and 5) fund research to build evidence on causes and solutions of gun violence.</p> <p><i>(Urban Institute, How Are Income and Wealth Linked to Health and Longevity?, April 2015, page 5; http://www.urban.org/research/publication/how-are-income-and-wealth-linked-health-and-longevity)</i></p>
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