

About This Document

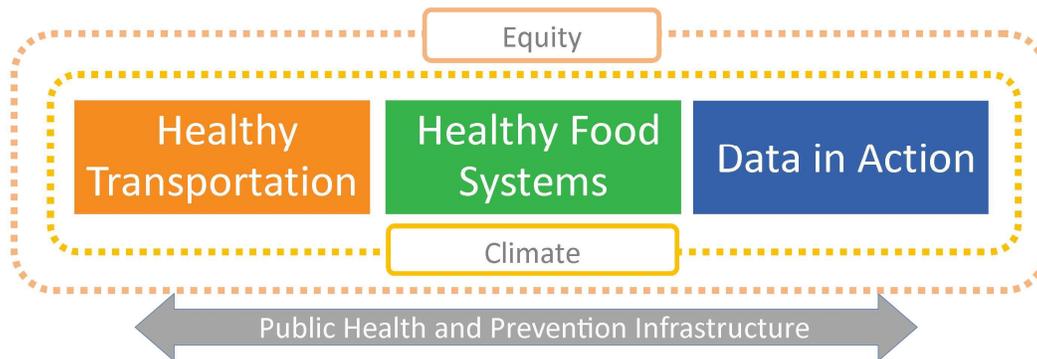
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority 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 a healthcare system that is accessible and affordable for all and which prioritizes prevention.

References

National Prevention Strategy/US Surgeon General	Working together to improve the health and quality of life for individuals, families, and communities by moving the nation from a focus on sickness and disease to one based on prevention and wellness. <i>(National Prevention Strategy 2011</i> http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/prevention/strategy/report.pdf)
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Support efforts to integrate interventions related to the social determinants of health into health care financing and delivery.

References

<p>Kaiser Family Foundation</p>	<p>Recently there has been increasing recognition of the importance of social determinants of health. A growing number of initiatives are emerging to address these broader determinants of health and develop integrated solutions within the context of the health care delivery system.</p> <p><i>(Beyond Health Care: The Role of Social Determinants in Promoting Health and Health Equity Issue Brief The Kaiser Family Foundation Nov 2015 http://kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/beyond-health-care-the-role-of-social-determinants-in-promoting-health-and-health-equity/)</i></p>
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Support the engagement of healthcare providers, public health systems, and other community partners in accountable communities for health at the local or regional level, with the goal of improving the health of defined populations.

References

<p>Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Health Services</p>	<p>The Accountable Health Communities (AHC) model addresses a critical gap between clinical care and community services in the current health care delivery system by testing whether systematically identifying and addressing the health-related social needs of beneficiaries’ impacts total health care costs, improves health, and quality of care. In taking this approach, the Accountable Health Communities model supports the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Service’s (CMS) “better care, smarter spending, and healthier people” approach to improving health care delivery.</p> <p><i>Informational page on Accountable Communities for Health Model:</i> https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/AHCM</p>
	<p>-Please also refer to references in 6.6 of this document.-</p>

Support the coverage by health insurers of evidence-based disease prevention and self-management programs including diabetes prevention, tobacco cessation, asthma and other chronic disease self-management and other programs.

References

National Council On Aging	<p>Support the coverage by health insurers of evidence-based disease prevention and self-management programs including diabetes prevention, tobacco cessation, asthma and other chronic disease self-management and other programs.</p> <p>Based on a recent national study of Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP), the program resulted in significant, measurable improvements in the health and quality of life of adults with chronic diseases. CDSMP also appears to save enough through reductions in health care expenditures to pay for itself within the first year.</p> <p><i>(National Council on Aging https://www.ncoa.org/news/resources-for-reporters/get-the-facts/chronic-disease-facts/ Accessed 6/23/16)</i></p>
CDC	<p>CDSMP is an effective self-management education program for people with chronic health problems. The program specifically addresses arthritis, diabetes, lung and heart disease, but teaches skills useful for managing a variety of chronic diseases. This program was developed at Stanford University. Centers for Disease Control- Recommended Programs.</p> <p><i>(http://www.cdc.gov/arthritis/interventions/self_manage.htm Accessed 6/23/16)</i></p>

Support efforts that recognize special needs of persons with disabilities and support engagement of the disabled community to create appropriate policies and services.

References

<p>Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship</p>	<p>Research acknowledges the importance of direct involvement of people with disabilities in all aspects of policy debates, and civic engagement is one means in which to create or influence change. For people with disabilities, civic engagement can help to create self-efficacy, promote social integration, and develop personal interests..... Increasing the engagement of people with disabilities will ensure that new policies do not continue the cycles of political marginalization historically experienced by this population.</p> <p><i>(Civic Engagement and People with Disabilities: The role of advocacy and technology 2012 Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship; http://jces.ua.edu/civic-engagement-and-people-with-disabilities-the-role-of-advocacy-and-technology/ Accessed 6/23/16)</i></p>
<p>Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division</p>	<p>Engagement with people with disabilities and their families, disability advocates, and other community stakeholders has informed all aspects of our work and has helped us develop sustainable remedies that address the concerns and priorities of each individual community.</p> <p><i>(“Expanding Opportunity in the Community for People with Disabilities” https://www.ada.gov/disability-rights-accomplishments.htm Accessed 6/23/16 Americans with Disabilities Act)</i></p>

4.18 Support efforts to advance cultural and linguistic appropriateness in planning, outreach and communication.

References

Office of Planning and Research

Robust community engagement to capture all voices within the community from the beginning of the general plan update is vital to creating a shared vision with significant community support, creating a plan that is more likely to acknowledge community challenges and accurately account for existing community assets.

Robust community engagement is a vital component of drafting and updating a general plan. When a general plan is written or amended, state law requires the planning agency to “provide opportunities for the involvement of citizens, California Native American Indian tribes, public agencies, public utility companies, and civic, education, and other community groups,” which may include public agencies, public utility companies, community groups, and others through hearings or other appropriate methods (§65351). The law also requires that a jurisdiction make a diligent effort to include all economic groups when drafting, adopting and implementing its housing element (§65583). For the purposes of this chapter, the term “update” will refer to adopting new general plans as well as updating existing ones.

*(OPR 2016 General Plan Guidelines,
https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/DRAFT_General_Plan_Guidelines_for_public_comment_2015.pdf)*

Support policies to build cultural competency in healthcare delivery and public health approach.

References

CDC

Cultural competence is the **integration and transformation of knowledge** about individuals and groups of people **into specific standards, policies, practices, and attitudes** used in appropriate cultural settings to increase the quality of services; thereby producing **better outcomes**.

Principles of cultural competence include:

1. Define culture broadly.
2. Value clients' cultural beliefs.
3. Recognize complexity in language interpretation.
4. Facilitate learning between providers and communities.
5. Involve the community in defining and addressing service needs.
6. Collaborate with other agencies.
7. Professionalize staff hiring and training.
8. Institutionalize cultural competence.

CDC National Prevention Information Framework, Health Communications "Cultural Competence." <https://npin.cdc.gov/pages/cultural-competence>