

About This Document

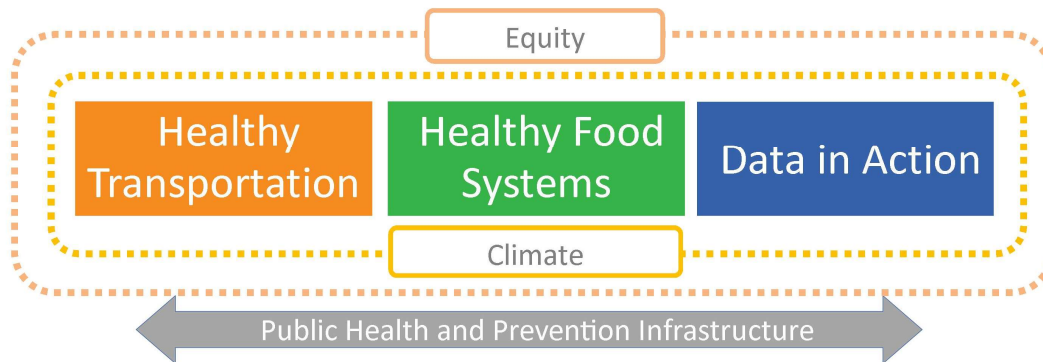
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority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

Contact Information:

PHASoCal.org · admin@PHASoCal.org · 619-452-1180

Support initiatives that provide funding to: 1) reduce and prevent homelessness; 2) expand the availability of permanent supportive housing that provide coordinated services; and 3) allow jurisdictions to maximize and leverage Federal, State and local funds to provide services for at-risk and homeless families and single persons.

References

US Interagency Council on Homelessness	<p>Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: Vision: no one should experience homelessness—no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home. Calls to end chronic homelessness, homelessness for families, youth and children 10 years and sets a path to end all types of homelessness.</p> <p><i>(United States Interagency Council of Homelessness Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness) Opening Doors is the nation’s first comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness. Opening Doors serves as a roadmap for joint action by the 19 USICH member agencies, including HHS, along with local and state partners in the public and private sectors.)</i></p>
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