

About This Document

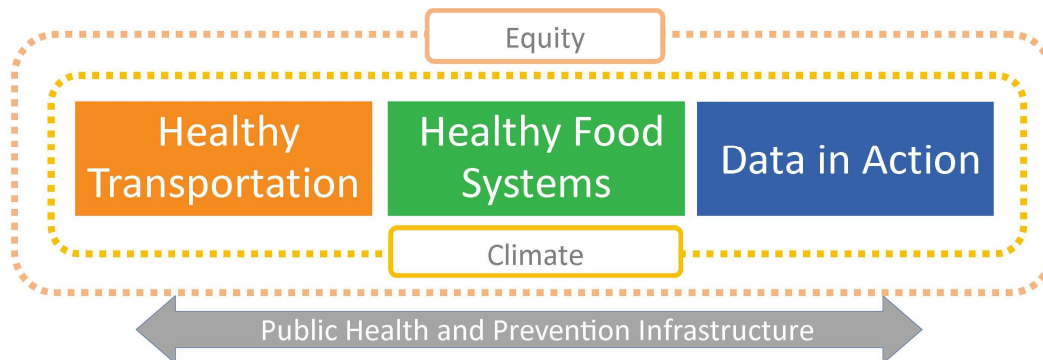
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority 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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Healthy Food Systems 2.1

Adopt procurement policies that increase access to and affordability of healthy foods and beverages, and as feasible promote sustainable, local, and water-wise food systems.

References

National Prevention Strategy	<p>Implement organizational and programmatic nutrition standards and policies. Such policies can be implemented in work sites, schools, early learning centers, institutional cafeterias/food service, hospitals, and living facilities for older adults, as well as within Federal and state-supported food services and programs. Such policies not only help people to make healthier food choices, but over time will lead to a wider variety of healthier products from which to choose.</p> <p><i>(National Prevention Strategy, 2011 – Healthy Eating Recommendation 2;</i> http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/prevention/strategy/healthy-eating.html)</p>
NACCHO	<p>Local governments should implement food procurement policies that discourage the consumption of sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs), increase healthy vending options, and include healthy eating guidelines.</p> <p><i>(NACCHO Statement of Policy 13-04, 2013 – Healthy Food Access;</i> http://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Policy-and-Advocacy/13-04-Healthy-Food-Access-2.pdf)</p>
CDPH	<p>Leverage government spending to support healthy eating and sustainable local food systems...[by adopting] healthy food procurement policy...to ensure that foods purchased for consumption or sale on State property (e.g., vending machines, institutions, cafeterias, concessioner contracts) meet minimum nutritional standards.</p> <p><i>(Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 3, 2010 – Healthy Eating Recommendation 1.E4, page 72;</i> http://sgc.ca.gov/pdf/HiAP_Task_Force_Report-Dec_2010.pdf)</p>
Los Angeles Food Policy Council	<p>The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) provides clear standards and strategic support to empower major institutions to procure local, sustainable, fair and humanely produced foods, while improving access to healthy, high-quality food for all communities.</p> <p>GFPP is a commitment by food service institutions to improve their regional food system by implementing meaningful purchasing standards in five key value categories: (1) local economies, (2) environmental sustainability, (3) valued workforce, (4) animal welfare, and (5) nutrition.</p> <p><i>(Los Angeles Food Policy Council, Good Food Purchasing Policy, 2012;</i> http://goodfoodla.org/policymaking/good-food-procurement/)</p>

<p>Los Angeles County</p>	<p>4.6 Public Health, 28.b. Support and/or sponsor legislation that promotes: increased affordability of fresh fruits and vegetables, specifically through financial incentives, subsidies and outreach to CalFresh recipients.</p> <p>28.c. Support and/or sponsor legislation that promotes: the development of pricing strategies that require vendors to increase prices on unhealthy sugar-sweetened beverages to offset decreased prices in healthy beverages as well as strategies that reduce cost for foods high in protein and lean in fat, including fish and poultry.</p> <p>28.e. Support and/or sponsor legislation that promotes: adopt, implement, or strengthen food procurement policies to increase access to healthy foods and beverages.</p> <p><i>(Los Angeles County 2015-16 State Legislative Agenda, Second Year, adopted December 8, 2015, page 36; http://ceo.lacounty.gov/IGR/PDF/FINAL%20VERSION%20-%20BOARD%20APPROVED_State%20Legislative%20Agenda%202nd%20Year%202015-16_Dec%208%202015.pdf)</i></p>
<p>City of Philadelphia, PA</p>	<p>Starting January 1, 2017, the City of Philadelphia will impose a 1.5 cents per ounce tax on the supply of sweetened beverages to retail dealers (example: regular and diet sodas, teas). The tax is also levied on syrups and concentrates used to make sweetened drinks.</p> <p><i>(City of Philadelphia, PA Sweetened Beverage Tax, downloaded June 2016; http://www.phila.gov/Revenue/businesses/taxes/Pages/SweetenedBeverageTax.aspx)</i></p>

Support strategies that establish access to water as a basic right.

References

World Health Organization	The human right to water is generally defined as a right to access water of sufficient cleanliness and in sufficient quantities to meet individual needs. <i>(World Health Organization, Water, Sanitation and Health, downloaded June 2016; http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/humanrights/en/index2.html)</i>
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Healthy Food Systems 2.3

Promote the ubiquitous availability of clean potable tap water, in a variety of settings.

References

CDC	<p>Basic water and sanitation services are important to overall health. Having in-home running water and flush toilets help to keep people healthy. These services reduce the spread of infectious diseases.</p> <p><i>(CDC Water and Sanitation, downloaded June 2016; http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/aip/water-sanitation.html)</i></p>
California Department of Education	<p>California Department of education is required to provide drinking water for students in schools during meal times to comply with California Senate Bill 1413.</p> <p><i>(California Department of Education; http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/he/water.asp)</i></p>
CDPH Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Branch	<p>Rethink Your Drink educates low-income Californians about healthy drink options including tap water; helps identify drinks with added sugar; and makes the health link between consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and health risks. At the same time, the Rethink Your Drink Campaign hopes to stimulate community-level partnerships and invite local environmental changes that will improve access, affordability and desirability of healthy beverages.</p> <p><i>(California Department of Public Health, Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Branch (NEOP); https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cpns/Pages/RethinkYourDrink.aspx)</i></p>
Public Health Alliance of Southern California	<p>Water Actions for Local Health Departments: Nutrition/NEOP, Ensure all schools and public places have access to safe drinking water as an alternative to sugar-sweetened beverages. Include safe drinking water availability and infrastructure in school wellness policies. Collaborate with Environmental Health to assess and remediate water quality concerns.</p> <p><i>(Public Health Alliance of Southern California, Water Actions for Local Health Departments: Nutrition/NEOP, 2015; http://phasocal.org/water-initiative/webinar-series-nutrition/)</i></p>

Integrate opportunities for healthy local food access into community design and land use and transportation planning, such as healthy food retail, community gardens, and agricultural land preservation.

References

<p>NACCHO</p>	<p>Local governments and planning agencies should integrate healthy food accessibility considerations into the community design process (land use planning, zoning, and the design of new community developments); communities should be designed to include fresh produce grocery stores, healthy corner stores, community gardens, food marts, and farmers' markets.</p> <p><i>(NACCHO Statement of Policy 13-04, 2013 – Healthy Food Access, page 1; http://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Policy-and-Advocacy/13-04-Healthy-Food-Access-2.pdf)</i></p>
<p>CCLHO</p>	<p>The built environment determines opportunity for the enjoyment of physical activity, good nutrition, safety, clean air and clean water.</p> <p>Inclusion of public health policy in county and city general plans and ordinances to promote access to good nutrition and physical activity;</p> <p>Land use policy that preserves agriculture lands for production of nuts, fruits, and vegetables.</p> <p><i>(CCLHO Policy Platform, Fall 2010, page 12; https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cclho/Documents/CCLHOPolicyPlatform.pdf)</i></p>
<p>Let's Get Healthy California</p>	<p>Increase the number of healthy food outlets is a priority for creating healthy communities. This priority will be tracked using the Retail Food Environment Index which describes how well the community environment supports children and adults in making healthy food choices.</p> <p><i>(Let's Get Healthy California Task Force Report, December 2012, page 22; http://www.chhs.ca.gov/LGHC/___Let%27s%20Get%20Healthy%20California%20Task%20Force%20Final%20Report.pdf)</i></p>

<p>Healthy People 2020</p>	<p>Access and availability of healthy foods can help people follow healthful diets. Two Nutrition and Weight Status objectives relate to food retail outlets: Increase the number of state-level policies that incentivize food retail outlets to provide foods that are encouraged by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans; and increase the proportion of Americans who have access to a food retail outlet that sells a variety of foods that are encouraged by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.</p> <p><i>(Healthy People 2020; https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/nutrition-and-weight-status)</i></p>
<p>Los Angeles County</p>	<p>4.6 Public Health, 22. Support proposals that increase the availability and marketing of healthy, local and affordable foods and beverages by expanding access to and increasing the number of grocery stores, farmers’ markets and community gardens, especially in low-income communities, and by increasing availability and promotion of healthy food options available at grocery stores, corner convenience stores, mobile food facilities, restaurants, and locations at or near schools.</p> <p><i>(Los Angeles County 2015-16 State Legislative Agenda, Second Year, adopted December 8, 2015, page 35; http://ceo.lacounty.gov/IGR/PDF/FINAL%20VERSION%20-%20BOARD%20APPROVED_State%20Legislative%20Agenda%202nd%20Year%202015-16_Dec%208%202015.pdf)</i></p>