

About This Document

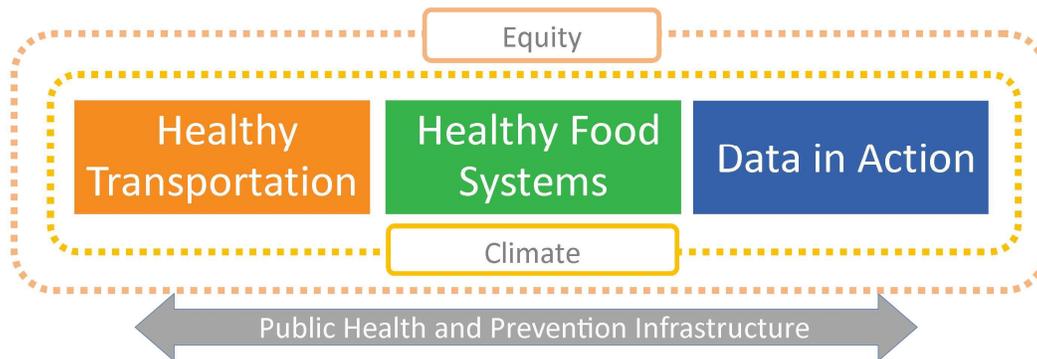
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority 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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Integrate public health into transportation and land use planning, funding and decision-making by standardizing the use of public health data in these processes.

References

<p>American Public Health Association</p>	<p>Calls for improving public and public health participation in transportation and land-use decisions, establishing transparent and appropriately timed evaluation processes of transportation and land use plans and policies, and establishing a process to assess the health impacts of proposed transportation and land-use plans, policies, and projects.</p> <p>Supports research initiatives to evaluate the determinants within the built environment of adverse as well as beneficial public health impacts.</p> <p>Calls for better data collection by transportation agencies on the availability, use and users of non-motorized transportation.</p> <p><i>(http://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/02/14/17/creating-policies-on-land-use-and-transportation-systems-that-promote-public-health)</i></p>
<p>California Office of Planning and Research</p>	<p>Adding a health lens to the planning process can lead to better health outcomes. Many health-related policies also promote economic, equity and climate resilient goals. Incorporating health data creates and opportunity to conduct a more comprehensive existing conditions analysis and serves as a means to provide baseline data to track progress for the social, economic and environmental factors that impact health.</p> <p><i>(California Office of Planning and Research Draft General Plan Guidelines for Public Comment, 2015, page 231;</i> <i>https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/DRAFT_General_Plan_Guidelines_for_public_comment_2015.pdf)</i></p>
<p>California Planning Roundtable</p>	<p>Public health data can help planners better understand the distribution of resources and opportunities in a particular community in order to determine priorities.</p> <p><i>(The Social Determinants of Health for Planners: Live, Work, Play, Learn! A Paper by the California Planning Roundtable, Healthy Communities Workgroup, Social Determinants of Health Subcommittee, October 2015, page 6;</i> <i>http://www.cproundtable.org/publications/social-determinants-health-planners/)</i></p>

Improve data collection related to active transportation modes, including mode split, current active transportation funding levels, and projected needs, so that data is equally collected for all modes of transport. Encourage investment in survey oversamples and new data collection methods to capture Active Transportation data with sufficient sample size to assess mode share.

References

CDC	<p>Data and evaluation are critical to ensure that we have robust information on the impact of transportation systems on health as well as to determine whether interventions have their intended effect. Support public health data collection and analysis activities for active transportation and public transportation. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved specificity of external cause-of-injury codes for transportation-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits to capture information on traffic-relatedness, vehicle type, and occupant statusComprehensive counts of deaths and improved data estimates of injuries related to all modes of transportation, including pedestrians and bicyclistsSystematic counts of users of all modes of transportation, including pedestrians and bicyclistsTargeted community level data to track the impact of policies, programs, and servicesEnhance travel demand modeling capability to reflect all modes of transportation <p><i>(CDC Recommendations for Improving Health through Transportation Policy, 2010, page 8; http://www.cdc.gov/transportation/docs/FINAL%20CDC%20Transportation%20Recommendations-4-28-2010.pdf)</i></p>
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I.A1. Utilize data to improve community planning and increase active transportation.

a. Use available tools and data (e.g., the California Household Travel Survey, California Statewide Travel Demand Model, and regional models) to enhance community and transportation planning and understand health impacts of transportation options and mode shifts.

- i. Map and assess transit and non-motorized transit access to essential destinations (e.g., parks, schools, health care facilities), including inequities in transportation access.
- ii. Determine inequities by demographics such as income, race, and disability and encourage use of this data by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) in transportation planning models.
- iii. Assess and predict the health impacts associated with increases in active transportation and decreases in motorized transport.

(Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 3, 2010 – Active Transportation Recommendation, page 25;

http://sgc.ca.gov/pdf/HiAP_Task_Force_Report_-_Dec_2010.pdf)