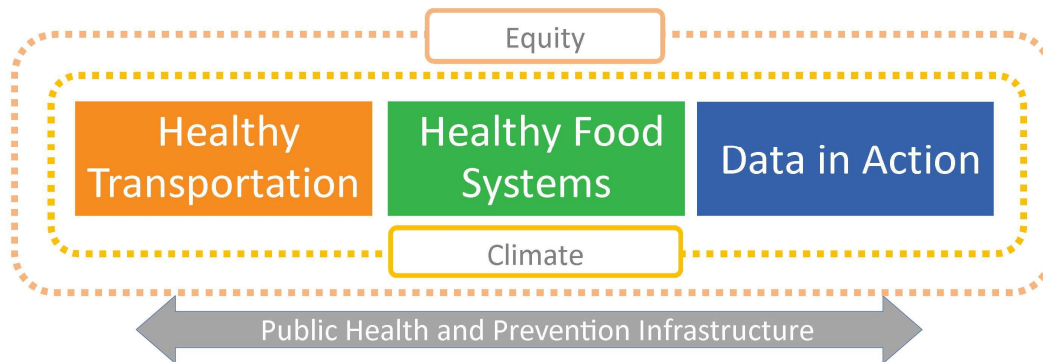## About This Document

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 resources that assure the availability of safe and affordable housing so that people of all incomes, ages and abilities can live in communities that promote health.

References

CDPH	Housing location affects access to resources such as parks, recreation, grocery stores with healthy food, jobs, schools, and other community necessities. By impacting access, housing location influences people's behaviors such as physical activity, healthy eating, and method of transportation, which in turn impact health. … State funding should be directed towards new housing that is accessible to community resources. Existing housing can also be made more accessible through policies that increase infill and transportation services. *(Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 3, 2010 – Recommendations Narrative, Housing and Indoor Spaces, page 48; http://sgc.ca.gov/pdf/HiAP_Task_Force_Report-_Dec_2010.pdf)*
National Prevention Strategy	Design and promote affordable, accessible, safe, and healthy housing. *(National Prevention Strategy, 2011 – Healthy and Safe Community Environments, Recommendation 2; http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/prevention/strategy/healthy-and-safe-community-environments.html)*
PolicyLink	"'Healthy housing' is a home where the physical, mental, and socioeconomic environment supports household members in making healthy choices, achieving educational and economic success, and engaging in robust social and cultural networks… It does not impose cost burdens that divert household income away from healthy food, medical care, or educational opportunities. It is located in healthy and well-resourced neighborhoods." *(Healthy Communities of Opportunity: An Equity Blueprint to Address America's Housing Challenges, PolicyLink and The Kresge Foundation, page 9, April 20, 2016, page 9; https://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/HCO_Web_Only.pdf)*
CHEAC	Support efforts, working with other sectors, to maintain and expand affordable, safe and stable housing. *(CHEAC 2016 Legislative Platform; http://www.cheac.org/page/Legislation/pdfs/legishs/2016/2016_Leg_Platform-Final.pdf)*

Support policies that promote high quality affordable housing production and preservation, including inclusionary housing policies, production of affordable housing on publicly-owned land, and increased financing of affordable housing, and policies streamlining the construction of affordable housing near transportation options and employment areas.

References

Change Lab Solutions	Building In Healthy Infill provides useful strategies for city and county general plans that support healthy infill development in a diversity of communities. *(Building In Healthy Landfill, Change Lab Solutions, 2014;* *http://www.changelabsolutions.org/publications/building-healthy-infill)*
CDPH	Encourage sustainable development through healthy housing by offering incentives and providing State guidance. Explore secure and permanent funding for affordable housing. Promote sustainable development through smart housing siting. *(Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 3, 2010-Housing and Indoor Spaces Recommendations 1.B1, 1.B2 and 1.B3, page 26;* *http://sgc.ca.gov/pdf/HiAP_Task_Force_Report-_Dec_2010.pdf)*
California Association of Housing Authorities (CAHA)	Community revitalization and development programs help state and local governments provide affordable housing to low-income families. Programs include the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), USDA Rural Housing and Homeless Assistance Grants. CAHA supports fully funding the HOME Program to pre-2010 levels; fully funding the CDBG Program to pre 2010 levels; supporting full capitalization of the National Housing Trust Fund; providing necessary appropriations to sustain renewal of one year for the Section 521 Rural Housing Program contracts; and fully funding HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants. *(California Association of Housing Authorities, Legislative Focus 2016 downloaded in June 2016; http://www.cahahousing.org/CAHA2016Legislative%20Focus.pdf)*

Support policies to increase effectiveness of California's Housing Element and Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process in creating adequate affordable housing supplies.

References

California Department of Housing and Community Development	California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is required to allocate the region's share of the statewide housing need to Councils of Governments (COG) based on Department of Finance population projections and regional population forecasts used in preparing regional transportation plans. The COG develops a Regional Housing Need Allocation Plan (RHNA-Plan) allocating the region's share of the statewide need to cities and counties within the region. The RHNA-Plan should promote the following objectives: Increase the housing supply and the mix of housing types, tenure and affordability in all cities and counties within the region in an equitable manner; Promote infill development and socioeconomic equity, the protection of environmental and agricultural resources, and the encouragement of efficient development patterns; and Promote an improved intraregional relationship between jobs and housing. *(California Department of Housing and Community Development Regional Housing Needs Assessment downloaded July 2016; http://www.hcd.ca.gov/housing-policy-development/housing-element/hn_phn_regional.php)*
SCAG	To comply with California state housing law, jurisdictions within California must update their housing element every eight (8) years. In addition to providing a sites and zoning analysis to accommodate the projected housing need as determined by the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation Plan, jurisdictions are required to assess their existing housing needs. Housing elements for the 5th planning cycle (October 2013 to October 2021) must be submitted by jurisdictions within the SCAG region to the California Department of Housing and Community Development by October 15, 2013. *(SCAG Regional Transportation Plan, Housing Elements 2012; http://rtpscs.scag.ca.gov/Pages/Housing-Elements-2012.aspx)*
SANDAG	The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Plan for the San Diego region describes the methodology developed to allocate the region's housing needs in four income categories (very low, low, moderate and above moderate) to the 18 cities and county unincorporated area. The RHNA Plan also discusses the housing issues in the region, the 2050 Regional Growth Forecast and the relationship of the RHNA to the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. *(SANDAG Regional Housing Needs Assessment Plan, 2010-2020, Final October 28, 2011; http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_1661_14392.pdf)*

Implement value-capture strategies, including tax-increment financing, to ensure equitable development around public transportation investments.

References

Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Value capture is a type of public financing that uses some or all of the value credited by the public infrastructure (transportation, sewer and water facilities) as these facilities increase adjacent land values and generate increased property values for private land owners and increased local government tax collections. *(Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Understanding Value Capture as a Transportation Financing Strategy in Massachusetts, March 2013;* *http://www.mbta.com/uploadedfiles/About_the_T/Panel/MAPCValueCaptureMemo.pdf)*
American Public Transportation Association	Value capture investments like special assessment districts, tax increment financing, impact fees, joint development, air rights sale and split-rate property taxes allow jurisdictions to collect revenue in specific land use areas and direct the revenue toward specific projects. *(American Public Transportation Association, Policy Development and Research, August 2015;* *https://www.apta.com/resources/reportsandpublications/Documents/APTA-Value-Capture-2015.pdf)*
Puget Sound Regional Council	Value Capture Financing in Washington provides an analysis of value capture financing methods and tools in Washington State and around the United States for developing infrastructure and affordable housing that support transit investments. This report is published by the Puget Sound Regional Council. *(Value Capture Financing in Washington, Puget Sound Regional Council, February 2013, Executive Summary, page 1;* *http://www.psrc.org/assets/9065/ValueCaptureFinancingReport113-printing.pdf)*

CA SB 628B 2014 Beall—Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts	This bill would…authorize the legislative body of a city or a county, defined to include a city and county, to establish an enhanced infrastructure financing district, adopt an infrastructure financing plan, and issue bonds, for which only the district is liable, upon approval by 55% of the voters; to finance public capital facilities or other specified projects of communitywide significance, including, but not limited to, brownfield restoration and other environmental mitigation; the development of projects on a former military base; the repayment of the transfer of funds to a military base reuse authority; the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing for persons of low and moderate income for rent or purchase; the acquisition, construction, or repair of industrial structures for private use; transit priority projects; and projects to implement a sustainable communities strategy. The bill would also authorize an enhanced infrastructure financing district to utilize any powers under the Polanco Redevelopment Act. *(https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB628)*

Support policies that protect tenants and reduce risk of displacement in high cost housing markets.

References

California Department of Consumer Affairs	California cities may have rent control ordinances that limit or prohibit rent increases or limit the circumstances in which a tenant can be evicted. *(California Department of Consumer Affairs, When You Have Decided to Rent, downloaded June 2016; http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/landlordbook/when-rent.shtml)*
Justa Causa ::Just Cause	Justa Causa :: Just Cause with health impact research and data and policy analysis contributed by the Alameda County Public Health Department, Health Impact Team. Six key principles with policies and practices for preventing displacement: (1) Baseline protections for vulnerable residents; (2) Production and preservation of affordable housing; (3) stabilization of existing communities; (4) non-market base approaches to housing and community development; (5) Displacement prevention as a regional priority; and (6) Planning as a participatory process. *(Development Without Displacement Resisting Gentrification in the Bay Area, Causa Justa :: Just Cause, April, 2014, page 59; http://www.cjjc.org/images/development-without-displacement.pdf)*

Support strategies that promote homeownership, asset development, and ladders into the middle class.

References

Urban Institute	Housing Policy Levers to Promote Economic Mobility identifies links between housing policy and economic mobility. The Paper explores five categories of housing policy levers that affect economic mobility including tax policy, block grants, rental assistance, fair housing and homeownership programs.
	(Urban Institute, Housing Policy Levers to Promote Economic Mobility, September 2015, page 6; http://www.urban.org/research/publication/housing-policy-levers-promote-economic-mobility/view/full_report)

Support re-investments in existing public housing.

References

California Association of Housing Authorities (CAHA)	More than 36,000 California households live in Public Housing and include children or household members who are elderly or disabled. Years of underfunding the program has had a deleterious effect on the Public Housing stock across California. CAHA supports fully funding Public Housing operating costs and capital needs; renewing funding for residents' service programs (Resident Opportunities and Supportive Services) and Family Self Sufficiency; continuing to prohibit HUD from requiring or enforcing the Physical Needs Assessment until funding for the Capital Fund increases; and providing $50 million to support Rental Assistance Demonstration conversions. *(California Association of Housing Authorities, Legislative Focus 2016, downloaded June 2016; http://www.cahahousing.org/CAHA2016Legislative%20Focus.pdf)*

Promote healthy indoor air quality in homes, and implement this best practice in publicly financed housing projects, and establish these best practices in private development projects.

References

| CCLHO | Indoor air quality should be considered in building design, modifications and construction and in ongoing maintenance and operations.

(CCLHO Policy Platform, Fall 2010, page 35; https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cclho/Documents/CCLHOPolicyPlatform.pdf) |
|---|---|
| U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) | HUD and the Federal Healthy Homes Workgroup developed five goals to achieve the vision to "substantially reduce the number of American homes with residential health and safety hazards." Goals include establishing healthy homes recommendations; encouraging adoption of the healthy homes recommendations; create and support training and workforce development to address health hazards in housing; educate the public about healthy homes; and support research that enforces and advances healthy housing in a cost-effective manner.

(Advancing Healthy Housing: A Strategy for Action, Report from the Federal Healthy Homes Workgroup, 2013, page 7; http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=ExecSummary013113.pdf) |
| Healthy People 2020 | People spend most of their time at home, work or school. Some of these environments may expose people to indoor air pollution and lead based paint hazards. Maintain healthy homes and communities is essential to environmental health.

(Healthy People 2020; https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/environmental-health) |

Support the development of age-diverse communities with flexible housing types, schooling, child/elder care and transportation options to allow residents to remain in place throughout their lives.

References

American Planning Association	Multigenerational planning is an approach that considers the needs of all age groups throughout all planning stages. The approach strives to make cities and neighborhoods accessible, safe and inclusive for children, youth and families; allows people to age in place; provides civic participation by older and younger generations; and takes into consideration the specific concerns of each age group.
	(American Planning Association, Multigenerational Planning: Using smart growth and universal design to link the needs of children and the aging population, 2011; https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy_resources/research/family/briefingpapers/pdf/multigenerational.pdf)

Support to policies that help aging individuals to remain independent in their homes with needed support for as long as possible ("aging in place").

References

CDC	Affordable, accessible and suitable housing options can allow older adults to age in place and remain in their community all their entire lives. Housing that is convenient to community destinations can provide opportunities for physical activity and social interaction. Communities with a safe and secure pedestrian environment, and near destinations such as libraries, stores, and places of worship, allow older adults to remain independent, active, and engaged. Combined transportation and land-use planning that offers convenient, accessible alternatives to driving can help the older adults reach this goal of an active, healthy lifestyle. *(CDC Healthy Aging and the Build Environment, downloaded June 2016; http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/healthyaging.htm)*
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)	Factors of livability are interrelated and have intergenerational impact—Community land-use, infrastructure, housing, transportation, supportive services, and health care play a part in creating livable communities and promoting successful aging in place. Coordinate activities and develop policies, programs, planning processes and decisions within these policy areas in order to eliminate barriers that exist between them. Elimination of barriers can promote livable communities that have positive intergenerational impact. *(The Policy Book: AARP Public Policies 2015-2016, Livable Communities; http://policybook.aarp.org/the-policy-book/chapter-9/sub047-1.3091801)*

Support 'Housing First' policies and the development of permanent, supportive housing to address chronic homelessness.

References

Economic Roundtable	Link housing strategies to cost savings – The cost map for single homeless adults developed through this study can guide cost effective housing strategies. *Economic Roundtable "Where We Sleep" Report., part of 10th decile project and tool on housing the homeless and avoided cost.*
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)	Factors of livability are interrelated and have intergenerational impact—Community land-use, infrastructure, housing, transportation, supportive services, and health care play a part in creating livable communities and promoting successful aging in place. Coordinate activities and develop policies, programs, planning processes and decisions within these policy areas in order to eliminate barriers that exist between them. Elimination of barriers can promote livable communities that have positive intergenerational impact. *(The Policy Book: AARP Public Policies 2015-2016, Livable Communities; http://policybook.aarp.org/the-policy-book/chapter-9/sub047-1.3091801)*