

2021 POLICY PLATFORM

The Public Health Alliance of Southern California (Alliance) 2021 Policy Platform outlines important and timely regional, state, and federal policy opportunities that can create transformative changes in our communities. This includes increasing resources and investments in local health departments; elevating health equity, prevention, and upstream social determinants of health approaches across sectors; ensuring an equitable and just COVID-19 response and recovery; and other priorities that are aligned with our [2019-2024 Strategic Plan](#) and [COVID-19 Rapid Response Policy Platform](#). We will use our resources to both accelerate paradigm shifts in public health practice, and mobilize power for healthier, sustainable and just communities. Together as a regional coalition, the Alliance aims to establish a legacy of enduring health equity across Southern California.

The 2019-2024 Strategic Plan identifies key strategies that work in concert to achieve the vision of vibrant and activated communities achieving health, justice, and opportunities for all. Policy opportunities are organized according to how they will work to advance the goals laid out in the strategic plan. Unless specified, all non-legislative items include engagement at the local, state and/or federal level, as appropriate. The Alliance Charter also allows us to take actions on policy items supported by the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) and the Health Officers Association of California (HOAC)/California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) without prior Leadership Council approval. Policy opportunities closely aligned with the Alliance strategic plan are included in the platform.



ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY

Everyone should have the opportunity and resources to live a healthy life. The Alliance positively contributes to a fair, just, inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future for all.



ELEVATE THE CLIMATE + HEALTH NEXUS

Everyone should be protected from the health impacts of climate change. The Alliance works to address the public health and equity nexus with climate change adaptation, mitigation, and recovery efforts.



CHAMPION PREVENTION FUNDING

Everyone should live in a place with adequate public health infrastructure to protect and promote community health and well-being. The Alliance advocates for sustainable local public health funding and innovative funding opportunities for community health investments.



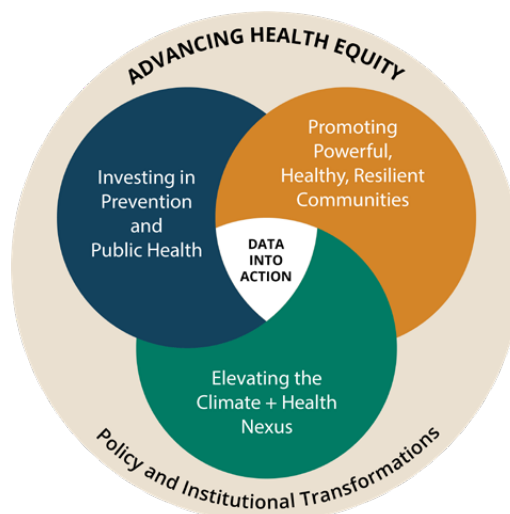
TRANSFORM DATA INTO ACTION

Everyone should have access to timely, accurate, and relevant data for their community. The Alliance makes high-quality social determinants of health data available and actionable for all advocates working to improve community conditions.



PROMOTE POWERFUL, HEALTHY, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Everyone should live in a place that offers them the opportunity and ability to lead their healthiest lives. The Alliance advances equitable policies such as economic wellbeing, nutritious food, active transportation, clean water, and affordable housing.





ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

- » Support increased resources for health departments to advance health equity and racial justice, including, but not limited to, funding to support the creation of robust, structurally funded equity teams in local health departments (LHDs).
- » Support efforts to integrate social determinants of health (SDOH) into state and federal funding, policies, department priorities and healthcare.
- » Support funding and policy efforts that aim to embed equity into all emergency response structures, recovery planning, and implementation processes.
- » Support funding and policy efforts that aim to support local health department community partnerships for robust equity solutions.
- » Support efforts that aim to reduce Black infant deaths and improve patient experience and safety for Black families.
- » Support community-informed policy and funding efforts that aim to improve health outcomes for Black, Indigenous and Other People of Color (BIPOC).
- » Support efforts to increase equitable health access, such as reforming Medi-Cal, including CalAIM and managed care plan contract re-procurement.
- » **SB 17** – Would declare racism a public health crisis and create a State Office of Racial Equity and a Racial Equity Advisory and Accountability Council to develop a statewide racial equity framework and strategies to address racial inequity across state government.
- » **SB 558** – Would establish the Farmworker Disaster Relief Planning Task Force to examine the needs of farmworkers, their families, and communities for immediate and long-term and equitable access to health care, safety net services, protection, and other social and economic relief during pandemics and disasters.
- » **AB 4** – Expands Medi-Cal to all undocumented adults with income at or below 138% federal poverty level (FPL).
- » **AB 1046** – Requires the CHHS Agency to consult with stakeholders to improve state and counties' abilities to draw down Medi-Cal funding for evidence-based maternal-infant and early childhood visiting encounters.
- » **AB 263** – Health Oversight and Leadership in Detention (HOLD) Act would require private detention facility operators to comply with and adhere to all local and state public health orders and occupational safety and health regulations.



CHAMPION PREVENTION FUNDING

- » Support increased resources for health departments.
- » Support efforts that protect and bolster the workforce of the public health field and professionals.
- » Support efforts to increase investments in public health departments from health care funding streams, including cost containment.
- » \$200 M Budget Request - Annual General Fund expenditure authority of \$200 million to support investments in stabilizing and addressing key needs and issues for local health departments.
- » Fully fund the Prevention and Public Health Fund (**HR 1583, S 571**) – Public Health Funding Prevents Pandemics Act would restore funding for the federal Prevention and Public Health Fund to its originally authorized level of \$2 billion starting in FY 2021 and for each year thereafter.
- » **S 104/HR 379** – The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2021 would create a SDOH program at CDC, including grants to states for a public health approach to SDOH.
- » Include \$50 million in funding for the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) **Social Determinants of Health Program** in FY 2022.
- » The **Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act (S 674)** would establish a Core Public Health Infrastructure Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), awarding grants to state, local, tribal and territorial health departments to ensure they have the tools, workforce, and systems in place to address existing and emerging health threats and reduce health disparities.
- » **AB 240** – Would require the State Department of Public Health to contract with an appropriate and qualified entity to conduct an evaluation of the adequacy of the local health department infrastructure and to make recommendations for future staffing, workforce needs and resources, in order to accurately and adequately fund local public health.



PROMOTE POWERFUL, HEALTHY, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Food Security & a Just and Resilient Food System

- » Support efforts that increase resources and provide policy opportunities that promote inter-generational and community food security and a just and resilient food system.
- » Support local, state and federal funding and policy efforts that aim to expand access to resources needed to meet immediate social needs during COVID-19 and beyond.
- » Support local, state, and federal funding and policy efforts that prioritize investments and resource allocation aimed at strengthening community resilience to public health and climate emergencies.
- » **AB 221** – Emergency Food Assistance – Provide food assistance benefits statewide to low-income California residents, regardless of their immigration status.
- » **SB 464** – Creates a permanent equitable state food assistance program by modernizing the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to provide state-funded nutrition benefits to all Californians ineligible for CalFresh solely due to their immigration status.
- » **AB 1160** – Authorizes Medi-Cal Managed Care plans, as part of CalAIM In-Lieu of Services (ILOS), to provide medically tailored meals to beneficiaries.

Economic Security, Justice, and Resiliency

- » Support efforts that improve the economic resilience and security of households.
- » **AB 22** – Expands Universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK) to all 4-year-olds, while also improving the quality and consistency of CA's existing TK program.

- » **AB 123** – Would ensure workers utilizing the state's Paid Family Leave program can receive 90% of their income during the period of their leave.

Housing Stability & Security

- » Support efforts that ensure people can live in quality, stable, safe and affordable housing.
- » **AB 16** – Would establish the Tenant, Small Landlord, and Affordable Housing Provider Stabilization Program to expands COVID-19 eviction protections and debt relief.
- » **AB 1487** – Establishes a comprehensive statewide eviction prevention program, including tenant education and outreach, and legal counsel.
- » **AB 880** – Establishes the Affordable Disaster Housing Revolving Development and Acquisition Program to develop or preserve affordable housing in the state's declared disaster areas that have experienced damage and loss of homes occupied by or affecting lower income households.
- » **SB 472** – Extends the sunset date of the "Pay for Success" state grant program, authorizes grant awards for five additional counties to implement successful anti-recidivism policies, and expands the program to focus on the nexus between recidivism and housing insecurity, substance abuse, and unemployment.
- » **AB 328** – Establishes Re-entry Housing Program by reallocating cost savings from recent and future prison closures towards housing and supportive services for formerly incarcerated people.



ELEVATE THE CLIMATE + HEALTH NEXUS

- » Support efforts that increase resources and provide policy opportunities to integrate health equity and public health infrastructure and coordination within local, state, and federal climate change initiatives.
- » Support efforts that increase resources and provide policy opportunities to integrate planning for and responding to the impacts of climate change into public health operations.
- » Support increased resources for active transportation (including ATP), transit-oriented affordable housing, and green infrastructure.
- » Support increased resources to fund for the California Climate Investment Program to advance health equity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- » **AB 585** – Climate Change: Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program would facilitate the implementation of regional and state climate change planning through competitive grants.
- » **SB 45** – Enacts the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, places a \$5.595 billion general obligation bond before voters in the November, 2022, general election.
- » **AB 73** – Would require CalOSHA to designate a wildfire smoke strike team within each regional office for purposes of enforcing regulations regarding air quality safety for agricultural workers, including stockpiling N95 respirators, and develop and distribute information on wildfire safety to agricultural employees in Spanish, English, and pictograms.
- » **AB 976** – Would establish the Resilient Economies and Community Health Pilot Program to create a comprehensive suite of coordinated incentives and services to disadvantaged communities to provide economic savings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, and improve resiliency to the impacts of climate change.
- » **AB 1087** – This bill would create an Environmental Justice Community Resilience Hubs Program, which would require each investor-owned utility (IOU) to award competitive grants to owners of critical community institutions and qualified housing for holistic community-driven building upgrade projects that demonstrate community engagement in all phases, demonstrate multi-stakeholder partnerships, reflect the geographic diversity of the state, and are installed on those properties.



TRANSFORM DATA INTO ACTION

- » Support the use of health equity metrics for local, state, and federal decision-making and resource allocation.
- » Support efforts that increase resources and provide policy opportunities to integrate SDOH and continued and amplified use of the Healthy Places Index (HPI).
- » Support integration of local health department stakeholders in state governance to inform the development of data policies, practices, and metrics.
- » Support efforts to modernize public health data infrastructure, including: development of data sharing protocols, standardizing data collection practices, and a commitment to transparency in public reporting.
- » Support policies and opportunities to develop a unified, bidirectional statewide health information exchange, with interoperability between state and local health departments, and healthcare and hospital systems.
- » Support efforts to establish effective, efficient, ethical and equitable data sharing agreements
- » Support the development of modern, flexible public health surveillance systems, including streamlined integration with provider reporting, case investigation, and contact tracing tools.
- » Support clear guidance and the development of electronic messaging standards for laboratories and other reporting entities to ensure timely, accurate data collection and interoperability with existing State and LHD data systems.
- » **AB 1492** – Directs Department of Housing and Community Development to designate “high opportunity areas” (places with high resources and low displacement risks) with the intent of affirmatively furthering fair housing and creating opportunities for multi-family and affordable housing in these areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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