

2024 POLICY PLATFORM

The [Public Health Alliance of Southern California](#) (Public Health Alliance) 2024 Policy Platform outlines important and timely regional, state, and federal policy opportunities that can create transformative changes in our communities. The platform builds off of the [2023 Policy Platform](#) and identifies new and emerging policies that have arisen in the past year, as well as new legislation and budget proposals for the 2024 session. This includes increasing resources and investments in local health jurisdictions; elevating health equity, prevention, and upstream Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) approaches across sectors; and other priorities that are aligned with our [Strategic Plan](#). 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 Public Health Alliance aims to establish a legacy of enduring health equity across Southern California. The 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 and aligned with the [Healthy Places Index](#) domain areas that contribute most to Life Expectancy at Birth (LEB). Unless specified, all non-legislative items include engagement at the local, state and/or federal level, as appropriate. The [Public Health 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 Public Health Alliance strategic plan are included in the platform.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE KEY IMPACT STRATEGIES



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.



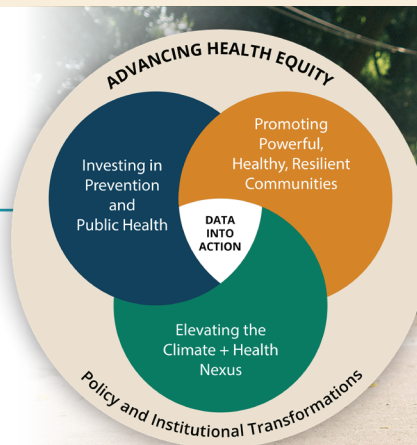
CHAMPION PREVENTION FUNDING

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.



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.



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 resilience efforts.



TRANSFORM DATA INTO ACTION

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

The Public Health Alliance will support policy actions that meet the general criteria outlined within each of the strategic plan areas, as well as specific legislation and budget requests included below. Many of the specific bills are also aligned with the Healthy Places Index Policy Action areas, which influence life expectancy at birth, and may have particular impact on improving community conditions. Associated HPI domain areas are indicated with the icons below each bill. Additionally, the Public Health Alliance will oppose any new mandates that lack specified, stable, and adequate funding commitments.



ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

General Policies

- » Support increased resources for local health jurisdictions to advance health equity and racial justice, including, but not limited to, funding to expand and sustain equity teams, and creating plans that advance health equity and racial justice in local health jurisdictions (LHJs).
- » Support efforts to integrate social drivers 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 for all types of shocks and stressors, including communicable diseases and climate-related emergencies.
- » Support funding and policy efforts that aim to support local health jurisdictions community partnerships for robust equity solutions.
- » Support efforts that aim to reduce maternal and infant deaths and improve the patient experience for families that have been most impacted by social inequities (i.e., Black and Indigenous women and birthing people).
- » 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 Medi-Cal Transformations and Managed Care Plan contracting and procurement.

Specific Policies

- » **SB 294†**: Would automatically refer life-threatening mental health treatment denials by private insurance companies to California's Independent Medical Review (IMR) process. This aims to remove barriers for youth accessing necessary mental health care by ensuring denials are independently reviewed without requiring families to initiate the process. The bill seeks to provide

equitable access to mental health treatment, especially for non-English speakers and those unfamiliar with the grievance system.



- » **AB 437**: Would require, to the extent allowed by law, every state agency and department prioritize inclusive practices to promote equity in all aspects of their operations.



- » **AB 2239†**: Would define digital discrimination of access as policies or practices, not justified by genuine issues of technical or economic feasibility, that differentially impact consumers' access to broadband internet access service based on their income level, race, ethnicity, color, religion, or national origin, or that are intended to have a differential impact. The bill would prohibit internet service providers, as defined, from engaging in digital discrimination of access.



- » **AB 3129†**: Will extend the California Attorney General's oversight authority to private equity and hedge fund acquisitions that result in changes in control of health facilities and groups of physicians and other health professionals. As private equity's role in health care grows and health care costs continue to skyrocket, this bill will give the Attorney General authority to act on behalf of consumers to protect access to affordable and quality health care when these transactions are proposed.



- » **SB 1396***: Extends the period in which the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program is allowed to provide services to a child for at least 24 months, and not to exceed the duration of the applicable home visiting program model.



* Indicates that the specific bill is supported by CHEAC and/or HOAC

† Indicates that the Alliance conditionally supports this bill as long as it remains un-opposed by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

HPI Domain Access: Healthcare Economic Education Neighborhood Clean Environment



CHAMPION PREVENTION FUNDING

General Policies

- » Support proposals to maintain and increase funding for LHJs, including the Future of Public Health initiative.
- » Support efforts to increase investments in LHJs from health care funding streams, including Medi-Cal and cost containment initiatives.
- » Support efforts to increase investments from multiple sectors that are aligned and coordinated with LHJs.
- » Support efforts to invest in and expand prevention strategies across public health and healthcare sectors.
- » Support efforts to recruit and retain the public health workforce and create an equitable and diverse workforce pipelines that protect and bolster the workforce of the public health field and professionals.
- » Support strategies that address workforce chronic stress, trauma and burnout
- » Support efforts to protect public health officials from threats, harassment and violence and support them in preserving public health authority.



Specific Policies

- » **AB 311* & SB 245***: Expands eligibility for the California Food Assistance Program from those age 55 and older, to all Californians that would otherwise be eligible for CalFresh but are disqualified due to their immigration status.



- » **AB 1975***: This bill aims to improve health outcomes and reduce costs by establishing medically supportive food and nutrition interventions, as defined, a covered benefit under the Medi-Cal program, through both the fee-for-service and managed care delivery systems, no sooner than July 1, 2026, upon appropriation and subject to federal approval and the issuance of final guidance by the department.



- » **AB 2466†**: Aimed at improving access to mental health services for children and youth under Medi-Cal, this bill seeks to establish timely access standards, forming part of the 2024 Care4All California legislative package focused on universal access, equity, and affordability in healthcare.



- » **SB 600***: Requires DSS, by January 1, 2025, to establish the CalFresh Minimum Nutrition Benefit (MNB) Program to provide additional state funded CalFresh benefits to ensure households receive a minimum monthly benefit of \$50.



- » **SB 1213***: Increases the family income eligibility percentage for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention program from 200% to 300% FPL (federal poverty level).



* Indicates that the specific bill is supported by CHEAC and/or HOAC

† Indicates that the Alliance conditionally supports this bill as long as it remains un-opposed by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

HPI Domain Access: Healthcare Economic Education Neighborhood Clean Environment



PROMOTE POWERFUL, HEALTHY, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Food Security & A Just and Resilient Food System

General Policies

- » Support upstream efforts that increase resources and provide policy opportunities that promote intergenerational 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 emergencies.
- » 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.

Specific Policies



- » **AB 1967***: Requires the Governor to appoint a Food Insecurity Officer within the State Department of Social Services. Requires the Food Insecurity Officer to coordinate and address food insecurity across state government operations and authorizes the Food Insecurity Officer to engage with state entities, including the Department of Health Care Services, California Department of Public Health, and stakeholders to combat food insecurity and access within state entities.

Economic Security, Justice, and Resiliency

General Policies

- » Support efforts that improve the economic resilience and security of households and communities, including family supporting wages, and expanded paid sick, family and medical leave.
- » Support efforts that enhance financial assistance for unemployed individuals and their families.

Specific Policies

- » **AB 2123***: Would remove the ability of employers to mandate that employees use vacation time before accessing paid family leave benefits. 
- » **AB 2104* & SB 895***: Requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program, to sunset on January 1, 2031, limited to 10 select community college districts 

statewide. Eligible districts will demonstrate equitable access, be located in underserved nursing areas and communities with persistent poverty.



- » **AB 2711***: Would prohibit expulsion and require specified conditions before suspending students attending a charter and public school for possessing drug paraphernalia, using or being under the influence of tobacco or tobacco products, a controlled substance, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, regardless of grade. Requires a school district to document the other means of correction used before suspending a pupil.



Housing Stability & Security

- » Support efforts that ensure people can live in quality, stable, safe and affordable housing that is connected to health supportive resources and community.
- » Support efforts that maintain and increase funding levels for affordable housing programs to prevent reductions in new affordable home construction, loss of economic opportunities, and missed federal housing resources.
- » Support efforts to enhance infrastructure as supports for people experiencing homelessness, including expanded housing and sheltering options, and dignified hygiene and service provision.

Specific Policies

- » **AB 1657**: The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024 aims to authorize \$10 billion in bonds for affordable rental housing, homeownership opportunities, and farmworker housing grants, addressing urgent housing needs if approved by voters.



- » **SB 225†**: Seeks to establish the Community Anti-Displacement and Preservation Program through a statewide contract. The primary aim of this bill is to address issues of displacement and ensure preservation efforts within communities, contributing to public health and safety initiatives by adding specific provisions to the Health and Safety Code.



* Indicates that the specific bill is supported by CHEAC and/or HOAC

† Indicates that the Alliance conditionally supports this bill as long as it remains un-opposed by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

HPI Domain Access:  Healthcare  Economic  Education  Neighborhood  Clean Environment



ELEVATE THE CLIMATE + HEALTH NEXUS

General Policies

- » 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 and programs at the state and local level.
- » Support increased resources for active transportation (including ATP), transit-oriented affordable housing, green infrastructure, and climate resilient communities.
- » Support increased resources to fund for the California Climate Investment Program to advance health equity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- » Support efforts that increase resources for community-driven climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience efforts.
- » Support efforts that prioritize investment and decision-making power of front line communities that disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change.

Specific Policies

- » **SB 1299:** Require swift relief and medical treatment to farm workers and their families affected by heat-related illnesses by ensuring timely compensation and encouraging adherence to heat safety regulations.



TRANSFORM DATA INTO ACTION

General Policies

- » Support the use of health equity metrics for local, state, and federal decision-making and resource allocation, including for hospitals and health plans.
- » Support efforts that increase resources and provide policy opportunities to integrate SDOH and continued and amplified use of the Healthy Places Index (HPI).
- » 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 inclusion of “self-identification” field options for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) and race/ethnicity in health care, contact tracing, and other clinical data systems.
- » Support efforts to collect and report geographically disaggregated data (sub-county, census tract) and data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, SOGI, people experiencing homelessness, and tribal affiliation.
- » Support “community right-to-know” policies that allow for the collection and reporting of granular, spatially-refined and disaggregated data.
- » Support development of best practices for protecting confidentiality and preventing re-identification when reporting data on small communities or rare outcomes.
- » Support development of best practices for community engaged, culturally-sensitive data collection, communication, and reporting.

* Indicates that the specific bill is supported by CHEAC and/or HOAC

† Indicates that the Alliance conditionally supports this bill as long as it remains un-opposed by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

HPI Domain Access: Healthcare Economic Education Neighborhood Clean Environment

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Savannah North

Director of Operations & Climate Initiatives
snorth@phi.org

Dr. Tracy Delaney

Executive Director
tdelaney@phi.org