

2022 POLICY PLATFORM

The Public Health Alliance of Southern California (Public Health Alliance) 2022 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 2021 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 2022 session. This includes increasing resources and investments in local health jurisdictions; elevating health equity, prevention, and upstream social drivers of health approaches across sectors; ensuring an equitable and just COVID-19 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 Public Health 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 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 STRATEGIES FROM 2019–2024 STRATEGIC PLAN



ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY

Everyone should have the opportunity and resources to live a healthy life. The Public Health 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 Public Health 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 Public Health Alliance advances equitable policies such as economic wellbeing, nutritious food, active transportation, clean water, and affordable housing.



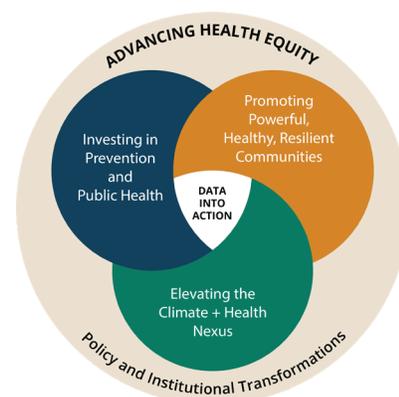
ELEVATE THE CLIMATE + HEALTH NEXUS

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



TRANSFORM DATA INTO ACTION

Everyone should have access to timely, accurate, and relevant data for their community. The Public Health 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 strategies plan area, as well as the specific legislation and budget requests included below.



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 support the creation of robust, structurally funded 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.
- » 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 CalAIM and managed care plan contract re-procurement.

Specific Policies

- » **SB 17** - Establishes a statewide Office of Racial Equity to be governed by a Racial Equity Advisory and Accountability Council to coordinate, analyze, develop, evaluate, and recommend strategies for advancing racial equity across state agencies, departments, and the office of the Governor.
- » **AB 1930** - Extends the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) benefit duration from 60 days to one-year postpartum.
- » **AB 1937** - Requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish a health expense account for pregnant Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Access Program beneficiaries.
- » **AB 1995** - Eliminates Medi-Cal premiums and subscriber contributions for children, pregnant or postpartum women, and individuals with disabilities.
- » **AB 2320** - Requires DHCS, until January 2028, to establish and administer the Reproductive Health Care Pilot Program to provide funds to community health clinics providing reproductive health services in five counties that agree to participate.



CHAMPION PREVENTION FUNDING

General Policies

- » Support proposals to increase funding for local health jurisdictions.
- » Support efforts to increase investments in local health jurisdictions from health care funding streams, including CalAIM and cost containment initiatives.
- » Support efforts to increase investments from multiple sectors that are aligned and coordinated with local health jurisdictions
- » Support efforts to recruit and retain the public health workforce and create an equitable and diverse workforce pipeline. 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.

Specific Policies

- » **Ongoing Public Health Department Funding (Governor’s Budget):** Support the Governor’s proposal to invest \$300 million in ongoing State General Fund for state and local governmental public health infrastructure.
- » **Health Equity and Readiness Opportunity (HERO) Initiative:** Support for this initiative which seeks to bolster public health recruitment and retention and the workforce pipeline.
- » **AB 240** - This bill 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.
- » **AB 1900** - Increases the MediCal maintenance per month level to be equal to the income limit for the Medi-Cal without a share of cost for individuals who are 65 years of age or older or are disabled.
- » **AB 2381** - Establishes an address confidentiality program for code enforcement officers, public health officers, and public health workers, among others.



PROMOTE POWERFUL, HEALTHY, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Food Security & 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

- » **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.

Economic Security, Justice, and Resiliency

General Policies

- » Support efforts that improve the economic resilience and security of households.



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 front line communities that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Specific Policies

- » **AB 401** - This bill would require all standard information employee pamphlets provided by the department concerning unemployment and disability insurance programs to be printed in English and any written language that is or becomes a Medi-Cal threshold language in any county, as provided.
- » **AB 1041** - This bill would expand the population that an employee can take leave to care for to include a designated person. The bill would define “designated person” to mean a person identified by the employee at the time the employee requests family care and medical leave.
- » **AB 2082** - This bill would require Cal-OSHA to establish and administer a program to commence July 1, 2023, except as specified, by contracting with community-based organizations to provide prescribed outreach services to farmworkers in indigenous languages.

Housing Stability & Security

- » Support efforts that ensure people can live in quality, stable, safe and affordable housing.

Specific Policies

- » **AB 2076** - Requires CDPH, upon an appropriation, to establish and maintain the Extreme Heat Hospitalization and Death Reporting System as a syndromic surveillance system to receive notice and data from state and local health departments on emergency department visits and deaths resulting from extreme heat. Establishes the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program in the Office of Planning & Research (OPR) to be part of the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP).
- » **AB 2419** - This bill would require a minimum of 40% of funds received by the state under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and certain other federal funds to be allocated to projects that provide direct benefits to disadvantaged communities and a minimum of an additional 10% be allocated for projects that provide direct benefits to low-income households and low-income communities, as provided.



TRANSFORM DATA INTO ACTION

General Policies

- » 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 LHJ data systems.
- » Support inclusion of “self-identification” field options for 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 policies that allow for the collection and reporting of granular, spatially-refined and disaggregated data that also protect confidentiality and comply with privacy laws.
- » Support development of best practices for community engaged, culturally-sensitive data collection, communication, and reporting. (Reference [Urban Indian Health Institute’s report](#) for an example)

Specific Policies

- » **SB 1058** - This bill would require the Employment Development Department to collect data regarding the race and ethnicity of individuals who claim disability benefits under those programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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