

The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2021 (S. 104/H.R. 379)






Background

Social and economic conditions such as those in housing, employment, food security, and education have a major influence on individual and community health.¹ These conditions – often referred to as the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) – are rightfully receiving increased attention from insurance companies, hospitals, healthcare systems, and governmental agencies interested in improving health outcomes and controlling costs.²

While payers and healthcare systems can screen, identify, and make referrals to other organizations for non-medical social needs, they cannot ensure that there are adequate resources and policies in place to meet the needs of the referred or that resources are equitably adopted. Currently efforts supported by health care systems are short term – such as temporary housing, and nutrition after medical discharge, or transportation – and do not necessarily address the underlying economic and social factors in communities beyond the individual patient.³

Public health departments are uniquely situated to gather data from multiple sources, identify gaps in services, build collaborations across sectors, identify SDOH priorities in communities, and help address policies that inhibit health (see Figure).

THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS SPECTRUM

| |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Roles for Healthcare | Screening for necessary social, economic, and safety issues in clinical & other settings | In-house social services assistance (at clinical site where screening is performed) | Anchor institution promoting equity via hiring, investments, community benefits | Community-based social and related services: single or multiple programs or services | Changes to laws, regulations or community-wide conditions; working across sectors |
| Roles for Public Health Departments (PHDs) | PHDs can offer best practice screening materials and can aggregate/ analyze data across facilities regarding need. | PHDs can convene community organizations and other sectors to promote linkages, develop materials & advocate for SDOH-related reimbursement. | PHDs can collaborate with one or more anchor institutions, assist them in prioritizing, evidence-based approaches & community-wide strategies. | PHDs can demonstrate need with data, make case for funding for needed services and/ or fund programs themselves. | PHDs can provide evidence of need and demonstrate efficacy of policies and laws at promote health and address the SDOHs. |

Both the healthcare sector and the public health sector are needed to fully address SDOHs: the clinical side can respond to some individual needs, while public health is best suited to meet the needs of an entire population (as well as to prevent unmet needs in the future). The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act will increase public health's capacity to fully address SDOH priorities.

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Summary

THE BILL WILL AUTHORIZE THE CDC TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO:

- Improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities by coordinating CDC SDOH activities.
- Improve capacity of public health agencies and community organizations to address SDOHs.

THE PROGRAM

- Coordinate across CDC to ensure programs consider and incorporate SDOH in grants and activities.
- Award grants to state, local, territorial, and Tribal health agencies and organizations to address SDOHs in target communities.
- Award grants to nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education to conduct research on SDOH best practices; provide technical assistance, training and evaluation assistance to target community grantees; and disseminate best practices.
- Coordinate, support, and align SDOH activities at CDC with other federal agencies, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and others.
- Collect and analyze data related to SDOH activities.

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Citations:

¹Taylor, L et. al, "Leveraging the Social Determinants of Health: What Works?" Yale Global Health Leadership Institute and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts, June 2015 https://bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/default/files/download/publication/Social_Equity_Report_Final.pdf

²See Social Interventions Research & Evaluation Network (SIREN) at University of California, San Francisco for evidence of effective programs for identifying and addressing social risk in healthcare settings. <https://sirenetwork.ucsf.edu>

³Castrucci, B. & Auerbach, J. "Meeting Individual Social Needs Falls Short of Addressing Social Determinants of Health." Health Affairs Blog. January 16, 2019. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20190115.234942/full/>

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Supporting Organizations (385)

National (205)

- 1,000 Days
- 2020 Mom
- Advocates for Community Wellness, Inc.
- Aligning for Health
- Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement
- America Walks
- America's Essential Hospitals
- American Art Therapy Association
- American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
- American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
- American Association of Birth Centers
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
- American Association on Health and Disability
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American College of Nurse-Midwives
- American College of Physicians
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- American Group Psychotherapy Association
- American Heart Association
- American Institute for Cancer Research
- American Institute of Dental Public Health
- American Kidney Fund
- American Lung Association
- American Medical Student Association
- American Nurses Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Society for Nutrition
- American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
- Anxiety and Depression Association of America
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
- Association of Community Health Nurse Educators
- Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
- Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- AVAC
- Behavioral Health Association of Providers
- Beyond Type 1
- Big Cities Health Coalition
- Build Healthy Places Network
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- CARE ADVISORS
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Center for Health and Social Care Integration (CHaSCI)
- Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
- ChangeLab Solutions
- Children's HealthWatch
- Children's National Hospital
- Clinical Social Work Association
- Coalition for Disability Health Equity
- Common Threads
- CommonSpirit Health
- Community Catalyst
- Community Cup Classic Foundation
- Confederation of Independent Psychoanalytic Societies
- Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
- Council on Black Health
- Counter Tools
- Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
- Dermatology Nurses' Association
- Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
- Education Development Center
- Endocrine Society
- Epilepsy Alliance America
- Epilepsy Foundation
- ETR
- Everyday Life Consulting
- Families USA
- Farmworker Justice
- Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
- George Washington University Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement
- Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
- Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
- GSK Consumer Healthcare
- Hartsfield Health Systems Consulting
- Health Care Without Harm
- Health Leadership Legacy Project
- Health Outreach Partners
- Health Resources in Action
- Healthcare Leadership Council
- Healthcare Ready
- Healthy Kinder International
- Healthy Schools Campaign
- Hispanic Federation
- Human Rights Campaign
- In the Public Interest
- Inseparable
- International OCD Foundation
- International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, North American Chapter
- Japanese American Citizens League
- Justice in Aging
- Lakeshore Foundation
- League of American Bicyclists
- Lutheran Services in America
- March of Dimes
- Mary Ann Liebert Inc.
- Mental Health America
- MLPB
- Mom Congress
- MomsRising
- Move United

To add your organization to the list, fill out this [form](#).

Last updated 2/9/2021

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National (205)

N

- NAACP
- NASTAD
- National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
- National Association for Rural Mental Health
- National Association of Certified Professional Midwives
- National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
- National Association of Community Health Workers
- National Association of Counties
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors
- National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Association of School Nurses
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
- National Association of the State Offices of Minority Health
- National Center for Lesbian Rights
- National Center for Transgender Equality
- National Collaborative for Education to Address the Social Determinants of Health
- National Consumers League
- National Council for Behavioral Health
- National Council of Jewish Women
- National Environmental Health Association
- National Health Care for the Homeless Council
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Institute for Children's Health Quality - NICHQ
- National League for Nursing
- National Medical Association (NMA)

- National Network of Public Health Institutes
- National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
- National Partnership for Women & Families
- National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
- National REACH Coalition
- National Recreation and Park Association
- National Register of Health Service Psychologists
- National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
- National WIC Association
- National Working Positive Coalition
- Nemours Children's Health System
- NERDS RULE INC
- Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility
- Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement
- NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

O

- Obesity Action Coalition
- Older Women Embracing Life
- Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN)
- Organization for Associate Degree Nursing

P

- Pacific Island Health Officers' Association
- Partnership for Southern Equity
- Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation
- PFLAG National
- Population Health Alliance
- Positive Women's Network-USA
- Postpartum Support International
- Prevent Blindness
- Prevent Cancer Foundation
- Prevention Institute
- Psychotherapy Action Network Advocacy
- Public Health Foundation
- Public Health Institute
- Public Health Solutions

R

- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- Redstone Center for Prevention and Wellness
- RESULTS
- Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving

S

- School-Based Health Alliance

- SLM Consulting, LLC
- Society for Community Research & Action (SCRA)
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
- Society for Public Health Education
- Society of General Internal Medicine
- Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
- Stratis Health
- Susan G. Komen

T

- The AIDS Institute
- The Center for Community Resilience
- The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness
- The Foundation for Sustainable Communities
- The Gerontological Society of America
- The Institute for Innovation & Implementation, UMBSSW
- The Kennedy Forum
- The National REACH Coalition
- The Praxis Project
- The Root Cause Coalition
- Training Resources Network, Inc.
- Treatment Action Group
- Trust for America's Health

V

- Visible Network Labs

W

- WE in the World
- Well Being Trust
- WholeHealthED
- Wholesome Wave

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Supporting Organizations (385)

State & Local (180)

- #
 - 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health
- A
 - A Vision of Change Inc.
 - Addiction Connections Resource
 - Addiction Professionals of North Carolina
 - AIDS Alabama
 - Air Alliance Houston
 - Alabama Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
 - All Youth Access, LLC
 - Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina
 - AMITA Health
 - Anaheim Lighthouse
 - Anders & Associates
 - APLA Health
 - Autism Family Services of New Jersey
- B
 - Berean Wellness & Community Support Center
 - Better Health Partnership
 - Bike Cleveland
 - Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin
 - Blue Shield of California
 - Bree Collaborative
 - Bridges Into the Future
 - Brighter Beginnings
 - Brooklyn Perinatal Network Inc
- C
 - CA Black Health Network (CBHN)
 - California Access Coalition
 - California Black Health Network
 - California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
 - California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
 - California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
 - Caregivers of New Jersey
 - Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)
 - Center for Civil Justice
 - Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders
 - Center for Planning Excellence
 - Central Michigan Rural Health Network
 - Ceres Community Project
- D
 - Chenango Health Network Inc.
 - Chicago Youth Programs, Inc.
 - Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA State)
 - Children's Trust of South Carolina
 - Cleveland Public Library
 - Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care
 - Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
 - Commission on the Public's Health System
 - Community Based Organization Partners (CBOP)-Brooklyn Chapter
 - Community Engagement Studio of Flint
 - Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
 - Community Health Council of Wyandotte County
 - Community Health Councils
 - Community Resilience Initiative
 - Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC)
 - Cook County Department of Public Health
 - Cuyahoga County Board of Health
- E
 - Deborah's Place
 - Delta Health and Wellness Center - Family Clinic
- F
 - Eat Smart Move More SC
 - ECM Counseling, LLC
 - El Concilio of San Mateo County
 - Epilepsy Information Service of Wake Forest
 - Epilepsy Services of New Jersey
 - Epilepsy Services of NJ
 - Equality California
 - Equality North Carolina
- G
 - Greater Chicago Food Depository
 - Greater Flint Health Coalition
 - Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health
- H
 - Habilitative Systems, Inc
 - Haitian Health Institute
 - Hathaway -Sycamores
 - Hawaii State Rural Health Association (HSRHA)
 - Health by Design
 - Health Care Improvement Foundation
 - Healthy Chesapeake
 - Healthy Harford
 - Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.
 - Howard University Hospital HUH CARES Public Health Programs
 - Human Impact Partners
- I
 - iHealth
 - Illinois Association of Behavioral Health
 - Immunize Nevada
 - Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC
 - Indiana Public Health Association
 - Institute for Family Health/Bronx Health REACH
 - Iowa Chapter National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- J
 - Jefferson County Public Health (CO)
 - Johnson County Public Health
 - Joy Southfield Community Development Corporation
 - Jump IN for Healthy Kids
- K
 - Keystone Rural Health Consortia, Inc.
- L
 - Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
 - Lanai Community Health Center
 - Latino Coalition for a Healthy CA
 - Linn County Public Health
 - Long Beach Elder Abuse Prevention Team
 - Louisiana Public Health Institute

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State & Local (180)

M

- Maine Public Health Association
- MaryCatherine Jones Consulting, LLC
- Massachusetts Public Health Association
- Mendocino County Community Wellness
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Mid-City CAN (Community Advocacy Network)
- Midwest Asian Health Association
- MIKE Program
- Minnesota Oral Health Coalition
- Minnesota Public Health Association
- Missouri Society of Health and Physical Educators
- Montana Public Health Association
- MountainCare

N

- National Capital Area SOPHE (NCA SOPHE)
- National Health Foundation
- New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO)
- New Jersey Prevention Network
- New Jersey Public Health Association
- New Jersey Society for Public Health Education
- New Wine Ministries CWW
- New York State Public Health Association
- NOELA Community Health Center
- North Carolina Alliance for Health
- North Central Public Health District
- North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- North Dakota Rural Health Association
- Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region
- NOVA ScriptsCentral

O

- One Joplin
- Orange County Recovery Collaboration
- Oregon Vision Coalition

P

- PacificSource
- Partnership for a Healthy Nebraska
- Philadelphia Department of Public Health
- Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter
- Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles
- Piedmont Access To Health Services, Inc.
- Presbyterian Healthcare Services
- Prevention Action Alliance
- Public Health Alliance of Southern California

R

- Rafiki Coalition for Health and Wellness
- Respiratory Health Association
- RESULTS DC
- Revive Our Old Town Coalition
- Richland Public Health RWJBarnabas Health

S

- Saint Alphonsus Health System
- Servicios Y Mas Inc.
- Seven Valleys Health Coalition
- Silver State Equality-Nevada
- Smoke Free St. Joe
- St. Luke's University Health Network
- Strawberry Fields, Inc

T

- Tahoe Forest Hospital Care Coordination
- Tennessee Justice Center
- The Fairfield Group
- The Family Resource Network
- The Health Trust
- The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
- The Pride Center at Equality Park
- The Prince George's Healthcare Alliance, Inc.
- The Wall Las Memorias Project
- Tri-County Health Department

- Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc.

U

- United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties
- United Way of Treasure Valley
- Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

V

- Valley AIDS Council
- Vita Health and Wellness Partnership

W

- WARM, Inc.
- Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Washington State Department of Health
- Washington State Public Health Association
- Wayne State University Center for Health and Community Impact
- West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition
- West Virginia University School of Public Health
- West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
- Western Idaho Community Health Collaborative
- Wisconsin Division of Public Health
- Wright County Public Health