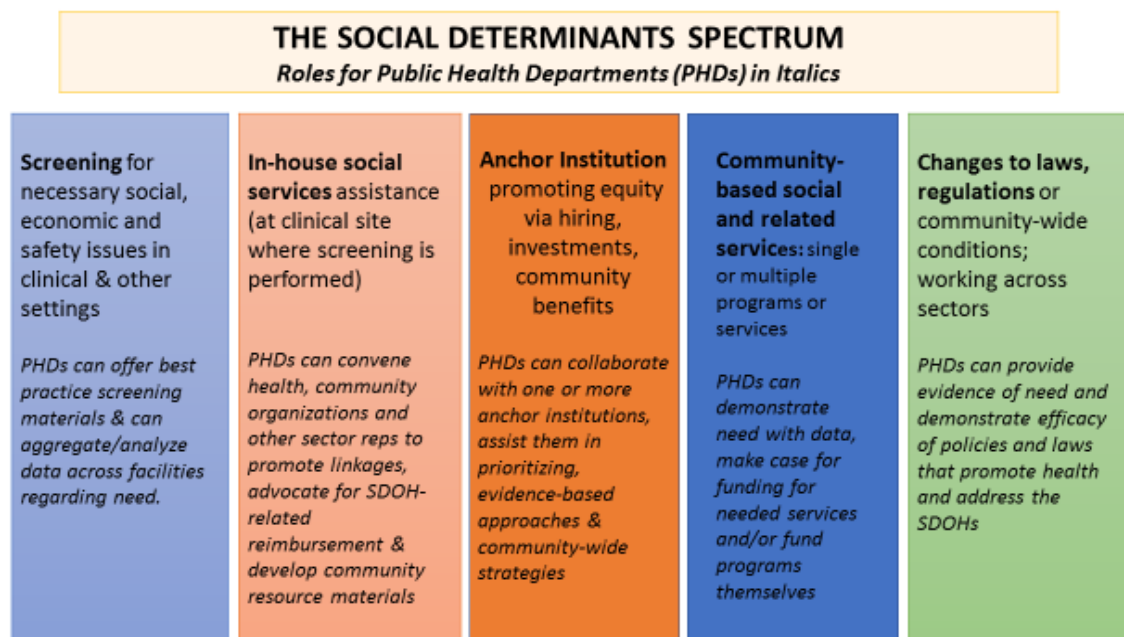


The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2020 (H.R. 6561/S.4440)

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 receiving increased attention from insurance companies, hospitals, healthcare systems, and governmental agencies interested in improving health outcomes and controlling costs.² In 2018, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex Azar highlighted the necessity of addressing social determinants of health in HHS’s work, including at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).³ For example, the CMS Innovation Center’s Accountable Health Communities (AHC) pilot program funds 31 health systems to identify unmet health-related social needs of their patients and create referral mechanism to address them.⁴ Its goal is “testing whether systematically identifying and addressing the health-related social needs of CMS beneficiaries will impact health care costs and reduce health care utilization.”

However, while clinicians can identify non-medical social needs and make referrals to other organizations, they cannot ensure that there are adequate resources and policies in place to meet the needs of the referred. In addition, many of the social determinants that are being supported by health care systems are short term – temporary housing, nutrition, or transportation – and do not necessarily address the underlying economic and social factors in communities beyond the individual patient.⁵ AHCs and other payer-supported models need support from public health and other sectors to create the communication mechanism, collaborations, programs, and policies to assure that patients’ social needs are met. Public health departments are uniquely situated to build these collaborations across sectors, identify SDOH priorities in communities, and help address policies that inhibit health (see Figure).



Source: Trust for America’s Health

The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act (H.R. 6561/S.4440) Summary

To see full H.R. 6561 text, click [here](#).

To see full S. 4440 text, click [here](#).

The bill will authorize the CDC to create a program to:

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

The program would:

- 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.
- Authorize \$50 million annually for program 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

² See 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>

³ Azar, AM. The Root of the Problem: America's Social Determinants of Health. HHS. November 14, 2018.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/leadership/secretary/speeches/2018-speeches/the-root-of-the-problem-americas-social-determinants-of-health.html>

⁴ Accountable Health Communities Model." CMS. 2019. <https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/ahcm/>

⁵ Castrucci, 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/>

The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act (H.R. 6561/S.4440)

NATIONAL Supporting Organizations (131)

- 1,000 Days
- 2020 Mom
- Advocates for Community Wellness, Inc.
- Aligning for Health
- America's Essential Hospitals
- American Art Therapy Association
- American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
- American Association of Birth Centers
- American Association on Health and Disability
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American College of Nurse-Midwives
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Heart Association
- American Institute for Cancer Research
- American Kidney Fund
- American Lung Association
- American Medical Student Association
- American Nurses Association
- American Public Health Association
- Anxiety and Depression Association of America
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
- 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
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- Behavioral Health Association of Providers
- Build Healthy Places Network
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- CARE ADVISORS
- Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
- ChangeLab Solutions
- Clinical Social Work Association
- Coalition for Disability Health Equity
- Common Threads
- CommonSpirit Health
- Community Catalyst
- Community Cup Classic Foundation
- Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
- Counter Tools
- Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
- Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
- Epilepsy Alliance America
- Families USA
- Farmworker Justice
- George Washington University Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement
- Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
- GSK Consumer Healthcare
- Health Leadership Legacy Project
- Health Outreach Partners
- Health Resources in Action
- Healthy Kinder International
- Hispanic Federation
- Human Rights Campaign
- In the Public Interest
- Japanese American Citizens League
- Justice in Aging
- Lakeshore Foundation
- Lutheran Services in America
- March of Dimes
- Mom Congress
- MomsRising
- Move United
- NAACP
- NASTAD
- National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- 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 School Nurses
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Association of the State Offices of Minority Health
- National Center for Transgender Equality
- National Collaborative for Education to Address the Social Determinants of Health
- National Council for Behavioral Health
- National Council of Jewish Women
- National Health Care for the Homeless Council
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- 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 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 Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
- Obesity Action Coalition
- Older Women Embracing Life
- PFLAG National
- Population Health Alliance
- Prevent Blindness
- Prevent Cancer Foundation
- Prevention Institute
- Project for Whole Health Learning in K-12
- Public Health Foundation
- Public Health Institute
- Redstone Center for Prevention and Wellness
- RESULTS
- School-Based Health Alliance
- SLM Consulting, LLC
- Society for Community Research & Action (SCRA)
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
- Society for Public Health Education
- Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
- The AIDS Institute
- The Center for Community Resilience
- The Gerontological Society of America
- The National REACH Coalition
- The Participatory Budgeting Project
- The Praxis Project
- Training Resources Network, Inc.
- Treatment Action Group
- Trust for America's Health
- WE in the World
- Well Being Trust
- Wholesome Wave

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

Last updated 9/16/2020

The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act (H.R. 6561/S.4440)

STATE & LOCAL Supporting Organizations (123)

- A Vision of Change Inc.
- Addiction Connections Resource
- Addiction Professionals of North Carolina
- All Youth Access, LLC
- Anders & Associates
- APLA Health
- Autism Family Services of New Jersey
- Berean Wellness & Community Support Center
- Better Health Partnership
- Bike Cleveland
- Blue Shield of California
- Bridges Into the Future
- Brighter Beginnings
- Brooklyn Perinatal Network Inc
- Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus
- 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 Civil Justice
- Center for Planning Excellence
- Ceres Community Project
- Chenango Health Network Inc.
- Chicago Youth Programs, Inc.
- Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA State)
- Cleveland Public Library
- Commission on the Public's Health System
- Community Based Organization Partners (CBOP)-Brooklyn Chapter
- Community Engagement Studio of Flint
- 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
- Deborah's Place
- Epilepsy Information Service of Wake Forest
- Epilepsy Services of New Jersey
- Epilepsy Services of NJ
- Equality California
- Equality North Carolina
- Flint Association of Black Social Workers
- Flint rising
- Flint Women's Study Community Action Network
- Florida Institute for Health Innovation
- Greater Chicago Food Depository
- Greater Flint Health Coalition
- Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health
- Haitian Health Institute
- Hawaii State Rural Health Association (HSRHA)
- Health by Design
- Health Care Improvement Foundation
- Healthy Chesapeake
- Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.
- Howard University Hospital HUH CARES Public Health Programs
- Human Impact Partners
- iHealth
- Illinois Association of Behavioral Health
- Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC
- Indiana Public Health Association
- Jump IN for Healthy Kids
- Keystone Rural Health Consortia, Inc.
- Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
- Lanai Community Health Center
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy CA
- Long Beach Elder Abuse Prevention Team
- Louisiana Public Health Institute
- Maine Public Health Association
- MaryCatherine Jones Consulting, LLC
- Massachusetts Public Health Association
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Mid-City CAN (Community Advocacy Network)
- Midwest Asian Health Association
- MIKE Program
- Missouri Society of Health and Physical Educators
- MountainCare
- National Health Foundation
- New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO)
- New Jersey Public Health Association
- New Wine Ministries CWW
- 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
- One Joplin
- Oregon Vision Coalition
- PacificSource
- Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter
- Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles
- Piedmont Access To Health Services, Inc.
- Presbyterian Healthcare Services
- Public Health Alliance of Southern California
- Respiratory Health Association
- RESULTS DC
- Silver State Equality-Nevada
- St. Luke's University Health Network
- Strawberry Fields, Inc
- 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 Wall Las Memorias Project
- Tri-County Health Department
- United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties
- United Way of Treasure Valley
- Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
- Valley AIDS Council
- Vita Health and Wellness Partnership
- WARM, Inc.
- Washington State Department of Health
- Washington State Public Health Association
- Wayne State University Center for Health and Community Impact
- West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition
- Western Idaho Community Health Collaborative
- Wisconsin Division of Public Health
- Wright County Public Health