April 26, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 205150

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Murray and Ranking Members Cole and Blunt:

As Congress works to draft the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations legislation for FY 2022, the 206 undersigned organizations request that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) be properly funded at $153 million for its Social Determinants of Health program – in line with President Biden’s FY 2022 request. We sincerely thank Labor-HHS for funding the program for the first time in FY 2021 at $3 million. The undersigned organizations ask Labor-HHS to build upon that initial investment to ensure that public health departments, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations are properly supported to address the social determinants of health in their communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how a community’s resources directly impact the health of its residents. Unsafe or unstable housing, income insecurity, lack of transportation, and underlying health inequities put some populations at higher risk during the pandemic. People at disproportionate risk for serious health impacts from COVID-19 are also more likely to suffer secondary consequences, such as loss of income or health care. Now more than ever it is important to address the social and economic conditions, including housing, employment, food security, and education, that contribute significantly to an individual’s health outcomes over their lifetime. These conditions, collectively referred as the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), have rightfully been receiving increased attention from insurance companies, hospitals, healthcare systems, and governmental agencies interested in improving health outcomes and controlling costs far before the pandemic.

Yet, 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 on their own. Healthcare is most effective when it can extend its work by working with other sectors. Public health departments and community organizations are uniquely
situated to build these collaborations across sectors, identify SDOH priorities in communities, and help address policies that inhibit health. For example, while the healthcare system can offer in-house social services assistance at a clinical site, a public health department can complement those efforts by convening community organizations and partners to promote clinic-to-community linkages, advocate for SDOH-related reimbursement, and develop community resource materials.

However, most local and state health and community agencies lack funding and tools to support these cross-sector efforts and are limited in doing so by disease-specific federal funding. Given appropriate funding and technical assistance, more communities could engage in opportunities to address social determinants of health that contribute to high healthcare costs and preventable inequities in health outcomes.

A healthier, more resilient population and stronger economy require us to prevent and control health conditions that raise health care costs and put lives at risk. We thank you for your leadership in FY 2021 and your consideration of our FY 2022 request to continue building up CDC’s SDOH program. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Daphne Delgado, Senior Government Relations Manager at Trust for America’s Health at ddelgado@tfah.org.

Sincerely,

National Organizations (133):
AcademyHealth
Accountable Health, LLC
Aligning for Health
America Walks
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Birth Centers
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Heart Association
American Institute of Dental Public Health
American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
American Medical Association
American Nutrition Association
American Pharmacists Association
American Physical Therapy Association

American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
America's Essential Hospitals
Annie Fahy Consulting
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
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
Beyond Type 1
Big Cities Health Coalition
Blacks Greeks in Public Health
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Cancer Support Community
Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders
Children's National Hospital
Chronic Migraine Awareness, Inc.
Cluster Headache Support Group
Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients
Code of Support Foundation
Collaborative Solutions, Inc.
Common Threads
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Counter Tools
Disparities in Headache Advisory Council
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
Epilepsy Information Service of Wake Forest School of Medicine
Everyday Life Consulting
Evidence Based Leadership Collaborative
Faces and Voices of Recovery
Families USA
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, Inc
Healing Our Village of Maryland, Inc.
Health Care Without Harm
Health Outreach Partners
Health Resources in Action
Healthcare Leadership Council
Hispanic Federation
Holy Cross Hospital, Inc.
Inseparable
Integrative Health Policy Consortium
Lakeshore Foundation
Mary Ann Liebert Inc.
MaryCatherine Jones Consulting, LLC
Migraine World Summit
Miles for Migraine
MindWise Innovations
MJC HealthSolutions
Move United
NACDD
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
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 Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
National Community Action Partnership
National Consumers League
National Environmental Health Association
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention
National Immigration Law Center
National Institute for Children's Health Quality - NICHQ
National League for Nursing
National League of Cities
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Recreation and Park Association
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
Nemours Children’s Health System
NERDS RULE INC.
Obesity Action Coalition
Out2Enroll
Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation
Population Health Alliance
Postpartum Support International
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV/AIDS
ProVention Health Foundation
Public Health Foundation
RESULTS
Safe States Alliance
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Susan G. Komen  
The American College of Preventive Medicine  
The Foundation for Sustainable Communities  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Praxis Project  
The Root Cause Coalition  

The Rural Community Health Worker Network  
Trinity Holy Cross Health Trust for America's Health Unite Us  
Unmarried, Single But Not Alone LLC.  
WE in the World  
Well Being Trust  
Wholesome Wave  
YMCA of the USA  

State & Local Organizations (73):  
Adagio Health  
Addiction Connections Resource  
Addiction Providers of North Carolina  
AIDS Alabama  
Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, Inc.  
Brighter Beginnings  
California Black Health Network  
Cambiar Consulting  
Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona  
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)  
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA State)  
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium  
Community enCompass  
CUNY  
DHS Sacramento County  
Eastside Dental  
Equality California  
Fact Forward  
Flint Rising  
Florida Public Health Association  
Florida Rural Health Association  
Gorhan Public Health Consulting and Greater Nashua Food Council  
Greater Chicago Food Depository  
Greater Flint Health Coalition  
Habilitative Systems, Inc.  
Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center  
Hawai'i State Rural Health Association  
Health by Design  
Healthy Harford  

Horn of Africa Community of USA  
Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio  
Immunize Nevada  
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC  
Indiana Public Health Association  
Indiana University Health  
Jefferson County Public Health CO  
Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama  
Maine Public Health Association  
Massachusetts Public Health Association  
Maternal and Child Health Access  
Mel Leaman Free Clinic  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
MIKE Program  
Minnesota Oral Health Coalition  
Minnesota Society for Public Health Education  
National Capital Area Society for Public Health Education (NCA SOPHE)  
New Jersey Housing Collaborative  
New Jersey Public Health Association  
New York State Public Health Association  
North Runnels Hospital  
Ohio Public Health Association  
Partnership for Southern Equity  
Prevention Action Alliance  
Public Health Solutions  
Revitalize Community Development Corporation  
Safe Streets, Wichita  
Shoals Community Clinic  
Silver State Equality-Nevada  
SLM Consulting, LLC
Sound Generations
Tennessee Justice Center
Texas Health Resources
Texas Woman’s University
The Consortium
The Family Resource Network
The Health Trust
The Wall Las Memorias
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc.
United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties
United Way of Salt Lake
Utah Public Health Association
Voices of Hope, Inc.
Washington State Public Health Association