

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/>

Supporting Organizations (488)

National (262)

- 1,000 Days
- 2020 Mom
- Accountable Health, LLC
- 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 Critical-Care Nurses
- American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
- American Association on Health and Disability
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American College of Lifestyle Medicine
- American College of Medical Toxicology
- 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 Medical Women's Association
- American Nurses Association
- American Nutrition Association
- American Pharmacists Association
- American Physical Therapy 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 SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators
- 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
- Black Women's Health Imperative
- Build Healthy Places Network
- Business Group on Health
- Cambiar Consulting
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- CARE ADVISORS
- Catholic Health Association of the United States
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Center for Health and Social Care Integration (CHaSCI)
- Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
- Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders
- Center for Promotion of Child Development through Primary Care
- Center for Science in the Public Interest
- CHAMP - Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients
- ChangeLab Solutions
- Children's HealthWatch
- Children's National Hospital
- Clinical Social Work Association
- Clusterbusters, Inc.
- Coalition for Disability Health Equity
- Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness
- 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
- Danielle Byron Henry Migraine Foundation
- 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
- Foundation of the NLA
- Foundation for Social Connection
- 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 in Justice Action Lab, Northeastern University School of Law
- Health Leadership Legacy Project
- Health Outreach Partners
- Health Resources in Action
- Healthcare Leadership Council
- Healthcare Ready
- Healthy Kinder International
- Healthy Schools Campaign
- HealthyWomen
- Hispanic Federation
- Human Rights Campaign
- In the Public Interest
- Inseparable
- Institute for Public Strategies
- International OCD Foundation
- International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, North American Chapter

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Supporting Organizations (488)

National (262)

- J**
 - Japanese American Citizens League
 - Justice in Aging
- L**
 - Lakeshore Foundation
 - Latino Coalition Against COVID-19
 - League of American Bicyclists
 - Lutheran Services in America
- M**
 - Make Well Known Foundation
 - March of Dimes
 - Mary Ann Liebert Inc.
 - Mel Leaman Free Clinic
 - Mental Health America
 - MigraineAgain.com
 - Miles for Migraine
 - MindWise Innovations
 - MLPB
 - Mom Congress
 - MomsRising
 - Move United
- 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 Councils on Developmental Disabilities
 - 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 Black Nurses Association
 - National Center for Health Research
 - 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 Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention
 - National Headaches Foundation
 - National Health Care for the Homeless Council
 - National Health Law Program
 - National Hispanic Medical Association
 - National Institute for Children's Health Quality - NICHQ
 - National League for Nursing
 - National Lipid 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 REACH Coalition
 - National Recreation and Park Association
 - National Register of Health Service Psychologists
 - National Rural Health Association
 - 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
 - Partnership to End Addiction
 - 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
 - Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
 - Primary Care Development Corporation
 - Psychotherapy Action Network Advocacy
 - Public Health Awakened
 - 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**
 - Safe Routes Partnership
 - 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
 - Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
 - Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
 - SSCHC
 - Stratis Health
 - Student National Medical Association
 - Susan G. Komen

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Supporting Organizations (488)

National (262)

I

- 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 Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
- The Institute for Innovation & Implementation, UMBSSW
- The Kennedy Forum
- The Mended Hearts, Inc
- The National REACH Coalition
- The Praxis Project
- The Root Cause Coalition
- THRIVE SS, Inc
- Training Resources Network, Inc.
- Treatment Action Group
- Trust for America's Health

U

- Urban Health Solutions
- U.S. Pain Foundation
- UsAgainstAlzheimer's

V

- Visible Network Labs

W

- WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture
- WE in the World
- Well Being Trust
- WholeHealthED
- Wholesome Wave

Z

- Zenger Strategies, LLC
- Zero Breast Cancer

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Supporting Organizations (488)

State & Local (226)

- #
- 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health
- 211info
- A
- A Vision of Change Inc.
- Adagio Health
- 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
- AltaMed
- AMITA Health
- Anaheim Lighthouse
- Anders & Associates
- APLA Health
- Autism Family Services of New Jersey
- B
- Bastrop County Cares
- Beacon Health System
- 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
- Buffalo Trace District Health Department
- 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
- 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
- D
- Deborah's Place
- Delta Health and Wellness Center - Family Clinic
- E
- Early Childhood OC
- Eat Smart Move More SC
- ECM Counseling, LLC
- El Concilio of San Mateo County
- Elkhart County Health Department
- Epilepsy Information Service of Wake Forest
- Epilepsy Services of New Jersey
- Epilepsy Services of NJ
- Equality California
- Equality North Carolina
- F
- Fact Forward
- Flint Association of Black Social Workers
- Flint Rising
- Flint Women's Study Community Action Network
- FLIPANY (FL Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth)
- Florida Institute for Health Innovation
- 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
- Henry County Health Department
- Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.
- Horn of Africa Community of USA
- 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
- Institute for Public Health Innovation
- Iowa Chapter National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- Iowa Public Health Association
- J
- Jefferson County Public Health (CO)
- Jewish Renaissance Foundation
- Johnson County Public Health
- Joy Southfield Community Development Corporation
- Jump IN for Healthy Kids
- K
- Kent City Health Department
- Keystone Rural Health Consortia, Inc.

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

Last updated 12/5/2021



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State & Local (226)

L

- LA Best Babies Network
- Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
- Lanai Community Health Center
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy CA
- Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health Department
- Linn County Public Health
- Long Beach Elder Abuse Prevention Team
- The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
- Louisiana Public Health Institute

M

- Maine Public Health Association
- Marin Healthcare District
- MaryCatherine Jones Consulting, LLC
- Mason County Health Coalition
- 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
- Minnesota Society for Public Health Education
- Missouri Society of Health and Physical Educators
- Montana Public Health Association
- Mount Sinai Health System
- MountainCare
- Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies

N

- National Capital Area SOPHE (NCA SOPHE)
- National Health Foundation
- Native American Connections
- Nature and Forest Therapy, LLC.
- 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 Mexico Public Health Association
- New Wine Ministries CWW
- New York State Public Health Association
- NM2C, LLC
- 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
- Northside Association for Community Development
- NOVA ScriptsCentral

O

- Ohio Public Health Association
- One Joplin
- Orange County Recovery Collaboration
- Oregon Public Health Association
- 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
- Progressive Democrats of America, Tucson, AZ Chapter
- Project Extra Mile
- PSR Arizona (NFP)
- Public Health Alliance of Southern California
- Putnam County Health Department

R

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

- RiverStone Health

S

- Saint Alphonsus Health System
- Servicios Y Mas Inc.
- Seven Valleys Health Coalition
- Silver State Equality-Nevada
- Smoke Free St. Joe
- Southeastern Michigan Health Association
- St. Luke's University Health Network
- The State Island Partnership for Community Wellness
- Strawberry Fields, Inc

T

- Tahoe Forest Hospital Care Coordination
- Tahoe Health
- Tennessee Justice Center
- Texas Health Resources
- Texas Hospital Association
- The Center for Health Affairs
- The Children's Partnership
- The Fairfield Group
- The Family Resource Network
- The Foodbank, Inc.
- 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

- Unified HIV Health and Beyond
- 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

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State & Local (226)

W

- WARM, Inc.
- Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Washington State Department of Health
- Washington State Public Health Association
- Washoe County Health District
- Wayne State University Center for Health and Community Impact
- WelCore Health, LLC
- 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
- World Health Education Foundation
- Wright County Public Health