

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.
- Collect and analyze data related to SDOH activities.

TO CO-SPONSOR, CONTACT:

TONY TRAN

Tony.Tran@mail.house.gov

KRIPA SREEPADA

Kripa_Sreepada@smith.senate.gov

ELIZABETH DARNALL

Elizabeth_Darnall@murphy.senate.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Madison West, TFAH Associate Government Relations Manager, mwest@tfah.org

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://sirennetwork.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/fu>

Total Supporting Organizations - 521

National Organizations - 264

1,000 Days
2020 Mom
Accountable Health, LLC
Advocates for Community Wellness, Inc.
Air Alliance Houston
Aligning for Health
Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement
American College of Medical Toxicology
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 of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Association on Health and Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Lifestyle Medicine
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 (AMWA)
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 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
Beyond Type 1
Big Cities Health Coalition
Black Womens Health Imperative
Build Healthy Places Network
Cambiar Consulting
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
CARE ADVISORS
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Community Resilience
Center for Health and Social Care Integration (CHaSCI)
Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders (CPALs)
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
CLOCC
Clusterbusters, Inc.
Coalition for Disability Health Equity
Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness
Common Threads
CommonSpirit Health

Community Anti- Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
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)
Disabled Sports USA
Education Development Center
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Foundation
Epilepsy Information Service of Wake Forst ETR
Everyday Life Consulting
Families USA
Foundation for Social Connection
Foundation of the NLA
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 Legacy Leadership Project
Health Outreach Partners
Health Resources in Action
Healthcare Leadership Council
Healthcare Ready
Healthy Kinder International
Healthy Schools Campaign
HealthyWomen
Hispanic Federation

Human Impact Partners
Human Rights Campaign
I am Health Education
In the Public Interest
Indira Gandhi National open University
Inseparable
Institute For Professional Education
Institute for Public Strategies
International OCD Foundation
International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, North American Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League
Lakeshore Foundation
Latino Coalition Against COVID-19
League of American Bicyclists
Lutheran Services in America
Make Well Known Foundation
March of Dimes
Mel Leaman Free Clinic
Mental Health America
MigraineAgain.com
Miles for Migraine
MindWise Innovations
MLPB
Mom Congress
NAACP
NACBHDD and NARMH
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to Impact the Social Determinants of Health
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Public Health Policy
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 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 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

Obesity Action Coalition
Older Women Embracing Life
Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN)
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pacific Island Health Officers' Association
Partnership for Southern Equity
Partnership to End Addiction
Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation
PFLAG National
Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter
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
Project for Whole Health Learning in K-12
Psychotherapy Action Network Advocacy
Public Health Awakened
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Public Health Solutions
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness at GWU
RESULTS
Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving
Safe and Healthy Communities
Safe Routes Partnership
School-Based Health Alliance
Servicios Y Mas Inc
Society for Community Research & Action (SCRA)
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
The AIDS Institute
The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness
The Foodbank, Inc.
The Foundation for Sustainable Communities

The Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
The Institute for Innovation & Implementation,
UMBSSW
The Kennedy Forum
The Mended Hearts, Inc
The Participatory Budgeting Project
The Praxis Project
The Root Cause Coalition
THRIVE SS, Inc
Training Resources Network, Inc.
Treatment Action Group

U.S. Pain Foundation
Urban Health Solutions
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
Visible Network Labs
WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics
and Agriculture
WE in the World
Well Being Trust
Wholesome Wave
Zenger Strategies LLC
Zero Breast Cancer

State Organizations - 121

211info
Addiction Professionals of North Carolina
AIDS Alabama
Alabama Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
All Youth Access, LLC
Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina
AltaMed
Autism Family Services of New Jersey
Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin
Blue Shield of California
Bree Collaborative
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 Life Sciences
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
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA State)
Children's Trust of South Carolina
Christian Council of Delmarva
Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Commission on the Public's Health System
Eat Smart Move More SC
ECM Counseling, LLC
Epilepsy Services of New Jersey
Epilepsy Services of NJ
Equality California
Equality North Carolina
Fact Forward
FLIPANY (Florida Introduces Physical Activity and
Nutrition to Youth, Inc.)
Florida Institute for Health Innovation
Haitian Health Institute
Hawaii State Rural Health Association (HSRHA)
Health by Design
Health Care Improvement Foundation
Howard University Hospital HUH CARES Public Health
Programs
Human Impact Partners
iHealth
Illinois Association of Behavioral Health
Immunize Nevada
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC
Indiana Public Health Association
Institute for Public Health Innovation
Iowa Chapter National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
Iowa Public Health Association
Latino Coalition for a Healthy CA
Louisiana Public Health Institute
Louisiana Public Health Institute
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
MIKE Program

Minnesota Oral Health Coalition
Minnesota Public Health Association
Minnesota Society for Public Health Education
Mississippi Public Health Institute
Missouri Society of Health and Physical Educators
Montana Public Health Association
Mount Sinai Health System
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 York State Public Health Association
North Carolina Alliance for Health
North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
North Dakota Rural Health Association
Ohio Public Health Association
OPHA
Oregon Vision Coalition
PacificSource
Partnership for a Healthy Nebraska
Physicians for social responsibility-Los Angeles
Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter
Presbyterian Healthcare Services
World Health Education Foundation

Prevention Action Alliance
Project Extra Mile
PSR Arizona (NFP)
Respiratory Health Association
RWJBarnabas Health
Saint Alphonsus Health System
Silver State Equality-Nevada
Southeastern Michigan Health Association
St. Luke's University Health Network
Tennessee Justice Center
Texas Hospital Association
The Children's Partnership
The Fairfield Group
The Family Resource Network
The University of Toledo
The Wall Las Memorias Project
Unified HIV Health and Beyond
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
Vitalyst Health Foundation
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington State Department of Health
Washington State Public Health Association
West Virginia University School of Public Health
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
Wisconsin Division of Public Health

Local Organizations - 136

1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health
A Vision of Change Inc.
Adagio Health
Addiction Connections Resource
Air Alliance Houston
AltaMed Health Services
AMITA Health
Anaheim Lighthouse
Anders & Associates
APLA Health
APLA Health
Bastrop County Cares
Beacon Health System
Berean Wellness & Community Support Center
Better Health Partnership
Bike Cleveland
Black Nurses Association of Baltimore
Bridges Into the Future

Brighter Beginnings
Brooklyn Perinatal Network Inc
Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Inc
Buffalo Trace District Health Department
Business Group on Health
Centennial Area Health Education Center
Central Michigan Rural Health Network
Ceres Community Project
Chenango Health Network Inc.
Chicago Youth Programs, Inc.
CL Enterprises
Cleveland Public Library
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
Cook County Department of Public Health
Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Deborah's Place
Delta Health and Wellness Center - Family Clinic
Early Childhood OC
El Concilio of San Mateo County
Elkhart County Health Department
Flint Association of Black Social Workers
flint rising
Flint Women's Study Community Action Network
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Greater Flint Health Coalition
Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health
Habilitative Systems, Inc
Hathaway -Sycamores
HealthShare Exchange
Healthy Chesapeake
Healthy Harford
Henry County Health Department
Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.
Horn of Africa Community of USA
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC
Institute for Family Health/Bronx Health REACH
Jefferson County Public Health (CO)
Jewish Renaissance Foundation
Johnson County Public Health
Joy Southfield Community Development Corporation
Jump IN for Healthy Kids
Kent City Health Department
Keystone Rural Health Consortia, Inc.
Knox Public Health
LA Best Babies Network
Labor of Love Safety Training and Consulting
Lake County Health Department and Community
Health Center
Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health Department
Linn County Public Health
Long Beach Elder Abuse Prevention Team
Marin Healthcare District
Mason County Health Coalition
Mendocino County Community Wellness
Mendocino County Public Health Community
Wellness
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Mid-City CAN (Community Advocacy Network)
Midwest Asian Health Association
MountainCare

Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies
National Capital Area SOPHE (NCA SOPHE)
National Health Foundation
Native American Connections
Nature and Forest Therapy LLC
New Wine Ministries CWW
NM2C, LLC
NOELA Community Health Center
North Central Public Health District
Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation
Region
Northside Association for Community Development
NOVA ScriptsCentral
One Joplin
Orange County Recovery Collaboration
Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Piedmont Access To Health Services, Inc.
Progressive Democrats of America, Tucson, AZ
Chapter
Public Health Alliance of Southern California
PublicHealthApproach LLC
Putnam County Health Department
Rafiki Coalition for Health and Wellness
RESULTS DC
Revive Our Old Town Coalition
Richland Public Health
RiverStone Health
Saint Alphonsus Health System
Servicios Y Mas Inc.
Seven Valleys Health Coalition
Smoke Free St. Joe
Strawberry Fields, Inc
tahoe forest Hospital Care coordination
Tahoe Health
Texas Health Resources
The Center for Health Affairs
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 Staten Island Partnership for Community
Wellness
Tri-County Health Department
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc.
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties
United Way of Treasure Valley
VAC | Westbrook Clinics
Valley AIDS Council
Vita Health and Wellness Partnership

WARM, Inc.

Washoe County Health District

Wayne State University Center for Health and
Community Impact

WelCore Health, LLC

West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition

Western Idaho Community Health Collaborative

Wright County Public Health