

April 13, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairs Aderholt and Baldwin and Ranking Members DeLauro and Moore Capito:

As Congress works to draft the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations legislation for fiscal year (FY) 2024, the **XX** undersigned organizations request that the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Social Determinants of Health program, within the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), be funded at \$100 million**– in line with President Biden’s FY2024 request. We sincerely thank Labor-HHS for providing \$8 million in FY2023 for the program. The undersigned organizations ask Labor-HHS to build upon this promising 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.

Now more than ever it is important to address the social, economic, and environmental conditions, including housing, employment, food security, transportation, and education, that contribute significantly to an individual’s health outcomes over their lifetime and community health at-large. These non-medical drivers of health, collectively referred as the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), are estimated to contribute 80-90% to a person’s health outcomes, while traditional healthcare only accounts for 10-20%.¹

CDC’s SDOH program is addressing these non-medical drivers of chronic disease and health disparities. While clinicians can identify non-medical social needs and make referrals to community-based and social service organizations, they cannot ensure that there are adequate resources and policies in place to meet the needs of patients on their own. Healthcare is most effective when it can work with other sectors to improve the health and well-being outcomes for individuals and communities. Public health departments and community organizations are uniquely situated to build these collaborations across sectors and identify SDOH priorities in communities. For example, while the healthcare system can offer in-house social services

¹ <https://nam.edu/social-determinants-of-health-101-for-health-care-five-plus-five/>

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, interpret data to identify areas of need, find innovative solutions, and develop community resource materials. The increase in FY2024 would build upon previous investments to develop, implement, and evaluate action plans to improve health outcomes in additional jurisdictions.

To build the evidence base for future SDOH work, CDC evaluated existing multi-sector coalitions that are working to advance health equity through SDOH-centered solutions. In a first-year evaluation, CDC found that of 42 SDOH community partnerships evaluated, 90% of them contributed to community changes that promote healthy living.² Of the 29 partnerships that reported health outcomes data, their programs are projected to save \$644 million in medical and productivity costs over 20 years.³

A healthier, more resilient population and stronger economy require us to prevent and address the non-medical factors that cause increased healthcare costs and that put lives at risk. We thank you for your leadership in FY2023 and your consideration of our FY2024 request to continue building up CDC's SDOH program. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Madison West, Associate Government Relations Manager at Trust for America's Health at mwest@tfah.org.

Sincerely,

² <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/programs-impact/sdoh/pdf/GFF-eval-brief-508.pdf>

³ *ibid*