

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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Trust for America's Health (TFAH) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public health policy, research, and advocacy organization. We work to promote optimal health for every person and community and make prevention and health equity foundational to policymaking at all levels. Our work is focused on the antecedents of poor health and on policies and programs to advance an evidence-based public health system that is ready to meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century.

Board Chair's Message

Stephanie Mayfield Gibson, M.D., FCAP

Chair of the TFAH Board of Directors



It is a pleasure and an honor to present Trust for America's Health's (TFAH) 2022 Annual Report. Thank you for your interest in our mission and activities.

Our nation faces multiple public health challenges, including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals and communities, the growing number of Americans

living with chronic disease or mental health challenges, and a rise in the number of environmental disasters. In addition, these issues are compounded by health inequities, underfunded public health networks, and strained healthcare and social services delivery systems. TFAH, a non-partisan, not for profit organization, remains focused on addressing these issues through policy, research, evidence-based publications, and advocacy.

Among TFAH's most critical accomplishments during 2022 were working with partners to successfully advocate for removal of financial barriers to vaccines in Medicare Part D and Medicaid, the inclusion of TFAH's *State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America 2022* report data and policy recommendations in the Biden-Harris Administration's *National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health*, the continuation of the COVID-19 electronic benefits transfer (EBT) nutrition benefits access program beyond the pandemic, the creation of a public health workforce loan repayment plan, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' strengthened hospital measures around the social drivers of health and antimicrobial use.

During the year, TFAH continued its work to help the nation protect lives during the COVID-19 pandemic and employ action steps to strengthen the public health system to be better prepared for future public health emergencies. To that end, TFAH communicated with Congress, the administration, federal agencies, state and local

public health departments, the news media, and other stakeholders on the critical need to invest in the public health workforce and infrastructure and the importance of addressing health disparities.

In addition, TFAH continued to be an advocate for and thought leader on emergency preparedness, public health funding, advancing an age-friendly public health system, addressing the social determinants of health and health equity, and ensuring access to mental health and substance use services.

What's next? Building an equitable public health system and advancing health equity requires dedication and innovation. TFAH will focus on opportunities to grow and build on current work through new and existing partnerships while ensuring the organization continues to be a sought-after source of information and expertise. TFAH will continue to build good will and utilize multi-sector knowledge to realize our vision of providing the opportunity for optimal health for everyone as set forth by our Founder and first President, the late Honorable Governor Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. who passed away in June 2023.

Thank you to TFAH's funders for their generous and crucial support. I also thank our Board of Directors for their steadfast service and for their time and strategic guidance to the organization. And thank you to our President and CEO, Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, for her stellar leadership and management, the leadership team, and the entire dedicated staff for operationalizing TFAH's mission to promote optimal health for every person and community and make prevention of illness and injury a national priority. I am also grateful to our former Board Chair, Dr. Gail C. Christopher, for years of committed service and her forward-leaning guidance.

President and CEO's Message

J. Nadine Gracia, M.D., MSCE

President and CEO



Thank you for your interest in TFAH and for your support of our important mission.

During 2022, numerous milestone events further advanced TFAH as a sought-after voice and thought leader on public health and prevention. We strengthened partnerships and engagements with the

White House and several Federal agencies and with public health, healthcare, behavioral health, aging, and climate allies. An illustration was our participation in the historic White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, and our input into the resulting *National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health*. The Conference and the National Strategy have catalyzed action on the growing rates of food insecurity and diet-related diseases in the U.S. TFAH was honored to play a role in helping the country move toward the Conference goals of ending hunger and reducing diet-related diseases by 2030.

TFAH continues to be a recognized advocate in areas critical to the public's health, including public health funding and infrastructure, emergency preparedness, the social determinants of health, health equity, behavioral health, and chronic disease prevention. Also vital is TFAH's work to promote and defend the public health system in the face of an increasing number of challenges to public health authority and a growing level of distrust in public health and science, often due to misinformation.

TFAH also continued to play a leadership role in support of public health's pandemic communications as a managing partner of the Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC). To help state and local health departments be effective communicators during the pandemic, PHCC created and distributed messaging

toolkits and hosted webinars on topics ranging from educating the public about when and how to use COVID-19 at-home tests to using social media for public health communications. The success and impact of PHCC was recognized by being named a finalist for *PR Daily's* 2022 Nonprofit Communications Awards in the COVID-19 Communications category.

In addition, we advanced and expanded our work in building an age-friendly public health system. In recognition of our work to promote health and well-being across the lifespan, TFAH was selected as a Healthy People 2030 Champion by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

All of these achievements are made possible by the incredible support of our Board of Directors and the dedication of our talented staff. During the year, we honored the remarkable tenure and contributions of outgoing Board Chair, Dr. Gail C. Christopher, and welcomed our new Board Chair, Dr. Stephanie Mayfield Gibson. They are both renowned experts, and TFAH greatly benefits from their knowledge and leadership.

Moreover, we made two important additions to our leadership team in our new Executive Vice President, Dr. Tekisha Dwan Everette, and our new Chief Operating Officer, Stacy Molander. Their vast experience and expertise will help accelerate TFAH's mission to promote optimal health for every person and community.

In closing, I want to recognize and thank our Board of Directors for their invaluable service. I also thank our funders for their vital support of TFAH's mission and priorities. And we greatly appreciate our partners for our collective commitment to drive forward the many action steps the nation needs to take to secure a healthier future for everyone.

2022 Year in Review

The unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing rates of chronic disease, and growing health disparities made 2022 a challenging year for the nation's public health system. These events made TFAH's mission to address the antecedents of poor health, address health inequities, strengthen the public health system, and increase investment in prevention as critical as ever.

Throughout the year, TFAH worked to develop and amplify research and make policy recommendations to the administration, Congress, and state policymakers to ensure the nation's public health system is ready to meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century.

TFAH's work includes focus within the following issue areas:

Supporting emergency preparedness and outbreaks prevention

During the year, TFAH advocated for evidence-based policies and served as a valued source of information for policymakers and news media on such issues as emergency preparedness, vaccine access and hesitancy, public health infrastructure and authorities, and how to ensure that climate change adaptation is focused on communities at heightened risk due to economic and health disparities.

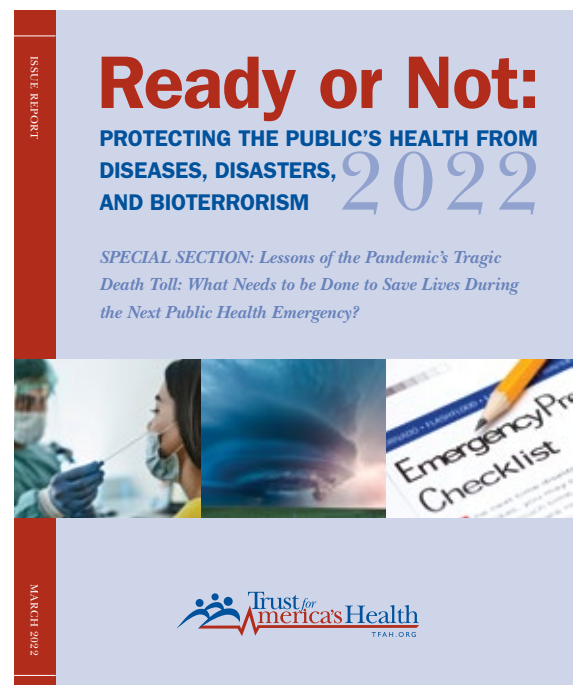
Published in March, TFAH's annual *Ready or Not: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism* report measured states' emergency preparedness and made recommendations on how to strengthen the nation's readiness to manage and respond to health threats. TFAH conducted a national media tour to amplify the report's findings and hosted a webinar and congressional briefing about the report.

TFAH continued to lead an informal coalition of stakeholders called the Multisector COVID-19 Partners. The group, which has met frequently since February 2020, consists of policy and advocacy groups representing public health, medical, biotechnology, academia, civil rights, global health, and other sectors. In 2022, guest speakers included the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, senior White House advisors, the leadership of the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) senior advisors to the Secretary, immunization experts, congressional committee staff, and partner organizations. TFAH also provided weekly policy updates to the group.

Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act in August, which included two provisions that will eliminate financial barriers to vaccines in Medicare Part D and Medicaid. TFAH staff has tirelessly advocated for these provisions, alongside partners in the Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC).

TFAH continued to play a leadership role in the Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) with other managing partners the CDC Foundation, the de Beaumont Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation. The PHCC provided messaging guidance, and trainings and resources to health departments nationwide to support their COVID-19 messaging to the public. Messaging resources produced during the year included COVID-19 communicator toolkits on booster vaccines, vaccines for children, and how to properly use at-home testing. Webinars on message framing to bridge political divides and



using social media for public health communications were also produced and well-attended. Between the collaborative's launch in the Summer of 2020 and the end of 2022, PHCC materials were viewed online nearly 800,000 times.

TFAH served on the steering committee of the Adult Vaccine Access Coalition, advocating for strengthening the nation's immunization infrastructure and ensuring access for all. In addition, TFAH expanded its leadership on vaccine equity issues. Good Health WINs, a partnership between the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Vaccinate Your Family, and Trust for America's Health, worked to strengthen vaccine infrastructure and access within the Black community through advocacy and education. In 2022, the Good Health WINs nationwide network was comprised of 40 state and national organizations, over 1,500 participating sections/chapters, had over 640,000 attendees at community events, and reached 1,474,523 people on social media with science-based information about the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine. TFAH joined the Good Health WINs partners to present at conferences and events including the NCNW National Convention, the American Public Health Association annual meeting, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference, and other events delivering presentations focused on vaccine policy, access, and equity. Community partnerships like the Good Health WINs initiative proved critical to closing the vaccination gap between Black individuals and their white counterparts that existed early in the pandemic. Between April 2021 and March 2022, the COVID-19 vaccination disparity between white

and Black Americans fell from 14 percent to 5 percent.

TFAH President and CEO Dr. J. Nadine Gracia participated in UnidosUS and the National Urban League's *Adult Immunizations: Leading with Equity, A Path to Sustainability Leadership Roundtable* to discuss successes and challenges from the collective work to advance equity in COVID-19 vaccination rates among adults in Latino and Black communities and to define what is necessary to sustain and scale these adult immunizations into the future.

TFAH presented on several panels on vaccine policy and preparedness including presenting at for the University of Pittsburgh School of Law on vaccine requirements, and to the American Academy of Nurses on public health infrastructure and preparedness for future pandemics. TFAH also presented at a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) meeting entitled "What Happened to the Plans?". The presentation focused on how preparedness is measured and on the findings of TFAH's annual *Ready or Not: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism* report.

TFAH met with Biden-Harris Administration officials regarding TFAH's recommendations on public health preparedness issues such as COVID-19, Mpox, and vaccine equity and access. Key meetings included Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Dawn O'Connell, White House staff, and CDC leadership.

TFAH published its weekly *Health Security Update*, sharing policy updates on infectious disease and emergency preparedness issues and opportunities for stakeholder engagement with its 1,500 subscribers.

Demonstrating the role of public health in prevention, supporting the public health workforce, and advocating for public health funding

Increased and consistent funding for public health is key to improving the nation's readiness to respond to public health emergencies, enable people to live healthier lives, and promote and safeguard health in every community.

TFAH published *The Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health System: Trends, Risks, and Recommendations, 2022* and conducted a national media tour to amplify its findings. The report tracks federal and state investment in public health and concluded that chronic underfunding leaves the nation insufficiently prepared for public health emergencies and chronic health threats. The report was a resource for policymakers, public health officials, advocacy, policy and other stakeholder organizations, researchers, and the media throughout the year. For example, the Congressional Research Service cited TFAH's research for a report on CDC funding, and the *Washington Post* editorial board cited the report in an editorial in support of increased funding for public health infrastructure. TFAH also presented to the National Governors Association COVID Academy on the report content.

In April, TFAH hosted a public health stakeholder convening including more than 15 public health and equity organizations to inform the work of The Commonwealth Fund Commission on a National Public Health System. The goal of the convening was to provide feedback to the Commission staff on the direction of the Commission and identify challenges and/or other areas of focus in moving toward a national public health system.

TFAH had success advocating for enhanced public health funding through annual appropriations and other legislative vehicles. The FY2023



Consolidated Appropriations Act passed Congress with increases for several TFAH priorities, including public health infrastructure, public health data, and preparedness. In addition to meeting with appropriators and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), TFAH submitted public witness testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies regarding the organization's FY 2023 funding priorities. TFAH also coordinated letters to Congress and OMB in support of public health programs.

TFAH met frequently with key congressional staff and provided legislative feedback on proposals that would impact public health. TFAH's legislative success in 2022 included working with partners to successfully advocate for authorization of a public health workforce loan repayment

program and language on public health data modernization and genomic sequencing — all actions recommended in TFAH reports.

Partnering with the Coalition for Health Funding (CHF), TFAH worked to call attention to the need for sustained public health funding including co-hosting a national webinar and congressional briefing, *Beyond Emergency Funding: Sustaining Public Health Funding in the Post-COVID Landscape*. Speakers included TFAH President and CEO Dr. J. Nadine Gracia; Lisa Macon Harrison, President of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and Health Director of Granville-Vance (NC) Health Department; and Michael Fraser, CEO of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). The event was moderated by CHF President Mila Becker. TFAH was also elected to the CHF Board of Directors.

TFAH called for the healthcare sector to increase its focus on prevention, including through comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In August, CMS issued an inpatient hospital rule that aligned with TFAH's recommendations by strengthening reporting on social drivers of health and antimicrobial use and resistance.

As a longstanding priority, TFAH continued to lead advocacy on the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). TFAH tracked the latest funding numbers and developed fact sheets, charts, and talking points that

explain how beneficial PPHF dollars are to promoting the public's health in all fifty states. TFAH monitored potential threats and organized the advocacy of several groups on proposed legislation that would cut PPHF funding by sharing talking points with Congressional champions and activating our key partners via action alerts and by sharing PPHF messaging resources.

TFAH participated in the Alliance for Disease Prevention and Response convenings on building and sustaining

a robust public health system that supports resilient, equitable, and healthy communities.

TFAH continued to publish the biweekly *Wellness & Prevention Digest*, an invaluable resource for stakeholders across the fields of public health and health policy. *The Digest* subscriber list grew by 8 percent in 2022, reaching over 20,000 subscribers twice a week. Content includes policy updates, comment opportunities, events, and publications related to prevention and public health policy.

Advancing health equity and addressing the social determinants of health

Central to TFAH's mission is an understanding of the need to address social and economic disparities if every person and community is going to have the opportunity for optimal health.

TFAH continued to lead policy and advocacy efforts in support of public health approaches to addressing social determinants of health (SDOH), including through congressional legislation authorizing and funding CDC's work addressing SDOH and in primary prevention. TFAH aided congressional champions in their work and led an organizational sign on letter that earned the backing of 80 organizations in support of increased funding to allow CDC's SDOH program to expand to all 50 states and U.S. territories. As part of the FY 2023 funding bill, Congress included compromise authorizing language that encourages the federal government to continue addressing community conditions that impact health.

TFAH worked with partners to lead advocacy in support of increased funding for CDC's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) and Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) programs. TFAH led an organizational sign-on letter that earned the support of 38 organizations calling for an appropriations funding increase to expand the REACH and GHWIC programs; led appropriations meetings with partners; and worked with congressional champions in support of a Dear Colleague letter to build support for funding. The REACH and GHWIC funding line received an increase of \$3 million in FY23 appropriations.

In August, TFAH presented to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on the Review of Federal Policies that Contribute to Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities.



In 2022, TFAH was named a Healthy People 2030 Champion by the HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

TFAH submitted a comment to CMS in response to a request for information (RFI): *Make Your Voice Heard*. The RFI sought recommendations on how CMS can address health equity challenges and challenges presented by the end of the public health emergency.

TFAH submitted comments in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Sec. 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, nondiscrimination in health programs.

TFAH provided background research to Senators Sherrod Brown (OH), Cory Booker (NJ), and Alex Padilla (CA), on a draft *Senate Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis* and endorsed the resolution once it was introduced.

Preventing chronic diseases including obesity and supporting healthy nutrition for all

Access to good nutrition and opportunities to be physically active are critical to good health. One of TFAH's research, policy, advocacy, and legislative priorities is expanding programs that increase access to and affordability of healthy foods for all families, decrease diet-related diseases, and make safe places to be physically active accessible for everyone.

Throughout the year, TFAH President and CEO Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, served on the Bipartisan Policy Center's Food and Nutrition Security Task Force. In January, the task force released its second policy brief on recommendations to improve child nutrition.

On September 28th, Dr. Gracia participated in the second ever White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. TFAH's annual report: *State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America 2022*, which, in coordination with the White House, was released the same week as the Conference, was cited in the *National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health*, an outgrowth of the Conference. The National Strategy detailed the policy

actions necessary to end hunger by 2030 and reduce the prevalence of diet-related diseases.

TFAH activities leading up to the White House Conference:

- TFAH participated in a National Convening to Inform the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health which was organized by the Task Force on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health and co-hosted by the Bipartisan Policy Center. The goals of the convening were to identify federal policy solutions on how to improve nutrition, end hunger, and reduce diet-related chronic diseases and to inform the Task Force's report that was submitted to the White House.

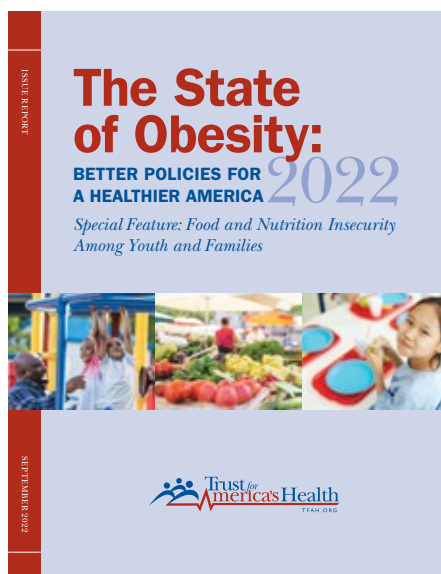


TFAH President and CEO, Dr. J. Nadine Gracia and TFAH Board of Directors member Dr. Umair A. Shah, Secretary of Health, Washington State Department of Health, were invited attendees at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health.

- TFAH participated in an invitation-only, national non-profit and advocacy organizations listening session to inform White House staff of priorities as they developed policies for the *National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health*.
- TFAH submitted policy recommendations to the Biden-Harris Administration to inform its *National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health* and several TFAH recommendations were represented in the National Strategy, including expanding the State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) program to all 50 states and the U.S. territories, supporting expansion of Medicaid, providing healthy school meals for all students, improving the nutritional quality of school meals, and increasing screening for SDOH in medical settings.
- TFAH met with White House Domestic Policy Council staff to discuss TFAH's research and recommendations.

TFAH activities following the White House Conference included:

- In support of the *National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health*, TFAH led the creation of a multisector coalition to support an increase in SPAN and Active People, Healthy Nation (APHN) funding to ensure that the SPAN program is implemented in all 50 states and the territories, in addition to enabling APHN to expand its work. The SPAN and APHN coalition met with members of the White House Domestic Policy Council, House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff, key congressional



champions, staff of the Office of Management and Budget, and the HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

- TFAH hosted the *State of Obesity 2022* virtual congressional briefing and national webinar, which featured Dr. Sara Bleich, Director of Nutrition Security and Health Equity at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Cherylee Sherry, Manager of Healthy Systems and Communities at the Minnesota Department of Health; and Catherine Oakar, Special Assistant to the President for Public Health and Disparities at the White House. Over 600 people attended.
- By invitation, TFAH participated in the Nutrition Security and Health Summit held jointly by USDA and HHS to discuss how to execute the goals of the *National Strategy on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition*.

TFAH conducted a national media tour to amplify the *State of Obesity 2022: Better Policies for a Healthier America* report findings and

recommendations. The report earned 189 news placements resulting in 3.3 million broadcast impressions and 48 million digital impressions – the best results ever for a TFAH report.

As part of the fiscal year 2023 funding bill, several of TFAH's nutrition related policy recommendations were included in the final legislative language. First, Pandemic-EBT, a summer program that allows children who qualify for free school lunches to receive nutrition assistance benefits on a card, was made permanent. In addition, the congregate rule for providing school meals was permanently waived, which will increase access to nutrition, especially in rural areas.

TFAH submitted comments in support of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) work to research and develop a front-of-package label (FOPL) system for manufactured food products. Developing a FOPL scheme is one of the priorities in the *National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health*.

TFAH commented in support of U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) bridge standards rule to update school nutrition standards, while encouraging USDA to swiftly issue permanent rules that further advance nutrition security in school meals.

TFAH submitted comments to the FDA in support of a proposed rule banning menthol flavor in cigarettes, which are disproportionately marketed to Black populations. TFAH called for no penalties on consumers and pairing the rule with more support for Americans who want to quit smoking.

Advancing age-friendly public health systems

TFAH is working to facilitate the adoption of age-friendly initiatives and priorities within the public health system.

TFAH's Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) initiative continued to expand to more state and local health departments across the country, in addition to ongoing work in Mississippi and Washington, as well as providing guidance and technical assistance to California, Colorado, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and to other jurisdictions. TFAH's technical assistance included facilitating multi-sector collaboration and identifying state-specific strategies to improve older adult health and well-being.

TFAH continued working with the Florida Department of Health to increase the number of local health departments committed to age-friendly programs and services, including the facilitation of a Mentor-Mentee project that resulted in 50 of Florida's 67 county health departments becoming age-friendly public health systems.

TFAH expanded the AFPHS Recognition Program to offer an AFPHS Champion designation to individuals who participate in the AFPHS professional development training process and departments that are expanding their age-friendly programs. At the end of 2022, 50 individuals had been recognized. Department recognitions include two state departments of health (California, New York) and 20 local departments of health (listed on www.afphs.org). Department recognition is based on the completion of AFPHS action plans that include activities such as expanding data collection on older adult health and well-being, including older adults in assessments and planning, and ensuring older adults and caregivers are considered when developing emergency preparedness plans.

TFAH worked with Representatives Lois Frankel (FL-22), Debbie Dingell (MI-12), and Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) on the development and reintroduction of the *Protecting the Health of America's Older Adults Act*. The bipartisan



legislation would expand age-friendly public health systems and healthy aging work at CDC. We additionally issued a press release and gathered 47 endorsements of the legislation. TFAH also advocated for funding for CDC to work on age-friendly public health.

In partnership with the HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, TFAH co-hosted a series of calls with all ten of the HHS Regions, facilitating collaboration among state departments of health and state units on aging. The collaborations resulted in the development of action plans to address regional healthy aging priorities.

TFAH briefed congressional committee staff in preparation for hearings on healthy aging and worked with congressional staff on policy ideas on older adults and nutrition security.

TFAH strengthened its relationships with federal agencies working on healthy aging issues, including the Administration on Aging, CDC, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. During these meetings TFAH's age-friendly public health work was discussed including improving collaboration between the aging sector and public health sector, including in emergency preparedness.

Working to prevent substance misuse and suicide

The nation's epidemic of alcohol, drug, and suicide deaths needs urgent attention. Toward that end, TFAH worked with policymakers, advocates, and other stakeholders to increase investment in substance misuse and suicide prevention and treatment programs.

TFAH published its annual report *Pain in the Nation 2022: The Epidemics of Alcohol, Drug, and Suicide Deaths*—the fifth update within the Pain in the Nation report series—and conducted a national media tour to amplify the report findings and recommendations. The report included a special feature on the last two decades of the drug overdose crisis.

TFAH co-hosted a congressional briefing and webinar with Well Being Trust on the *Pain in the Nation* report. The featured panelists included Dr. Benjamin F. Miller, President of Well Being Trust, Schroeder Stribling, President and CEO of Mental Health America, and Dr. Arthur C. Evans, CEO and Executive Vice President of the American Psychological Association.

To advance recommendations from the *Pain in the Nation* report series, TFAH worked with congressional staff on the development and introduction of the bipartisan Improving Data Collection for Adverse Childhood Experiences Act (S. 4332). The bill would support CDC research and data collection efforts to study the potential ties between childhood trauma and poor health outcomes in adulthood. TFAH led advocacy in support of the bill, gathering the endorsement of 37 organizations from the public health, healthcare, and behavioral health sectors. In addition, the Biden-Harris Administration unveiled a new data dashboard tracking nonfatal overdoses, a recommendation from the *Pain in the Nation* report.

TFAH continued to lead the Well Being Working Group, a cross-sector coalition that prioritizes primary prevention of mental health concerns, substance misuse, and suicide. Monthly meetings featured guest speakers who discussed issues such as school-based programs to build resiliency, behavioral health issues in the LGBTQ+ community, and suicide prevention efforts among the American Indian/Alaska Native population, including a discussion with Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health



and Substance Use and Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

TFAH published a biweekly newsletter highlighting research, policy updates, and opportunities within the mental health and well-being sector.

In addition, the Well Being Working Group sent a letter to House and Senate appropriators describing the importance of funding SAMHSA programs, including the Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention program, Project AWARE, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act grant program, and the Minority Fellowship Program, among other priorities. In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, Congress reauthorized these programs and provided increased funding.

TFAH also worked with partners to successfully advocate for enactment of legislation that ended the ability of nonfederal government plans to opt out of federal mental health and addiction parity requirements. The language was also included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Through regular meetings with CDC staff for the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) program, and the Comprehensive Suicide Prevention program, TFAH helped inform CDC efforts focused on the prevention of suicide, ACEs, and adolescent behavioral health challenges. With the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, TFAH also co-hosted a briefing for the Suicide Prevention Task Force and other healthcare-focused Congressional staff regarding the importance of the Community Suicide Prevention program. In addition, TFAH advocated for appropriations to expand CDC programs, and funding for the ACEs and suicide prevention programs grew significantly in FY 2023.

TFAH continued to strengthen its partnership with SAMHSA, including through engagement as an invited participant at an expert panel on Black youth suicide and through submitting recommendations on addressing the mental health impacts of climate change. TFAH also developed a partnership with the African American Behavioral Health Center of Excellence to inform efforts to address the behavioral health needs of Black youth.

In 2022, SAMHSA launched the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, an important recommendation of TFAH's *Pain in the Nation* report and key component of the continuum of crisis services. TFAH coordinated a letter to SAMHSA from 40 organizations with recommendations for strengthening the Lifeline, including through Spanish text and chat services and specialized resources for LGBTQ+ youth. SAMHSA later implemented both recommendations.

TFAH submitted other recommendations to federal agencies, including comments to CDC regarding its draft *Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids* that emphasized an integrated, patient-centered approach to pain management and measures to reduce disparities and promote equity in access and treatment. The final guideline highlighted racial disparities in pain treatment and barriers to care for underserved populations. With the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group of the Mental Health Liaison Group coalition, TFAH also submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with recommendations for promoting equity in federal behavioral healthcare programs. The comments included a recommendation to improve provider reimbursements for mental health treatment and efforts to address social determinants of health. In 2023, CMS proposed coding and payment for new services to help underserved populations, including services to address unmet health-related social needs.

To strengthen its relationship with the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), TFAH engaged in meetings and stakeholder roundtables with ONDCP Director Dr. Rahul Gupta and other ONDCP officials and emphasized the importance of improved data collection, youth-focused efforts, and the primary prevention of substance misuse. In its 2022 National Drug Control Strategy, ONDCP highlighted the need to address social factors increasing the risk of youth substance use and improve data systems to help inform drug policy.

Illuminating the health impacts of climate change and addressing environmental health

As climate change leads to higher temperatures, rising sea levels, and more frequent and severe weather events, the impacts on people's health and safety will become more and more dramatic. The public health system needs to be prepared to mitigate and help communities adapt to these risks.

By invitation, TFAH served as a member of the Planning Committee for the Communities, Climate Change, and Health Equity – State Level Implementation workshop, organized by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

TFAH continued to advocate for environmental health programs such as CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, which expanded from 26 grantees to 31 grantees.

TFAH participated in meetings of the National Environmental Health Partnership Council (NEHPC), convened by the American Public Health Association and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. Most significantly, TFAH served on an advisory group that helped guide the process of NEHPC's pending merger with the Equity and Environmental Health Collaborative. The combined group is set to become the National Council on Environmental Health and Equity. TFAH President and CEO Dr. J. Nadine Gracia served on the Climate for Health Leadership Council Executive Committee.

During the March ecoAmerica's American Climate Leadership Summit, Dr. Gracia hosted a fireside chat with Dr. John Balbus, Acting Director of the HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity.



TFAH highlighted the mental health impacts of climate change, including by submitting comments to SAMHSA with recommendations for addressing those impacts.

In June, Dr. Gracia moderated a Modern Healthcare webinar on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and the role of the healthcare sector in addressing the climate crisis. Panelists included Dr. John Balbus, Acting Director of the HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity; Jon Utech, Senior Director of the Office for a Healthy Environment at the Cleveland Clinic; and Tensie Whelan, Clinical Professor of Business and Society Director at the NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business.

2022 Financial Highlights

FUNDING WAS OBTAINED FROM:	2021	2022
Grant revenue*	493,220	5,877,184
Contract revenue	549,697	465,541
Other donations	45,924	8,014,508
Investment return	205,198	(139,277)
Total Funding	1,294,039	14,217,956

FUNDS WERE SPENT ON:	2021	2022
Program services	4,176,160	4,136,086
General and administrative costs	524,427	718,614
Fundraising	172,786	167,574
Total Expenses	4,873,373	5,022,274

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

ASSETS:

Cash and cash equivalents	5,416,756	5,605,164
Certificates of deposit	-	8,000,000
Unconditional promises to give	2,106,528	3,468,851
Accounts receivable	25,752	8,893
Investments	3,176,531	2,898,505
Operating lease - right of use asset	-	1,120,707
Other Assets	412,825	352,438
Total Assets	11,138,392	21,454,558

LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	217,151	265,119
Deferred contract revenue	39,716	37,357
Operating lease liability	-	1,428,338
Deferred lease obligation	353,463	-
Total Liabilities	610,330	1,730,814

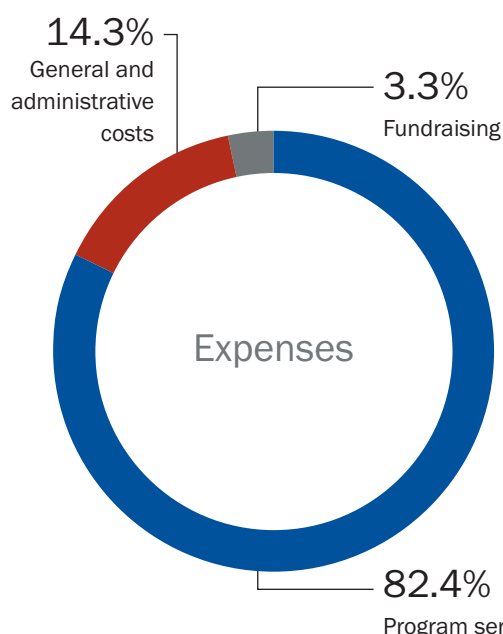
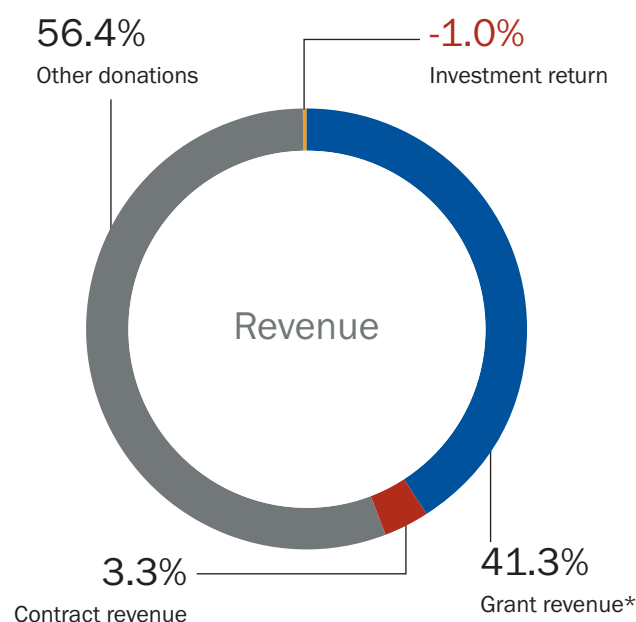
NET ASSETS:

Available for general operations	5,893,783	14,072,493
Available for designated purposes	4,634,279	5,651,251
Total Net Assets	10,528,062	19,723,744

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	11,138,392	21,454,558
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*TFAH received multi-year grant commitments during 2022. Since the above financial information was prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, the revenues from these multi-year grants were reported in 2022.

The amounts shown are summarized from Trust for America's Health annual audit. Please contact Trust for America's Health at 202-223-9870 or at info@tfah.org for questions or additional information about the audited financial statements.



2022 Funders

In order to secure and protect our independent voice, TFAH takes no government or industry funding. We sincerely thank our generous funders:

CDC Foundation

Dawn Hill Fund

The John A. Hartford Foundation

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Endowment Fund

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The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Well Being Trust

W.K. Kellogg Foundation



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