

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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Former Director, U.S. COVID-19 Response Initiative  
Resolve to Save Lives*

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## TFAH Leadership Staff

### **J. Nadine Gracia, M.D., MSCE**

*President and CEO*

### **Tekisha Dwan Everette, Ph.D., MPA, MPH, CPH**

*Executive Vice President*

### **Stacy Molander**

*Chief Operating Officer*

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 – 2026

In June 2023, the TFAH Board of Directors approved the organization's Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2026. TFAH regularly updates its Strategic Plan every four or five years. This latest plan was the culmination of an extensive process involving the TFAH staff and Board of Directors, as well as consultations with partner organizations and several of TFAH's funders.

The resulting strategic plan charts the future course of the organization based on TFAH's core strengths and identifies opportunities to fortify the nation's public health ecosystem and support the community conditions that advance health and well-being in every community.

The plan includes four strategic priorities:

**Strategic Priority 1:** A strong, resilient, trusted, and equitable public health system that addresses our nation's public health opportunities and challenges.

**Strategic Priority 2:** Innovation that drives systemic change to promote and protect health and well-being for all.

**Strategic Priority 3:** The advancement of health equity in public health and prevention.

**Strategic Priority 4:** A dynamic, sought-after, people-centered organization that is thriving.

The execution of the Strategic Plan will be grounded by work on 19 specific objectives within the four priority areas. Progress against these objectives will be measured throughout the plan timeline. For more information visit [www.tfah.org/about/tfah-strategic-plan/](http://www.tfah.org/about/tfah-strategic-plan/).

# Board Chair's Message

Stephanie Mayfield Gibson, M.D., FCAP

Chair of the TFAH Board of Directors



Public health in the United States is at an inflection point. Threats to our health are rapidly evolving, but there is an opportunity to execute effective policies and practices to protect and strengthen the nation's health. Policymakers responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with much-needed investments in public health infrastructure, but that progress will be at risk if increased funding is not sustained.

As a non-profit, non-partisan public health organization, Trust for

America's Health (TFAH) remains committed to advancing evidence-based policies that will strengthen the public health system to meet both acute and chronic health challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

In 2023, TFAH completed and began execution of its 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. The priorities and objectives laid out in the plan are designed to help foster a strong, resilient, trusted, and equitable public health system. Our Board of Directors worked hand-in-hand to support the TFAH staff in developing the plan. It provides an essential framework for our research, policy, advocacy, and organizational development efforts going forward. Of note, TFAH's dedicated and committed staff, led by President and CEO, Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, and our Board of Directors, felt it crucial to clearly outline our organizational development efforts in Strategic Priority 4: A dynamic, sought-after, people-centered organization that is thriving. The complete 2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan can be found here: <https://www.tfah.org/about/tfah-strategic-plan/>

In addition to the release of our strategic plan, TFAH continued to be a thought leader and propelled critical work in the areas of public health funding and emergency preparedness, advancing an age-friendly public health system, addressing the social determinants of health, transforming the mental health and substance use prevention system, and helping states and communities prepare for climate-related health impacts.

At TFAH, we value communication of evidence-based policy and collaboration. As such, TFAH presented at the

National Press Club on recommended policies related to the impact of obesity on our nation as highlighted in our *State of Obesity 2023: Better Policies for a Healthier America* report. Obesity affects 41.9 percent of adults and nearly 20 percent of children ages 2-19 years of age in the U.S. The report can be found here: <https://www.tfah.org/report-details/state-of-obesity-2023/>

In 2023, TFAH joined public health organizations and more than 100 public health deans and scholars in filing an amicus brief in the Braidwood Management, Inc. v. Becerra case. The brief highlights the evidence that access to preventive services is critical to supporting the health and well-being of individuals and families and urges federal courts to uphold no-cost coverage of preventive health services and screenings for more than 150 million Americans.

What's next for TFAH: In 2024, a U.S. presidential election year, TFAH will present a policy blueprint to the new Administration and Congress on policies to make the U.S. healthier. The organization recognizes that just as this is a vital moment for public health, it is likewise a pivotal moment for TFAH. Guided by our new strategic plan, we are steadfast in our commitment to being a dynamic and thriving organization. That commitment is a reflection of the dedication of our Board of Directors, the TFAH President and CEO, Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, and the entire TFAH staff.

I want to extend a special thank you to our funders for their generous and essential support. Your support enables TFAH to further our mission. We will continue our engagement with policymakers, allied organizations, practitioners, and others to promote optimal health for every person and community and strengthen the nation's health and well-being.

# President and CEO's Message

**J. Nadine Gracia, M.D., MSCE**

**President and CEO**



The year 2023 was yet another pivotal time for TFAH as one of the nation's leading, nonpartisan public health policy, research, and advocacy organizations that champions optimal health for every person and community. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of a robust public health system at all levels and reinforced our resolve to be a steadfast advocate for sustained investment in evidence-based public health policies, practices, and programs. Over the year, TFAH worked with the White House, Congress, and federal agencies to bolster the nation's preparedness

and response to health threats and also called attention to the ways that insufficient and inconsistent funding hinders public health agencies with too few resources, leaves many communities vulnerable, and puts our nation's health and economic security at risk.

An important milestone for our organization was the completion of our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. Developed through an extensive process involving TFAH staff and the Board of Directors, as well as consultations with partner organizations and funders, TFAH's new strategic plan will guide our efforts over the next three years to fortify the public health ecosystem, communicate the value of public health, and advance the community conditions that promote health and well-being. It is very much a forward-looking plan that addresses the nation's public health opportunities and challenges as we seek to leverage this vital moment to protect and strengthen public health, prevention, and national security.

In addition to our strategic plan, TFAH made significant progress in advancing priority issue areas. For example, 2023 marked the 20th anniversary of our *State of Obesity* report, which tracks obesity rates nationally and across population groups. This year's edition included a special feature highlighting major policy milestones over the past two decades to improve nutrition, increase physical activity, prevent and treat obesity in the U.S., and

calling attention to the continued action and increased investment needed to prevent and reduce obesity.

As a preview of our 2024 activities and accomplishments, TFAH prepared for the new Administration and Congress by publishing the fifth edition of our Blueprint report, which we release every four years. *Pathway to a Healthier America: A Blueprint for Strengthening Public Health for the Next Administration and Congress* is a policy roadmap for the Administration and Congress taking office in January 2025 to improve the nation's health outcomes and bolster its economic and national security by strengthening the public health system.

Of course, none of this is possible without the expertise and commitment of our talented staff and the invaluable support of and guidance from our Board of Directors. I also thank our funders for their indispensable support of TFAH's mission. And we are grateful to our many partners whose collaboration is instrumental to accelerating the nation's progress in promoting and protecting health for all.



## 2023 Year in Review

Throughout the year, TFAH worked to strengthen the nation's public health infrastructure and workforce by supporting policies and practices aimed at increasing investment in public health and addressing the ways in which health disparities drive poor health in many communities. The end of the COVID-19 public health emergency was a critical milestone in the nation's health during 2023. Yet, many health threats remain. Fortunately, we know the strategies that work and are effective. TFAH worked closely with its partners, government agencies, and public health and healthcare leaders to demonstrate that addressing both inadequate public health funding and health disparities are key to ensuring our nation's public health ecosystem can withstand the challenges and engage the opportunities of the 21st century.

*The following is a summary of TFAH's work in 2023 to promote and protect health by advancing prevention, evidence-based practices, and health equity:*

### **Promoting a Strong, Resilient, Trusted, and Equitable Public Health System that Addresses Our Nation's Public Health Opportunities and Challenges**

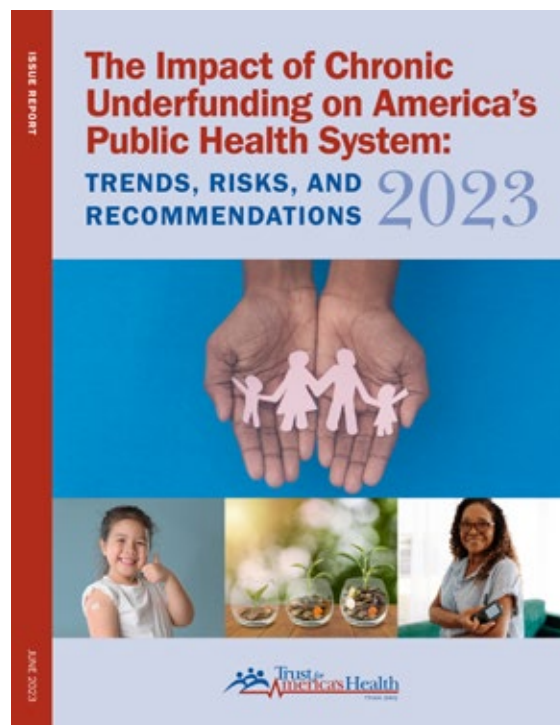
Throughout the year, TFAH supported modernization of the public health system through policy, advocacy, and messaging. TFAH met regularly with congressional and White House staff to discuss the mission and work of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its work with partners and grantees across the country. TFAH also worked closely with partners to produce reports and communications resources for the public health field.

TFAH published an issue brief, *Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress*, outlining recommendations for actions that Congress can take to protect every community and the nation from preventable illness and excessive healthcare costs.

TFAH worked with the office of Senator Patty Murray (WA) on the drafting and introduction of the Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act, which would guarantee sustained investments for core, governmental public health infrastructure. TFAH gave remarks at a virtual press conference with Senator Murray and was quoted in Sen. Murray's press release about the bill.

TFAH published *The Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health System: Trends, Risks, and Recommendations, 2023*, which detailed the consequences of decades

of underfunding on the public health system. This annual report tracks federal and state investments in public health agencies and programs and concluded that chronic underfunding leaves the nation insufficiently prepared for public health emergencies and chronic health threats. The report is a critical resource for policymakers, public health officials, policy and advocacy organizations, researchers, and the news media. TFAH conducted a national media tour and hosted a congressional briefing and national webinar to amplify the report's findings and recommendations.



TFAH staff met with the White House Office of Management and Budget and congressional appropriators to highlight the importance of sustained public health investments, which included submitting testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. TFAH also coordinated with public health partners on effective messaging around key public health challenges and opportunities throughout the year, such as COVID-19 testing and best practices for childhood immunizations and mental health.

TFAH continued to be one of four managing partners of the Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC). The collaborative was established in 2020 to create and distribute messaging materials to help state and local health departments provide consumer health guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2023, in addition to updating COVID-19 messaging, the collaborative created messaging resources and training materials on other issues facing public health including combating mis- and disinformation, overcoming vaccine hesitancy, air quality, crafting culturally-driven health communications, and using social media in public health communications. PHCC has become a trusted resource for public health officials and advocates. As of December 2023, PHCC had 33,300 newsletter subscribers and its website earned over 1.1 million page views.

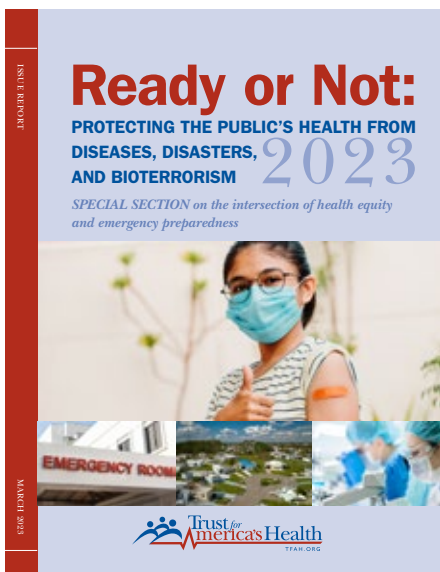
TFAH continued its leadership in advocacy for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). TFAH and key partners successfully defended the PPHF against further cuts in Congress, including leading a rapid response to a proposal to use PPHF funding as an offset to the Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act in the U.S. Senate, which would have diverted funds from key public health initiatives. TFAH held meetings with relevant committee staff and led a letter signed by 112 organizations to the U.S. Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, as well as the White House and other Senate leadership and staff. The letter and TFAH were featured in articles in *Politico* and *Congressional Quarterly*.



*TFAH staff frequently bring health policy recommendations to members of Congress and congressional committees.*

In collaboration with Grantmakers in Health (GIH), TFAH launched the *Health Policy Update* newsletter. The monthly newsletter is exclusively for GIH's membership and spotlights key White House and congressional actions, public comment requests, funding opportunities, reports, and events. Focus areas include population health, public health infrastructure, mental health and substance misuse, chronic disease prevention, and health equity.

Beginning in 2022 and throughout 2023, the *Braidwood Management, Inc. v. Becerra* case moved its way through federal courts. The case involves a legal challenge to the Affordable Care Act's preventive services provision, which requires insurance coverage without patient cost sharing of services recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. For the first time in the organization's history, TFAH joined an amicus brief to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Led by American Public Health Association and co-signed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ChangeLab Solutions, and 120 public health deans and scholars, the amicus brief lays out the potential harms to the public's health if the court overturned these requirements.



## Strengthening Readiness and Response to Emergencies and Outbreaks

Public health emergencies can and will happen – from infectious disease outbreaks to the health impacts of extreme weather. A central part of TFAH's work is to ensure increased, sustained, and flexible funding for the public health infrastructure and workforce so that the nation is prepared to protect all of communities.

TFAH released its 20th annual *Ready or Not: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism* report. The annual report is the cornerstone of our effort to strengthen national resilience. The report assessed progress on 10 measures of states' emergency preparedness and made recommendations on how to strengthen the nation's readiness for emergencies, outbreaks and other health threats. TFAH conducted a national media tour and hosted a webinar and congressional briefing to amplify the report's findings.

TFAH also continued its advocacy on vaccine equity and access, serving in leadership roles in immunization advocacy coalitions and advancing vaccine policies that align with the *Ready or Not* report. TFAH staff served on the steering committee of the Adult Vaccine Access Coalition, a nationwide network that has successfully advanced stronger federal policies expanding infrastructure and access to adult vaccines.

Additionally:

TFAH partnered with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)

and Vaccinate Your Family to support the Good Health WINs initiative – a network of national and local partners working to improve vaccine access and engagement within Black populations. TFAH spoke at the NCNW National Convention on the importance of advocacy in public health. It marked the first time TFAH presented at the historic NCNW National Convention.

TFAH also spearheaded and built coalitions to advance readiness. TFAH led "Multisector COVID Partners," an informal collection of organizations working on issues related to infectious disease prevention.

TFAH also led efforts around the reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). TFAH submitted comments and met with staff for the House and Senate authorizing committees as they developed draft legislation. TFAH also hosted meetings throughout the year with public health partners to discuss the bill.

TFAH served as a panelist during a meeting of the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense. Remarks centered on policy changes needed to strengthen state and local public health preparedness for future biological events, drawn in part from TFAH's *Ready or Not* reports. The Commission later released its 14th edition of the National Blueprint for Biodefense, which included several TFAH recommendations.



## Advancing Age-Friendly Programs, Policies, and Partnerships within the Public Health Ecosystem

Much of public health authority resides at the state and local levels. States therefore have a critical role to play in safeguarding Americans' health through policy and program implementation. A large part of TFAH's work is focused on providing state officials data and information on programs that are being piloted in other communities. One focus area of TFAH's policy advocacy centers on advancing the capacity of states to implement principles of our Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) movement.

People over 65 years of age are the nation's fastest growing demographic. Public health departments and systems, working with other partners, can play a vital role in supporting the health and productivity of older adults.

The AFPHS initiative was established in 2017 to guide public health efforts to support the health and wellness of the growing population of older adults. Throughout 2023, TFAH worked with state departments of health locally and across the country to encourage and support adoption of Age-Friendly Public Health Systems framework and alignment with other national age-friendly initiatives. Multiple states have adopted AFPHS policies and principles, and five states have become Age-Friendly Public Health Systems: California, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, and Tennessee.

TFAH participated in Mississippi's first Healthy Aging Summit as the state sought to expand healthy aging policies and practices in many of its communities. The Mississippi State Department of Health was awarded a certificate for achieving recognition through the AFPHS Recognition Program.

Additionally, TFAH co-authored "How Mississippi is Changing Public Health" with Dr. Kina White, director of the Office of Community Health Improvement for the State of Mississippi, that was published in the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*.

TFAH published a brief on rural healthy aging, co-authored by TFAH Senior Policy Development Manager Megan Wolfe, TFAH Policy Manager Dr. Karon L. Phillips and Dr. Aaron Guest, a professor at the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University. The brief highlights the partnerships and policies that could be adopted and implemented to improve older adult health in rural areas.

TFAH'S AFPHS team continued its work with the Northwest Washington Indian Health Board. The partnership contributed to the development of a series of surveys given to tribal elders to identify needs within their communities that would benefit from targeted public health interventions and resources.



TFAH's exhibit booth at the American Public Health Association annual meeting helped share information with conference attendees about how to support age-friendly public health system initiatives.

TFAH worked with the leadership of the State Offices of Rural Health and the National Rural Health Association to introduce age-friendly practices and promote the AFPHS Recognition Program.

Also in 2023, TFAH launched *Age-Friendly Public Health: The Podcast* to increase visibility of the movement and to highlight successes and opportunities for public health to support healthy aging. The first two episodes featured Dr. Terry Fulmer, president of The John A. Hartford Foundation, who discussed the origins and history of AFPHS and Dr. Kina White from the Office of Community Health Improvement in Mississippi, who spoke about her work to advance an age-friendly ecosystem in the state.

On the federal policy level, TFAH submitted comments to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to specify the inclusion of state and local health departments in the Older Americans Act.

TFAH continued to advocate for increased funding for the CDC's healthy aging work as well as the authorization of a grant program which would enable state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments to enhance their work on older adult health.

Finally, TFAH co-hosted a national workshop with the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that brought together state and tribal departments of health and aging leaders from around the country. Participants shared challenges and collaborative solutions on issues such as transportation for older adults, supporting the direct care workforce, and Alzheimer's Disease.

## Advancing Health Equity and Addressing the Social Determinants of Health

One of the central tenets of TFAH's mission and work is advancing evidence-based programs to improve the health of all Americans and achieve health equity for all, regardless of who they are or where they live. TFAH is a national leader in advocating for the strengthened role of public health in addressing the social determinants of health (SDOH).

The CDC's SDOH efforts have been a pillar in understanding and mitigating the non-medical drivers of health. TFAH led a letter, joined by 150 other health advocacy organizations, to the congressional appropriations committees in support of the CDC's SDOH program.

TFAH authored language that was ultimately included in the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations committee report, which passed out of the Senate Appropriations committee.

In November, the White House released the first *U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health* that highlighted the CDC's SDOH program, as well as led to the expansion of its State Physical Activity and Nutrition program – two of TFAH's policy priorities.

TFAH was a lead advocate and convener of partners in support of CDC's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) and Healthy Tribes programs. These two grant programs address health disparities in

communities that experience high levels of structural inequities. TFAH was part of a coalition of 87 organizations that submitted a letter to request increased funding for the REACH and Healthy Tribes programs. TFAH also sent monthly updates to congressional offices highlighting the work of their constituents that were REACH grant recipients.

In 2023, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget proposed updating standards for maintaining, collecting, and presenting federal data on race and ethnicity for the first time since 1997. TFAH submitted extensive comments to the proposed standards, emphasizing the role of complete demographic data in advancing health equity and ensuring the effectiveness of federal health policies and programs.

TFAH participated in the Better Health Summit produced by the American Health Information Management Association. Participants heard from leaders on effective strategies in health equity and SDOH data collection and included a specific focus on collaborating with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

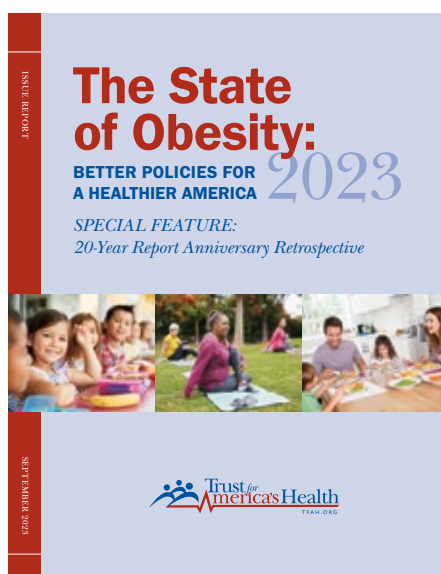
## Preventing Chronic Diseases, Including Obesity, and Supporting Healthy Nutrition for All

Ensuring that all Americans have access to nutritious, affordable food and addressing the diet-related drivers of illness are keys to optimal health in every community and are priority issues for TFAH. During 2023, TFAH undertook numerous activities to support healthy eating and opportunities to be physically active in every community.

TFAH published its 20th annual edition of its *State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America* report in 2023.

Over the last two decades, national adult and youth obesity rates rose sharply, particularly in communities experiencing barriers to healthy eating and opportunities for physical activity.

TFAH's annual report includes policy recommendations to make healthy food choices available and affordable in every community. The report's findings and recommendations were amplified by extensive media coverage.



To celebrate the 20th edition of the *State of Obesity* report release, TFAH held an in-person event at the National Press Club, that was also livestreamed, to highlight the report release. The Press Club event featured a panel discussion with federal experts that included Jim Jones, Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in his first public engagement in his new role, Caree Cotwright, PhD, RDN, Director of Nutrition Security and Health Equity at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, and Ruth Petersen, MD,

MPH, Director of CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity. The second panel consisted of community voices, including Kofi Essel, MD, MPH, FAAP, an obesity medicine and food as medicine specialist,; Randy



Board members (L to R) Dr. Umair A. Shah, Dr. David Lakey, Dr. Eduardo J. Sanchez, Dr. David Fleming with TFAH President and CEO Dr. J. Nadine Gracia at the National Press Club.

Williams, a community leader from Bastrop, Louisiana; and Jamila Freightman, a Louisiana High Obesity Program manager based at Louisiana State University.

TFAH staff amplified the State of Obesity report throughout the year. TFAH spoke on a panel at the Milken Institute's Future of Health Summit about strategies employers can undertake to advance evidence-based obesity care models. TFAH also presented at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Roundtable on Obesity Solutions on communications strategies and policy engagement levers to advance obesity policy. TFAH highlighted state-level recommendations at the Council of State Government's meeting in Raleigh, NC and the Women in Government's meeting in New Mexico, to discuss the report and its state-level policy recommendations. TFAH also spoke at the National Governors Association's Diabetes Innovation Action Network meeting on how obesity often leads to diabetes and chronic diseases.

TFAH expanded its advocacy and leadership on issues of nutrition and food security, drawing from the recommendations in the State of Obesity report series. TFAH spoke at the opening panel of the National WIC Association's Policy Summit in support of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) as an effective policy tool to reduce hunger, improve diet quality, and prevent disease. TFAH also submitted comments to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in support of a proposed rule to update the WIC benefit. Specifically, TFAH expressed support for the proposed fruit and vegetable benefit increase and increasing the whole grain requirement.

TFAH submitted comments largely in support of the USDA's proposed rule to update nutrition standards for school meals. Importantly, the proposed rule included the first ever limit on added sugars in school meals.



Dr. Gracia led a discussion of obesity prevention strategies with federal officials (L to R) Jim Jones, Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods, FDA, Caree Cotwright, PhD, RDN, Director of Nutrition Security and Health Equity, USDA, and Dr. Ruth Petersen, Director, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, CDC.

TFAH led advocacy efforts in support of the CDC's State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) and Active People Healthy Nation (APHN) programs. These programs provide funding and technical assistance to states to implement strategies, such as expanding access to physical activity through community design, supporting breastfeeding, and promoting food service guidelines. TFAH joined 112 organizations that requested \$130.42 million in program funding for these programs.

TFAH was selected to provide live oral comments to inform the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's update to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans for 2025. TFAH delivered remarks that emphasized the importance of using the *Dietary Guidelines* to help improve health and reduce chronic disease and continually updating nutrition standards in programs such as the school meals program and WIC to align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. TFAH engaged the FDA's Human Foods Program staff throughout the year, highlighting the connection between nutrition security and chronic disease prevention. TFAH was also a partner in support of front of package labeling (FOPL). TFAH submitted written comments to the Reagan-Udall Foundation, which advises the FDA, in support of advancing FOPL requirements.

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) released a report, *Making Food and Nutrition Security a SNAP*, which provided policy recommendations for the forthcoming Farm Bill. TFAH served on BPC's Food and Nutrition Security Task Force that helped inform the policy recommendations of the report.

Additionally, Dr. Gracia was appointed by President Joe Biden to a two-year term on the President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition. The President's Council is a federal advisory committee that aims to promote healthy eating and physical activity for all people, regardless of background or ability.



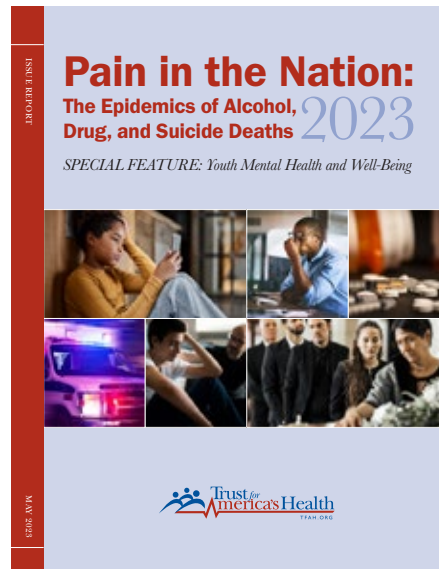
## Working To Prevent Substance Misuse and Suicide

More than 48 million people in the U.S. struggle with a substance use disorder, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. TFAH works to promote multisector approaches that address the root causes of addiction and to prevent suicides.

TFAH published *Pain in the Nation 2023: The Epidemics of Alcohol, Drug, and Suicide Deaths*, the sixth edition of the annual report. The report included a special feature on youth mental health and well-being. TFAH presented findings from the report to key partners at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Affiliate Council, the Coalition on Human Needs, the Child Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Policy Working Group, and the Injury and Violence Prevention Network. TFAH also hosted a congressional briefing and webinar in conjunction with the release of the report.

In an effort to advance the report's recommendations on Capitol Hill, TFAH worked with Senate offices on the introduction of the Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACE) Act in the U.S. Senate. The bill would authorize the CDC's ACEs program for five years and expand ACEs-related research. TFAH led a letter in support of this legislation, signed by 35 organizations, to the Senate HELP Committee. The Committee later included several PACE Act provisions in its reauthorization of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act.

TFAH continued to lead the Well Being Working Group, a multisector coalition that prioritizes primary prevention of mental health conditions, substance misuse, and suicide. Monthly meetings featured guest speakers who discussed issues such as social media and youth mental health, LGBTQ+ youth suicide prevention, and the National Institutes of Health's Helping to End Addiction Long-Term (HEAL) initiative. TFAH also published a biweekly newsletter highlighting research, policy updates, and opportunities within the mental health and substance use prevention sector.



TFAH worked closely with federal health agencies on efforts focused on the prevention of suicide, ACEs, and adolescent behavioral health challenges. TFAH built relationships between national and community behavioral health advocates in support of the CDC's Overdose Data to Action grant program. Further TFAH outreach included consultation with the CDC's Alcohol Program and an interview for the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) regarding school mental health activities.

TFAH continued to strengthen its engagement with SAMHSA by submitting comments on the agency's proposed 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, which reflected TFAH recommendations on modernizing data collection, enhancing crisis services, bolstering youth resiliency, and addressing social determinants of health. TFAH also participated in a subject matter expert listening session to assist with the development of the SAMHSA 2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

TFAH collaborated with the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) by submitting comments regarding the 2024 National Drug Control Strategy. TFAH also attended the White House Recovery Month Summit and a roundtable discussion with ONDCP Director Dr. Rahul Gupta to discuss efforts to enhance substance misuse prevention.

TFAH submitted comments to the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) regarding potential CPSTF guidance on vulnerable populations, risk screening and lethal means counseling, protective factors in perinatal care, and post-crisis counseling, among other issues.



## **Illuminating and Addressing the Health Impacts of Climate Change and Environmental Hazards**

The health impacts of climate change are creating health risks in every community. Increasing frequency and severity of weather events from wildfires to extended periods of extreme heat are two examples. Mitigating the health impacts of climate change and environmental hazards requires investments in efforts that strengthen community resilience and advance health equity.

During a year of extreme weather events, including wildfires, flooding, and extreme heat, TFAH authored a news feature on the critical role the public health system needs to play in preparing for and responding to health threats driven by climate change. The article highlighted the importance of policy action to prepare for climate change, concluding that the changing climate will increase health threats in every community, with under-resourced communities being most at risk.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a report outlining its ongoing and upcoming work and projects. The report included actions reflective of several TFAH recommendations across our reports, including, more timely data collection of health impacts, incorporating climate and health equity into Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grants, updating the Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework to focus on equity; and supporting climate-informed behavioral health services.

TFAH continued to advocate for environmental health programs such as the CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

and Climate and Health program, as well as funding for the HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity.

TFAH participated in strategic planning as well as regular meetings of the National Council on Environmental Health and Equity (formerly known as the National Environmental Health Partnership Council), spearheaded by the American Public Health Association and the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. In addition, TFAH regularly participated in meetings of the Climate for Health Leadership Circle, convened by ecoAmerica. Dr. Gracia, TFAH president and CEO, served on the Climate for Health Leadership Council Executive Committee.

SAMHSA published a summary report of responses to its Request for Information on climate change and behavioral health strategies that included TFAH perspectives on data collection, structural racism, and social determinants of health.

TFAH regularly joined meetings along with partners with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention to discuss housing hazards.

# 2023 Financial Highlights

<b>FUNDING WAS OBTAINED FROM:</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Grant revenue	5,877,184	3,539,669
Contract revenue	465,541	64,857
Other donations	8,014,508	14,899
Investment return	(139,277)	873,173
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>14,217,956</b>	<b>4,492,598</b>

<b>FUNDS WERE SPENT ON:</b>		
Program services	4,136,086	4,795,788
General and administrative costs	718,614	762,063
Fundraising	167,574	218,502
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,022,274</b>	<b>5,776,353</b>

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### ASSETS:

Cash and cash equivalents	5,605,164	4,507,206
Certificates of deposit	8,000,000	8,369,731
Unconditional promises to give	3,468,851	2,239,871
Accounts receivable	8,893	3,700
Investments	2,898,505	3,567,125
Operating lease - right of use asset	1,120,707	887,881
Other Assets	352,438	302,644
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>21,454,558</b>	<b>19,878,158</b>

### LIABILITIES:

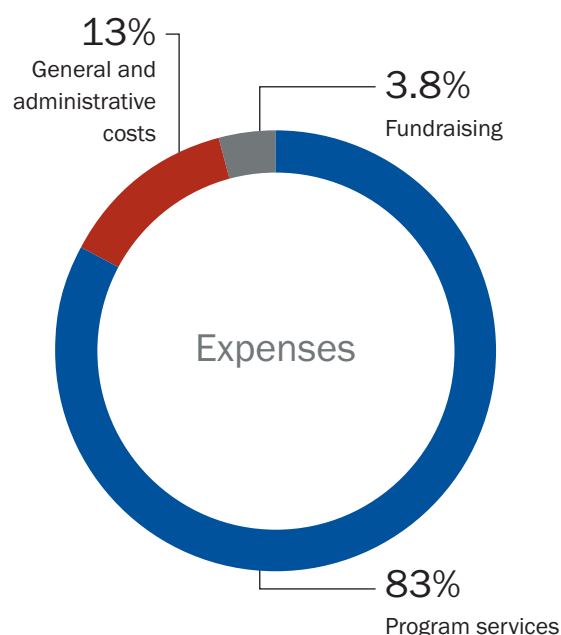
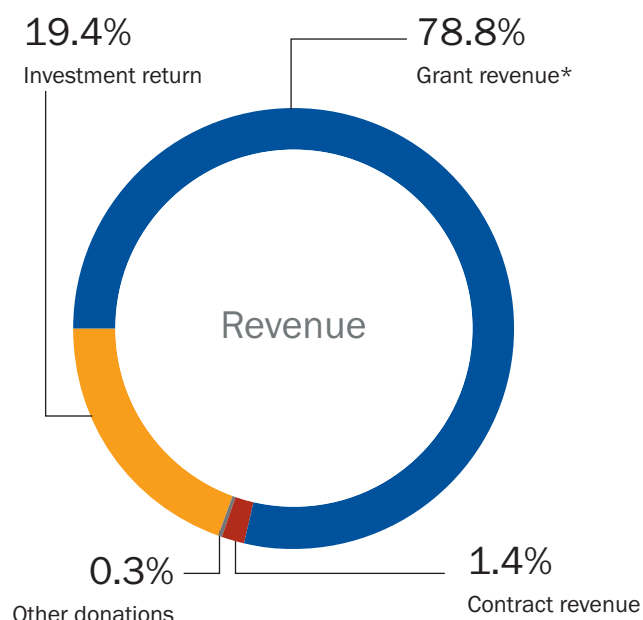
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	265,119	293,929
Deferred contract revenue	37,357	2,500
Operating lease liability	1,428,338	1,141,740
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,730,814</b>	<b>1,438,169</b>

### NET ASSETS:

Available for general operations	14,072,493	14,152,306
Available for designated purposes	5,651,251	4,287,683
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>19,723,744</b>	<b>18,439,989</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>21,454,558</b>	<b>19,878,158</b>
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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](mailto:info@tfah.org) for questions or additional information about the audited financial statements.



# 2023 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

Community Catalyst, Inc.

Dawn Hill Fund

de Beaumont Foundation

Grantmakers in Health

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Community Foundation

Millstream Fund

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The California Endowment

The John A. Hartford Foundation

W.K. Kellogg Foundation



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