



Advancing Policies that Create Conditions for Good Health

National Webinar

January 21, 2026
2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT

X @HealthyAmerica1  @tfah.bsky.social
 tfah.org

ISSUE REPORT

Advancing Policies that Create Conditions for Good Health:

OPPORTUNITIES, BARRIERS, AND STRATEGIES

A Report of the Promoting Health and Cost Control in States Initiative



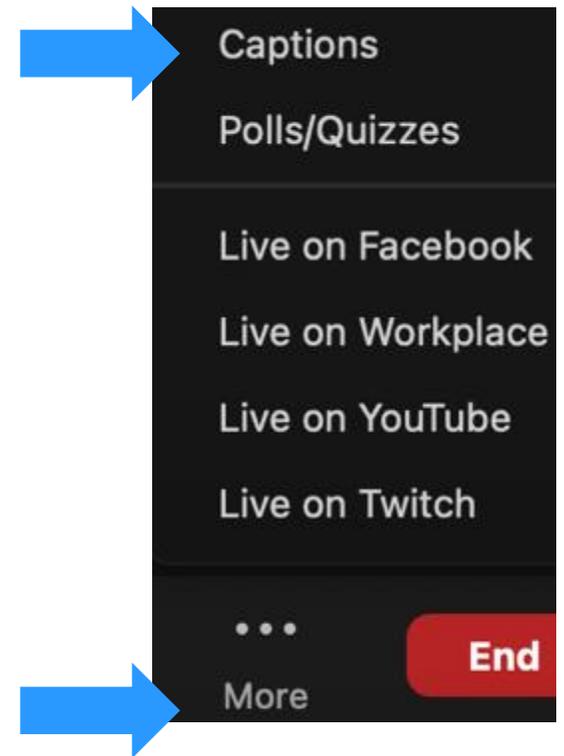
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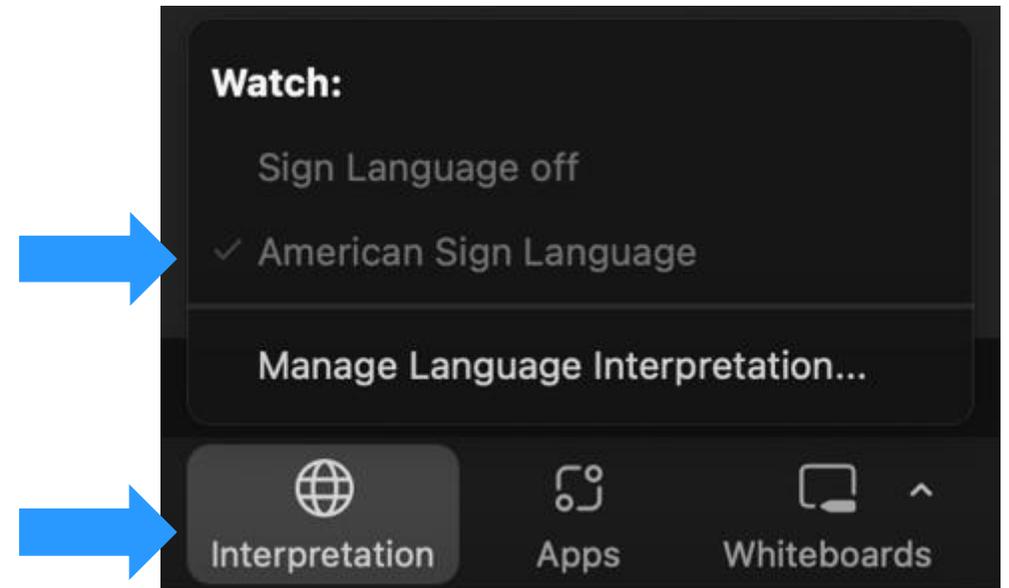
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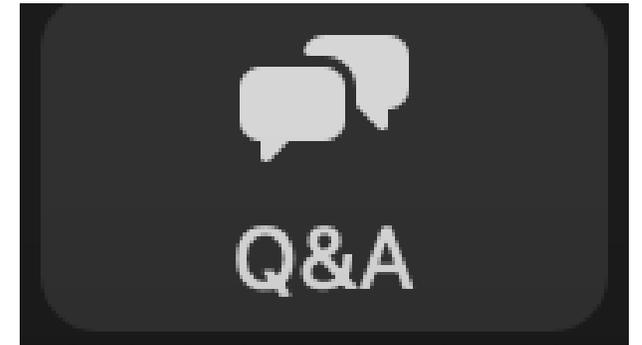
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Q&A Feature

1. At the bottom of your screen, click to open the Q&A panel
2. Type your question in the **Q&A box**
3. Hit **Enter**





Moderator

Breanca Merritt, Ph.D.

Director of Policy

Trust for America's Health

tfah.org



Agenda

- Welcome and Overview of ***Advancing Policies that Create Conditions for Good Health***
 - Panelist Presentations
 - Q&A
 - Closing
- 

Report Overview: *Advancing Policies that Create Conditions for Good Health*

A Report of TFAH's Promoting Health and Cost Control in States (PHACCS) Initiative



Background: PHACCS Initiative

Began in 2018 as initiative to support states in identifying primarily SDOH-related, evidence-based policies to reduce costs and inequities.

Goals	Policies
Support the Connections Between Health and Learning	Universal pre-K, school nutrition
Employ Harm-Reduction Strategies	Syringe access
Promote Healthy Behavior	Smoke-free policies, tobacco and alcohol pricing
Promote Active Living and Connectedness	Complete streets/equitable transportation
Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Affordable Housing for All	Housing rehabilitation loans, rapid re-housing
Create Opportunities for Economic Well-Being	Earned Income Tax Credits, paid sick and family leave, fair hiring (Ban the Box)

Goals	Policies
Supporting access to high-quality health services	Medicaid expansion, home visiting, community health workers
Promoting economic mobility	EITC, living wage, paid sick and family leave
Ensuring access to affordable housing	Low-income housing tax credits, housing choice vouchers, legal supports for eviction
Promoting safe and healthy learning environments for children	High quality ECE, more access to national school meals, school-based health centers
Health-promoting excise taxes	Tobacco, alcohol, sugar-sweetened beverages

2024-25 Updates

Question:

- How are states progressing in implementing the evidence-based policies in PHACCS?

Goals:

- Identify challenges, opportunities, and progress in enacting and implementing PHACCS policies
- Understand support needed by states and organizations in identifying shared goals, barriers, and facilitators in advancing these policies



Analysis and Perspectives from Community Partners

- **Listening sessions** with advocates, direct service providers, local and state government, research institutions, tribal entities across HHS regions
- **Convening** with national organizations that support local leaders and advocates
- **Thematic analysis** of discussions and **policy analysis** of specific efforts and ongoing budget challenges



Section I: A Changing Policy Environment

- **Policy Context Since 2020:** Lists out primarily COVID-19 investments including investments outside of CDC
- **Federal Changes and State Opportunity Environment:** Documents shifts in federal capacity and funding that may affect PHACCS policy adoption and implementation, targeted to agencies and offices that support drivers of good health.



Section I: A Changing Policy Environment

- **Preemption:** Documents how preemption hinders local efforts in employment, smoke-free air policies, alcohol sales, and housing
- **Laws limiting health equity efforts:** Health equity incorporated throughout the first reports; important to update how the policy environment has shifted since then
- **State budget limitations:** With recent and proposed federal funding cuts, states will be called to stretch their budgets. Provides a glance into how some states are facing those pressures in the context of PHACCS policies.



Section II: What's Working for States

Strategies that Support Adoption and Implementation



USE
LOCAL/COMMUNITY
EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT
NEED FOR POLICY



BUILD EFFECTIVE
COLLABORATION
ACROSS KEY PARTNERS



ENSURE COMMUNITY
BUY-IN



EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE
IMPORTANCE OF AN ISSUE



Section II: What's Working for States

Challenges in Adopting and Implementing Policies



INSUFFICIENT
FUNDING



UNSUPPORTIVE
POLITICAL
ENVIRONMENT



LACK OF
COMMUNITY BUY-
IN



ADMINISTRATIVE AND
LEGAL BARRIERS

“ For the last year, the New Jersey Senate has sat on Senate bill S1493. Casino workers are forced to breathe toxic air daily. New Jersey lawmakers have the opportunity to finally right this wrong by passing Senate bill S1493 now.

Cynthia Hubert, ANR
President & CEO, ANR

ANR AMERICANS FOR NONSMOKERS' RIGHTS



Breathe Easy
WITH SMOKEFREE
CASINOS

A Project of the ANR Foundation

**NEW JERSEY
POLL RESULTS**

Conducted by Normington Petts

83% of voters support legislation to make all workplaces in New Jersey smokefree, including casinos

ANR AMERICANS FOR NONSMOKERS' RIGHTS

Section III: Progress and Highlights of PHACCS Policies

- Background on each policy
- Updates on health & economic benefits
- Federal supports & recent structural changes to those supports
- Proposed budget & policy changes
- State examples from listening sessions

Louisiana Illuminator

Louisiana adopts paid family leave for 70,000 state workers

Nov 9, 2023 • By Julie O'donoghue



The Virginia Independent

Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoes bill to allow workers to take paid family and medical leave

May 23 • By Josh Israel



KSAT

San Antonio's Complete Streets policy lands top ranking in nationwide report

Jun 27 • By Mason Hickok



Goal 1. Support the Connections Between Health and Learning

	FY 24	Agency's Proposed Budget	FY26 President's Budget	FY26Senate	FY26 House
Head Start	12,271,820,000	12,271,820,000	12,272,000,000	12,356,820,000	12,271,820,000
National Lunch Program	18,150,000,000	18,096,297,000	18,096,000,000	17,183,209,000	17,183,209,000
National Breakfast Program	6,140,966,000	6,675,168,000	6,675,000,000	6,675,168,000	6,675,168,000



Takeaways and Additional Resources

- Though complex, cross-sector collaboration more important than ever to advance the public's health
- Similar policy strategies and challenges exist across states and communities
- Bipartisan opportunities still exist to advance PHACCS policies...
- ...There is a limit to how much states can pursue without federal support in some cases

PHACCS State Profiles

Trends within states about their progress on policies supported by PHACCS

Seven Strategies to Support State-level Health Promoting Policies

Guidance for national orgs to engage state advocates and government

Ongoing research into best practices



Speakers



Jovanna Archuleta

Early Childhood Program Director
LANL Foundation



Francis Torres

Associate Director for Housing
and Infrastructure
Bipartisan Policy Center



Shelina Davis, MPH, MSW

Chief Executive Officer
Louisiana Public Health Institute





Jovanna Archuleta

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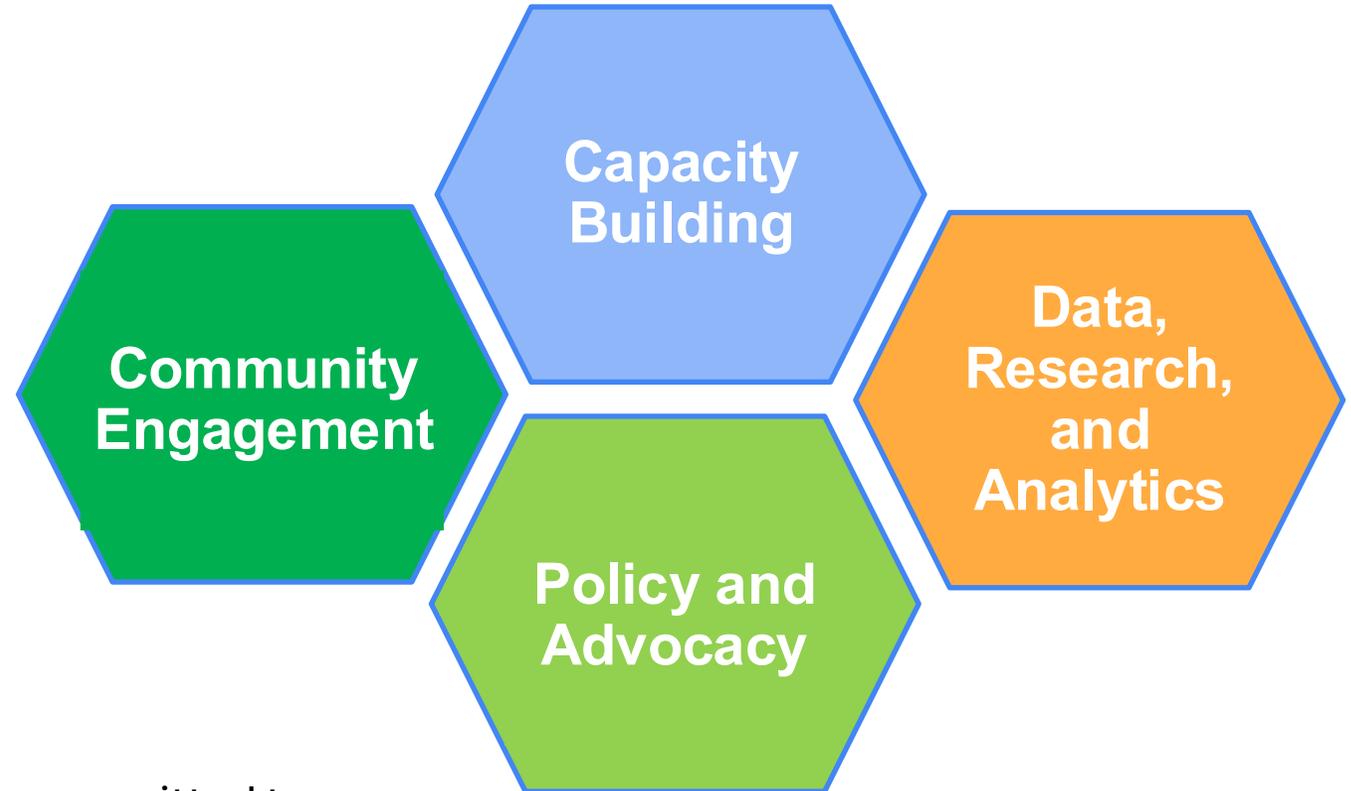
Shelina Davis, MPH, MSW

Chief Executive Officer

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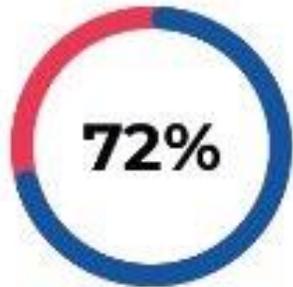


Our Mission

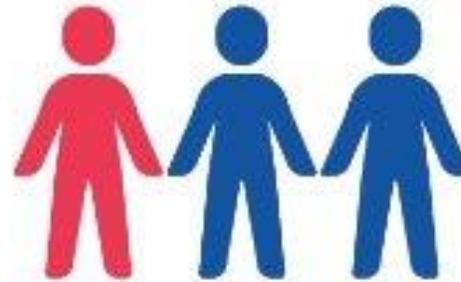
The Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) is committed to ensuring all Louisianians have fair and just opportunities to be healthy and well.

Why Paid Leave?

PFML Fast Facts



Seventy-two percent of working people in Louisiana do not have paid family and medical leave through their jobs - about 1.5 million workers.[2]



Nearly one in three seriously ill workers either lose their jobs or have to change jobs because of their illness. [5] PFML can help workers balance their health needs with work and keep their jobs.

PPL improves **health outcomes** through:

- Reduced rates of infant mortality
- Increased rates and duration of breastfeeding
- Decreased symptoms of postpartum depression

Highlights & Wins



- ◆ **2019 President Trump** Signs the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act granting 12 weeks of paid leave to federal employees
- ◆ September 2023 State **Civil Service passed rule** creating 6 weeks of paid parental leave for 35,000 classified state employees
- ◆ November 2023 **Gov. Edwards extended** that benefit to 35,500 unclassified employees
- ◆ **2024 Gov. Landry** [preserved benefit](#) for unclassified employees in September 2024
- ◆ Next step: K- 12 Educators



Paid Parental for K-12 Staff in Peer States



North Carolina



Tennessee



GEORGIA



South

Carolina



Alabama



Time to Care LA



a better balance



SAUL'S LIGHT



United Way of Southeast Louisiana



Submit Questions for Our Moderator and Panelists



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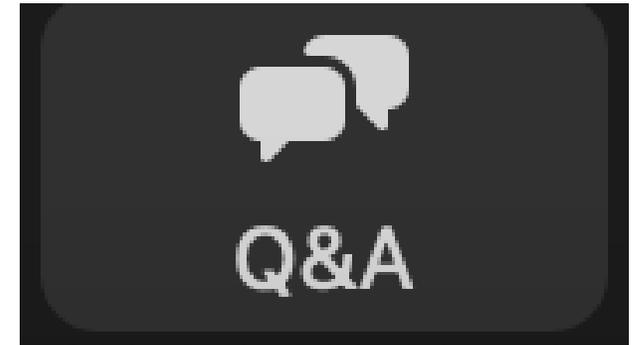
Shelina Davis, MPH, MSW

Chief Executive Officer
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Institute



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Thank You to Our Moderator and Panelists



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THANK YOU!

**The recording and slides will be available at
tfah.org**

