

May 14, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

As Congress works to draft the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations legislation for fiscal year (FY) 2025, the 85 undersigned organizations request that the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Social Determinants of Health program, within the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), be funded for at least \$100 million.**

The undersigned organizations ask Labor-HHS to build upon this investment to ensure that public health departments, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations are properly supported to address the social determinants of health in their communities.

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

Healthcare and public health sectors play unique, complementary roles in addressing health-related social needs. Payers and healthcare systems are increasingly recognizing the need to screen, identify, and make referrals to other organizations for individual patients' non-medical social needs. Healthcare systems need additional support to build community-clinical linkages and address patients' health related social needs. Health departments and public health organizations are uniquely situated to address the broader non-medical needs in communities by gathering data from multiple sources, identifying gaps in services, building collaborations across sectors (including with the healthcare sector) and with community-based organizations, and identifying

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

and addressing policies that inhibit overall health and well-being. By providing additional guidance, incentives, and frameworks, grantees can also mobilize to address the upstream factors of health that hospitals treat in individual patients.

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

A healthier, more resilient population and stronger economy require us to prevent and address the non-medical factors that cause increased healthcare costs and that put lives at risk. We thank you for your consideration of our FY2025 request to continue building up CDC's SDOH program. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Madison West, Government Relations Manager at Trust for America's Health at mwest@tfah.org.

Sincerely,

Access Care Anywhere
AIDS Alabama
America Walks
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association
American Institute of Dental Public Health
American Medical Women's Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association of Minnesota
American Public Health Association
Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
BDS Healthy Aging Networks, Inc.
Bethany Community Ministries, Inc.
Bike Cleveland
Brighter Beginnings

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

³ *ibid*

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Cause Engagement Associates
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders
(CARIE)
Christian Council of Delmarva
Common Threads
Continual Care Solutions
Cowise Consulting and Advisory
Deborah's Place
Epilepsy Foundation
Fact Forward
Gerontological Society of America
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Health by Design
Health Care Without Harm
Health Outreach Partners
Health Resources in Action
HealthyWomen
Human Impact Partners
Indiana Public Health Association
Japanese American Citizens League
Jump IN for Healthy Kids
KCS1
Kitsap Public Health District
Lakeshore Foundation
Ledge Light Health District
Maine Public Health Association
Maternal and Child Health Access
Mel Leaman Free Clinic
Mercalis
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's
Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Recreation and Park Association
New York State Public Health Association
New Jersey Public Health Association
Northern Nevada Public Health
Partnership to End Addiction

Prevent Blindness Georgia
Prevention Institute
Public Health Solutions
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
Strat
Susan G. Komen
Telosity Ventures
The AIDS Institute
The Center for Health Affairs (CHA) / CHAMPS Healthcare
The Foundation for Sustainable Communities
The Health Foundation, Inc.
The Joy Labs
The Praxis Project
The Pride Center at Equality Park
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc.
Trust for America's Health
United Way of the Lakelands
Visible Network Labs
Voices of Hope, Inc.
Wholespire, Inc.