

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education Appropriations Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education Appropriations Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 205150

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Murray and Ranking Members Cole and Blunt:

As Congress works to draft the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations legislation for FY 2022, the 191 undersigned organizations request that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) be properly funded at \$50 million for its Social Determinants of Health program. We sincerely thank Labor-HHS for funding the program for the first time in FY 2021 at \$3 million. The undersigned organizations ask Labor-HHS to build upon that initial 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how a community's resources directly impact the health of its residents. Unsafe or unstable housing, income insecurity, lack of transportation, and underlying health inequities put some populations at higher risk during the pandemic. People at disproportionate risk for serious health impacts from COVID-19 are also more likely to suffer secondary consequences, such as loss of income or health care. Now more than ever it is important to address the social and economic conditions, including housing, employment, food security, and education, that contribute significantly to an individual's health outcomes over their lifetime. These conditions, collectively referred as the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), have rightfully been receiving increased attention from insurance companies, hospitals, healthcare systems, and governmental agencies interested in improving health outcomes and controlling costs far before the pandemic.

Yet, while clinicians can identify non-medical social needs and make referrals to other organizations, they cannot ensure that there are adequate resources and policies in place to meet the needs of the referred on their own. Healthcare is most effective when it can extend its work by working with other sectors. Public health departments and community organizations are uniquely situated to build these collaborations across sectors, identify SDOH priorities in communities, and

help address policies that inhibit health. For example, while the healthcare system can offer in-house social services assistance at a clinical site, a public health department can complement those efforts by convening community organizations and partners to promote clinic-to-community linkages, advocate for SDOH-related reimbursement, and develop community resource materials.

However, most local and state health and community agencies lack funding and tools to support these cross-sector efforts and are limited in doing so by disease-specific federal funding. Given appropriate funding and technical assistance, more communities could engage in opportunities to address social determinants of health that contribute to high healthcare costs and preventable inequities in health outcomes.

A healthier, more resilient population and stronger economy require us to prevent and control health conditions that raise health care costs and put lives at risk. We thank you for your leadership in FY 2021 and your consideration of our FY 2022 request to continue building up CDC's SDOH program. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Daphne Delgado, Senior Government Relations Manager at Trust for America's Health at ddelgado@tfah.org.

Sincerely,

National Organizations (123):

AcademyHealth	America's Essential Hospitals
Accountable Health, LLC	Annie Fahy Consulting
Aligning for Health	Arthritis Foundation
America Walks	Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work	Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases	Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
American Association of Birth Centers	Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses	Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
American Association on Health and Disability	Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
American College of Nurse-Midwives	Beyond Type 1
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	Big Cities Health Coalition
American College of Physicians	Blacks Greeks in Public Health
American Heart Association	Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
American Institute of Dental Public Health	Cancer Support Community
American Kidney Fund	Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders
American Lung Association	Children's National Hospital
American Nutrition Association	Chronic Migraine Awareness, Inc.
American Pharmacists Association	Cluster Headache Support Group
American Physical Therapy Association	Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients
American Psychological Association	Code of Support Foundation
American Public Health Association	Collaborative Solutions, Inc.

Common Threads
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Counter Tools
Disparities in Headache Advisory Council
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Foundation
Epilepsy Information Service of Wake
Forest School of Medicine
Everyday Life Consulting
Faces and Voices of Recovery
Families USA
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, Inc
Health Care Without Harm
Health Outreach Partners
Health Resources in Action
Healthcare Leadership Council
Hispanic Federation
Holy Cross Hospital, Inc.
Inseparable
Integrative Health Policy Consortium
Lakeshore Foundation
MaryCatherine Jones Consulting, LLC
Migraine World Summit
Miles for Migraine
MindWise Innovations
MJC HealthSolutions
Move United
NACDD
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Social Workers

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
National Community Action Partnership
National Consumers League
National Environmental Health Association
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention
National Immigration Law Center
National Institute for Children's Health Quality - NICHQ
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Recreation and Park Association
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
NERDS RULE INC.
Obesity Action Coalition
Out2Enroll
Population Health Alliance
Postpartum Support International
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV/AIDS
ProVention Health Foundation
Public Health Foundation
RESULTS
Safe States Alliance
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Susan G. Komen
The Foundation for Sustainable Communities
The Gerontological Society of America
The Praxis Project
The Root Cause Coalition
The Rural Community Health Worker Network
Trinity Holy Cross Health

Trust for America's Health
Unmarried, Single But Not Alone LLC.
WE in the World

Well Being Trust
Wholesome Wave
YMCA of the USA

State & Local Organizations (68):

Adagio Health
Addiction Connections Resource
Addiction Providers of North Carolina
AIDS Alabama
Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, Inc.
Brighter Beginnings
California Black Health Network
Catholic Community Services of Southern
Arizona
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and
Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition
(WA State)
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Community enCompass
CUNY
DHS Sacramento County
Eastside Dental
Equality California
Fact Forward
Flint Rising
Florida Public Health Association
Florida Rural Health Association
Gorhan Public Health Consulting and
Greater Nashua Food Council
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Greater Flint Health Coalition
Habilitative Systems, Inc.
Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center
Hawai'i State Rural Health Association
Health by Design
Healthy Harford
Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio
Immunize Nevada
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC
Indiana Public Health Association
Indiana University Health
Jefferson County Public Health CO
Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama
Maine Public Health Association

Massachusetts Public Health Association
Maternal and Child Health Access
Mel Leaman Free Clinic
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
MIKE Program
Minnesota Oral Health Coalition
Minnesota Society for Public Health
Education
National Capital Area Society for Public
Health Education (NCA SOPHE)
New Jersey Housing Collaborative
New Jersey Public Health Association
New York State Public Health Association
North Runnels Hospital
Partnership for Southern Equity
Prevention Action Alliance
Public Health Solutions
Revitalize Community Development
Corporation
Safe Streets, Wichita
Silver State Equality-Nevada
SLM Consulting, LLC
Tennessee Justice Center
Texas Health Resources
Texas Woman's University
The Consortium
The Family Resource Network
The Health Trust
The Wall Las Memorias
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc.
United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville
Counties
United Way of Salt Lake
Utah Public Health Association
Voices of Hope, Inc.
Washington State Public Health Association