

April 13, 2023

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) 2024, the 151 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**– in line with President Biden’s FY2024 request. We sincerely thank Labor-HHS for providing \$8 million in FY2023 for the program. The undersigned organizations ask Labor-HHS to build upon this promising 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

CDC’s SDOH program is addressing these non-medical drivers of chronic disease and health disparities. While clinicians can identify non-medical social needs and make referrals to community-based and social service organizations, they cannot ensure that there are adequate resources and policies in place to meet the needs of patients on their own. Healthcare is most effective when it can work with other sectors to improve the health and well-being outcomes for individuals and communities. Public health departments and community organizations are uniquely situated to build these collaborations across sectors and identify SDOH priorities in communities. For example, while the healthcare system can offer in-house social services

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

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, interpret data to identify areas of need, find innovative solutions, and develop community resource materials. The increase in FY2024 would build upon previous investments to develop, implement, and evaluate action plans to improve health outcomes in additional jurisdictions.

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 leadership in FY2023 and your consideration of our FY2024 request to continue building up CDC's SDOH program. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Madison West, Associate Government Relations Manager at Trust for America's Health at mwest@tfah.org.

Sincerely,

1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health
2020 Mom
211info
AAHFN
Accountable Health, LLC
Action for Healthy Kids
advocates for better children's diets
AIDS Alabama
Aligning for Health
All Youth Access, LLC
America Walks
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Birth Centers
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Physicians
American Federation of Teachers
American Heart Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Nutrition Association

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

³ *ibid*

American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Big Cities Health Coalition
Brighter Beginnings
Brooklyn Perinatal Network Inc.
Ca Black Health Network
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Centennial Area Health Education Center
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Planning Excellence
Center for Promotion of Child Development through Primary Care
ChangeLab Solutions
ChopChop Family
Christian Council of Delmarva
Civitas Networks for Health
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations
Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Common Threads
Community Health Council of Wyandotte County
Continual Care Solutions
Core Physicians, LLC
Crawford County Public Health
Einstein Healthcare Network
Epilepsy Alliance North Carolina
Epilepsy Foundation
Epilepsy Information Service of Wake Forest School of Medicine
Equality California
Everyday Life Consulting
Exeter Hospital
Fact Forward
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Greenwood Counts Community Consortium
Greenwood County Community Consortium

Habilitative Systems, Inc.
Health by Design
Health Care Without Harm
Health Outreach Partners
Health Resources in Action
Healthcare Leadership Council
Healthcare Ready
Healthy Schools Campaign
HealthyWomen
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
I am Health Education
iHealth
Indiana Public Health Association
Indy Hunger Network
International OCD Foundation
JEDI Health Care and Education, LLC
Keystone Rural Health Consortia, Inc.
Knox Public Health
Lakeshore Foundation
Make Well Known Foundation
Mendocino County Public Health - Community Wellness
Miles for migraine
MindWise Innovations
MountainCare
National Alliance to impact the Social Determinants of Health
National Association for Public Health Policy
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Immigration Law Center
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Working Positive Coalition
New York State Public Health Association
NH Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees
NH Hunger Solutions
NJ Public Health Association
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Obesity Action Coalition
Oral Healthcare At Home, Inc.
PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well.
Partnership for Public Health
Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation

Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health (formerly 2020 Mom)
Postpartum Support International
Prevent Blindness
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Solutions
Redstone Global Center for Prevention & Wellness
Respiratory Health Association
Revitalize Community Development Corporation
RiverStone Health
Rush University
Safe Routes Partnership
Self Regional Healthcare
SERVICIOS Y MAS iNC.
Silver State Equality-Nevada
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange Healthcare Foundation
Smoke Free St Joe
Society for Public Health Education
Southeastern Michigan Health Association
Strawberry Fields, Inc
Student National Medical Association
Tahoe Health, LLC
Texas Health Resources
The American College of Preventive Medicine
The Consortium
The Foundation for Sustainable Communities
The Gerontological Society of America
The Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
The Health Care Improvement Foundation, Inc.
The Kennedy Forum
The Los Angeles Trust for Childrens Health
The Praxis Project
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc.
Trust for America's Health
United Way of the Lakelands
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health System
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
Valley AIDS Council
Voices of Hope, Inc.
WARM NC
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington State Public Health Association
WE in the World
WelCore Health

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture (WANDA)
Zero Breast Cancer