

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](mailto: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