

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 (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 nonprofit organizations are properly supported to address the social determinants of health in their communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic 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. 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.

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,

Nationa

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

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