



CONVERGENCE

Collaborative on Social Factors of Health

CALL TO ACTION: LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES

The [Convergence Collaborative on Social Factors of Health](#) united a diverse group of leaders from various political and sectoral backgrounds to agree on necessary actions at both federal and state levels. Our goal is to create an ideal policy environment that supports local initiatives and partnerships addressing social determinants of health (SDOH), which impact individual and community health. After several months of collaboration, the group developed a Blueprint for Action, titled "[Health Starts Here.](#)" The Blueprint is organized into four categories, containing actionable steps for various sectors and levels of government.

Below are the consensus solutions followed by a summary of the policy steps that can be carried out by local governments and communities:

1 Improve System Integration

Inadequate collaboration between departments and obstacles to local collaboration are major impediments to partnerships across social and health sectors, and between levels of private and public organizations. To expand outreach and impact, greater incentives and funding are needed to support "community hubs" or "backbone organizations."

2 Build the SDOH Workforce

Empower trusted, community-based workers who have local knowledge to address SDOH in their community, identify individuals' health-related social needs, and coordinate services.

3 Develop Financing Approaches

Many opportunities exist for local governments and communities to develop financing for SDOH approaches. These include leveraging existing public funding, creating revolving loan funds, implementing pay-for-success models with private investors, collaborating with local banks to leverage their Community Reinvestment Act funds, applying for grants focused on improving SDOH, partnering with local health systems and hospitals to improve SDOH, engaging local businesses in community fundraising efforts for SDOH, and advocating with state and federal government for necessary policy changes needed by your community.

4 Expand Data Sharing, Evaluation, and Experimentation

Improving the collection, sharing, and use of data is critical in fostering collaboration to advance SDOH approaches, and continuous experimentation and evaluation helps find better techniques to achieve policy objectives.

SCAN TO READ THE FULL BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION ONLINE



WHAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES CAN DO

TO BUILD AN SDOH WORKFORCE

Communities and hubs should decide what team of workers functions best as coordinators.

Federal, state, and local governments should explore budget process reforms to pool funds from different departments to help ameliorate “wrong pocket” disincentives.

A task force of foundations, CBOs, universities, major institutions in health care, housing, social services, nutrition, banking, and government-related bodies should explore budgeting tools to identify the multi-sector benefits and cost savings associated with SDOH investments.

TO DEVELOP FINANCING SDOH APPROACHES

TO EXPAND DATA SHARING, EVALUATION, AND EXPERIMENTATION

Health systems, communities, states, and other institutions and levels of government should share lessons learned from experimentation using different data sharing and referral models.

The federal government should engage state and local government data leaders to identify collaborative opportunities to strengthen federal, state, and local data to address SDOH.

Contact us to learn more

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