



eHI Monthly Member Policy Briefing  
*State-of-Play of SDOH Legislation*

July 20, 2021



# Agenda



Importance of Addressing SDOH to Improve Health

Congressional SDOH Activity

Q&A & Discussion



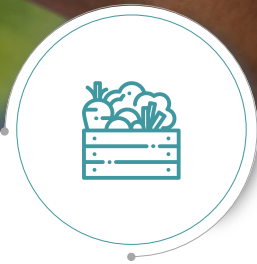
### Advisory Board Affiliations:

America Forward – American Public Human Services Association – Center for American Progress - Corporation for Supportive Housing - Data.org - Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services - Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) - National Association of Counties – National Alliance for Mental Illness - National Coalition on Health Care - Share Our Strength – Urban Institute/George Mason University

# What are Social Determinants?



Stable, affordable  
housing and  
supportive  
housing



Access to quality  
nutrition



Ability to meet  
basic needs,  
including  
transportation or  
childcare



Healthy homes  
through energy  
subsidies,  
weatherization, etc.



Access to health  
care services,  
including  
behavioral health  
services



Workforce training,  
employment  
opportunities,  
mobility and  
independence.



# Challenges & Opportunities in Addressing SDOH



## Challenges

- Funding levels, availability of services/housing
- Often inflexible funding and data siloes
- Disconnected programs difficult to navigate
- Disjointed communication may lead to referrals to organizations with little capacity to help
- Varying measures of success

- Differing data standards and systems of record
- Diffusion of responsibility and delivery systems
- Minimal organizational capacity and resources to promote cross-sector coordination
- Short- vs. long-term investments, sustainability
- Outcomes/ROI



# Congressional Approaches to Addressing SDOH

# Congressional Approaches to Addressing SDOH



## ***Funding for Programs to Address SDOH***

Increased funding or expanded eligibility for federal programs such as WIC, SNAP, TANF, LIHEAP, transportation or housing programs.

## ***Legislation to Promote Cross-Sector SDOH Coordination***

Planning or implementation grants, or evaluations

Funding to develop interoperability of social needs data, infrastructure to support data sharing

Requiring the development of new SDOH models or value-based payment initiatives

Incenting the use of social needs data in risk adjusting payment or quality

## ***Legislation to Advance Health Equity***

Health care coverage expansion

Steps to improve maternal health outcomes

Requirements to increase data collection and reporting of race, ethnicity, other demographic data, social needs data

Funding to improve culturally and linguistically appropriate care and to build a more diverse workforce

Funding to improve health literacy and research on disparities

# Key Legislative Activity in Congress



- Thus far during the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, lawmakers have introduced:
- **93 bills** focused on **social determinants of health**, including funding for SDOH programs and to improve SDOH coordination
  - **35 bills** focused on **health disparities/equity**, including **63 bills** focused on **maternal and infant health**



# SDOH Funding - American Rescue Plan Act



On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the *American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)*, a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package passed through the Budget Reconciliation process.

## *Human Services and Community Supports Funding*

- **\$276M** for Aging and Disability Services Programs under the Elder Justice Act
- **\$1.43B** in funding for programs authorized under the Older Americans Act, including \$750M to support nutrition programs for older Americans and \$460M for home- and community-based services programs
- **\$14.99B** for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program. Provides an additional **\$23.975B** for child care stabilization in accordance with the requirements of the Child care and Development Block Grant Act
- **\$4.5B** for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is available through FY22
- **\$500M** for Low Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program
- **\$1B** in a new TANF Pandemic Emergency Fund. 92.5 percent of the funding will be distributed to states, 7.5 percent of the funds are set aside for Tribal TANF programs and U.S. Territories
- **\$10M** for National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families
- **\$150M** through FY22 for MIECHV
- **\$490M - SNAP** - Gives USDA the authority and funding to temporarily boost the value of the Cash Value Voucher in the WIC program for a four-month period during the COVID-19 pandemic
- **\$390M** for outreach and program modernization efforts for the WIC program
- **\$7.2B** for Emergency Connectivity Fund for public and private schools and public libraries to purchase internet access and connected devices

# SDOH Funding - American Rescue Plan Act



On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the *American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)*, a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package passed through the Budget Reconciliation process.

## *Housing Provisions*

- **\$21.55B** for emergency rental assistance to remain available through September 30, 2027
- **\$5B** to HUD for emergency housing vouchers to remain available through September 30, 2030 for those who are homeless; at risk of homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability
- **\$100M** for emergency assistance for rural housing to remain available until September 30, 2022
- **\$100M** for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to remain available through September 30, 2025
- **\$5B** for homelessness assistance and supportive services programs,
- **\$20M** for Fair Housing Initiatives Program
- **\$9.961B** for Homeowner Assistance Fund

## *Medicaid Coverage*

- Expands Medicaid coverage to women **for 12 months postpartum** and to incarcerated individuals for 30-days pre-release for five years
- Provides an **incentive for states** that have not already done so to **expand Medicaid** by temporarily increasing the state's Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) for two years
- Provides states with an enhanced FMAP for **home- and community-based services** for one year
- Provides enhanced FMAP for five years to support **mobile crisis intervention services**

# SDOH Funding - American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan



The Administration has proposed a sequenced series of major legislative packages to fulfill its priorities: COVID, infrastructure, equity. Congress is continuing to negotiate the scope of the Jobs plan and the Families plan.

## American Rescue Plan Act

*COVID-19 relief funding bill, and broad funding for health and social service programs, including Medicaid and ACA exchanges. Enacted in March 2021.*

## American Jobs Plan

*Infrastructure package, focused largely on physical infrastructure, but which proposes new funding for HCBS and to extend Money Follows the Person. Released in March 2021.*

## American Families Plan

*“Social infrastructure” package, includes policies related to nutrition programs, education, childcare, pre-k, paid family leave, and makes permanent enhanced ACA tax credits. Released April 2021.*

# SDOH Funding Bills



**FEMA Empowering Essential Deliveries Act (H.R. 321)** - would authorize FEMA to approve state, local, and Indian tribal government plans to partner with small and mid-size restaurants and nonprofit organizations to provide nutritious meals to individuals in need, and to waive certain matching fund requirements.

**Healthy Food Access for All Americans Act (H.R. 1313)** – Would establish a new tax credit and grant program to stimulate investment and healthy nutrition options in food deserts.

**Access to Healthy Food for Young Children Act (S. 1270)** – Would improve the child and adult care food program.

**Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2021 (S. 1536/H.R. 3108)**- Would expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program and combat health disparities.

**Computer and Internet Access Equity Act (H.R. 2201)** – Would provide tax credits to low- to moderate-income individuals for certain computer and education costs and direct the FCC to modify the requirements for the Lifeline program.

**Seniors Access to Vaccines Ensured Act (H.R. 2080)** - would provide for temporary coverage of certain transportation services for certain individuals under the Medicare program.

**Housing Supply and Affordability Act (H.R. 2196/S. 902)** – Would authorize a grant program for the development and implementation of housing supply and affordability plans.

**Helping Homeless Veterans Act (H.R. 2190)** – Would make permanent certain programs, including the Health Care for the Homeless Veterans Program and the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, that assist homeless veterans and other veterans with special needs.

**Build More Housing Near Transit Act (H.R. 2483)** - would include housing incentives in certain capital investment grants to encourage construction of low and middle-income housing in transit-served, walkable locations and would provide incentives for transit applicants who meet requirements related to building more housing along the future transit corridor.

**Transit to Trails Act (H.R. 2924)** – would award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved urban communities and rural communities to green spaces.

**Strengthening Social Connections Act of 2021 (S. 410)** - would make emergency supplemental appropriations for social isolation services under the Older Americans Act to address social isolation and loneliness.

# SDOH Funding – FY 2021/2022 SDOH Appropriations



## FY2021 Appropriations

Congress approved legislation creating a Social Determinants of Health Program at CDC, which is responsible for awarding up to \$3M in grants to support the development of Social Determinants Accelerator Plans. CDC recently released a NOFO for the grants, with applications due 7/6

Congress also approved language to establish an interagency SDOH Council

## Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations

The President's FY2022 discretionary budget request included a request to expand funding for the new CDC SDOH Program to \$153M, to support states and territories in improving health equity and data collection for racial and ethnic populations.

The House Appropriations Committee has approved legislation to fund the program at \$153M and to establish an interagency SDOH Council.

The Report language also includes instructions for HHS, OMH, CMS, HRSA, SAMHSA, and AHRQ related to SDOH



# Cross-Sector SDOH Programs & Coordination



## **Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2021**

(H.R. 379/S. 104)

This bill would authorize the Director of CDC to carry out a Social Determinants of Health program and make grants to states and communities to address SDOH.

## **Social Determinants Accelerator Act (SDAA) of 2021**

(H.R. 2503)

This bill would direct the Secretary of HHS to establish an interagency council on social determinants of health and to make grants to states and local communities to develop SDOH Accelerator Plans.

## **Social Determinants of Health Data Analysis Act of 2021**

(H.R. 4026)

Would require GAO to issue a report detailing HHS' actions to address SDOH.

## **CARING for Social Determinants Act of 2021**

(H.R. 3894)

The bill would require CMS to issue and update guidance to states on addressing SDOH in Medicaid and CHIP programs.

## **Leveraging Integrated Networks in Communities (LINC) to Address Social Needs Act**

(S. 509)

This bill would establish a program to assist states in establishing or enhancing community integration network infrastructure for health and social services.

## **Human Services Emergency Logistics Program Act**

(S. 1570)

This bill would facilitate nationwide accessibility and coordination of 211 networks and 988 services to provide information and referrals for mental health emergencies, homelessness needs, and other social and human services needs.

# Major Health Equity/SDOH Packages



## **Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2020**

(116<sup>th</sup> - H.R. 6637/S. 4819)

Introduced during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, this bill would improve the health of minority individuals by providing the tools necessary to address health inequities and ensure the elimination of health disparities is prioritized.

## **Ending Health Disparities During COVID-19 Act of 2020**

(116<sup>th</sup> - H.R. 8200)

Introduced during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, this bill would improve the health of minority individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Black Maternal Health Momnibus of 2021**

(H.R. 959/S. 346)

This bill would end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the US and close disparities in maternal health outcomes.

# Other Congressional SDOH Activity



## Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus

You are invited to a virtual event on:

### Launching the Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus

Wednesday, July 21, 2021  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

Representatives Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Tom Cole (R-OK), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), and Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) invite you to join the launch of the newly formed bipartisan Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus.

Reps. Bustos, Butterfield, Cole, and Mullin convened the Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus to bring together members of Congress from disparate jurisdictions to highlight the opportunities for coordination to improve health outcomes and maximize existing and future federal investments in health, food, housing, transportation, and other important drivers of health.

Reps. Bustos (D-IL), Cole (R-OK), Butterfield (D-NC), and Mullin (R-OK) are officially launching the Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus tomorrow, July 21.

They plan to issue a Request for Information to inform their work moving forward.

More information will be available at [CongressionalSDOHCaucus.org](https://CongressionalSDOHCaucus.org)

# Other Congressional SDOH Activity



## Health Equity/SDOH

- House Energy & Commerce Committee Hearing on “Empowered by Data: Legislation to Advance Equity and Public Health,” followed by markups of several pieces of SDOH legislation
- Senate HELP Committee hearing on “Improving Health Equity and Outcomes by Addressing Health Disparities”
- House Ways & Means Committee published the framework “A Bold Vision for a Legislative Pathway Toward Health and Economic Equity”
- House Ways & Means Committee creation of the Racial Equity Initiative (REI) working group
- House Ways & Means Committee Task Force on Rural and Underserved Communities Health
- Senate Finance Committee 2020 RFI on Improving Maternal Health Outcomes
- Committee on Rules – Series of events around how to end hunger in America, including hearing called “Ending Hunger in America: Challenges, Opportunities, and Building the Political Will to Succeed.”

## Maternal Health

- House Oversight & Reform Committee Hearing – Birthing While Black: Examining America’s Black Maternal Health Crisis

A background image of a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a light blue shirt and a striped scarf, smiling and holding a basket of vegetables. She is standing at a market stall with various produce like pumpkins and leafy greens. In the background, there is a modern building with a circular tower. The image has a warm, slightly blurred aesthetic.

*Q&A*





**Thank You!**

**Questions?**

**[mquick@aligningforhealth.org](mailto:mquick@aligningforhealth.org)**



A background image of a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a light blue shirt and a striped scarf, smiling and holding a basket of vegetables. She is standing at a market stall with various produce like pumpkins and leafy greens. In the background, there is a modern building with a circular window. The image has a warm, slightly blurred aesthetic.

# *Appendix*

# Focus on SDOH Across HHS



## *Efforts to Address Maternal Health*

- Approval of Illinois Section 1115 demonstration waiver to provide continuity of full Medicaid benefits for mothers one year postpartum
- \$12M funding opportunity for the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) program)
- \$40M for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program for families affected by COVID-19
- GAO report on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in rural and underserved areas
- President Biden proclamation on Black Maternal Health Week 2021

## *Broader SDOH/Health Equity Initiatives*

- ASPE Report on Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Rates Across Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups in the US
- CMMI Director Liz Fowler announced that advancing health equity would be central to the work of the Center and key to “every stage” of CMMI models, from development to recruitment to evaluation
- CDC declared racism a serious threat to public health and published new [Racism and Health](#) website
- CMS Office of Minority Health held a forum on Road to Equity: Examining Structural Racism in Health Care
- The ONC 2021 Annual Meeting focused on the impact of SDOH data in health, unlocking the full potential of health data, and reducing the burden of health IT on clinicians
- Multiple HHS efforts to expand COVID-19 vaccine and testing programs to underserved communities and those most impacted by COVID-19
- USDA will provide adequate nutrition to over 30 million children over the summer by expanding Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer benefits
- American Families Plan included provisions to address nutrition insecurity and facilitate re-entry for formerly incarcerated individuals through SNAP eligibility

# Requests for Information and Funding Opportunities



**OMB:** Methods and Leading Practices for Advancing Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through Government RFI

**HHS:** RFI – Access, Exchange and Use of Social Determinants of Health Data in Clinical Notes

**CMS:** IPPS Closing the Health Equity Gap in CMS Hospital Quality Programs RFI included in the proposed rule

**CDC:** Funding Opportunity - National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities

**CDC:** \$3M Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plan Grants (applications due 7/6)

**ONC:** Special Emphasis Notice Interest in Applications to Advance Health IT Standards and Tools to Improve SDOH Data Exchange, and the Develop Tools for Making Electronic Health Records Data Research and Artificial Intelligence-Ready



# President Biden's FY2022 Budget Request



Topic	Budget Request
<b>SDOH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ \$153M to CDC's Social Determinants of Health program, a \$150M increase over 2021 enacted levels.</li></ul>
<b>Maternal Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ \$200M to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, through a number of initiatives.</li></ul>
<b>Health Equity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ \$25M to CMS to address health equity, including by taking steps to fulfill President Biden's equity EOs</li></ul>
<b>Older Americans and Rural Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ \$551M for HCBS, increased funding for the Lifespan Respite Care Program, and other programs for older Americans and individuals with disabilities.</li></ul>
<b>American Jobs Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Traditional infrastructure proposal; includes proposed funding for HCBS</li></ul>
<b>American Families Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Social infrastructure proposal; includes funding for education, childcare, family leave, ACA tax credits.</li></ul>