



# ADVOCACY SUMMIT

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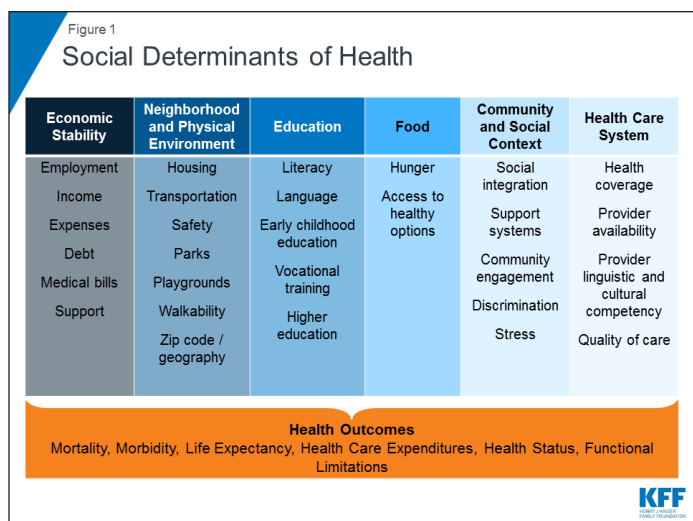


## Advocating for Equity Where We Live, Work and Play

### The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2024 (S./H.R.)

#### Background

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are the conditions in which people are born, live, work, play, worship, and age. These conditions, which are social and/or environmental, can affect a wide range of health outcomes. These SDOH consists of five primary domains: economic stability (e.g., employment); education access and quality; health care access and quality; neighborhood and built environment; and social and community context.<sup>1</sup> These domains can be seen more in depth in Figure 1 below. The SDOH include systems that shape daily life, including political systems, policy, and social norms.<sup>2</sup>



Social Determinants of Health have a major impact on quality of life and contribute to health disparities and inequities.<sup>1</sup> While promoting healthy choices and encouraging behavior change are beneficial health strategies, these alone will not eliminate SDOH and health disparities. Public health organizations and their partners should focus on policy initiatives to address SDOH and improve health equity.

Addressing the social determinants of health is crucial to push towards health equity, a state in which every person has the opportunity to attain their highest level of health.<sup>2</sup> Although there are several programs at all levels addressing the SDOH, more action is needed to improve health and equitable outcomes.

The *Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2024*, originated by U.S. Senators Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and Representative Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-Calif.-44), aims to address social determinants of health through a coordinated approach by improving the capacity of public health agencies and community organizations to reduce inequalities. We ask that you support this bill, authorizing \$100,000,000 per year for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to carry out a Social Determinants of Health Program.

#### SDOH Program Goals

1. Improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities by coordinating SDOH activities across the CDC.
2. Improve the capacity of public health agencies and community organizations to address SDOH in communities.

#### SDOH Program Activities

1. Awarding grants to state, local, territorial, tribal health agencies and organizations, and to other eligible entities to address SDOH in target communities.
2. Awarding grants to nonprofit organizations and public or other nonprofit institutions of higher education to conduct research on best practices to improve SDOH and provide technical assistance, training, and evaluation assistance to grantees.
3. Coordinating across the CDC to ensure that relevant programs consider and incorporate SDOH in grant awards and other activities.
4. Coordinate, support, and inform SDOH activities across the Department of Health and Human Services.
5. Collecting and analyzing data related to the SDOH.

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\*=original sponsor

1 Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Retrieved August 2024, from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>

2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). Retrieved September 8, 2024 from <https://www.cdc.gov/about/priorities/why-is-addressing-sdoh-important.html#:~:text=They%20are%20the%20conditions%20in,social%20policies%2C%20and%20political%20systems.>