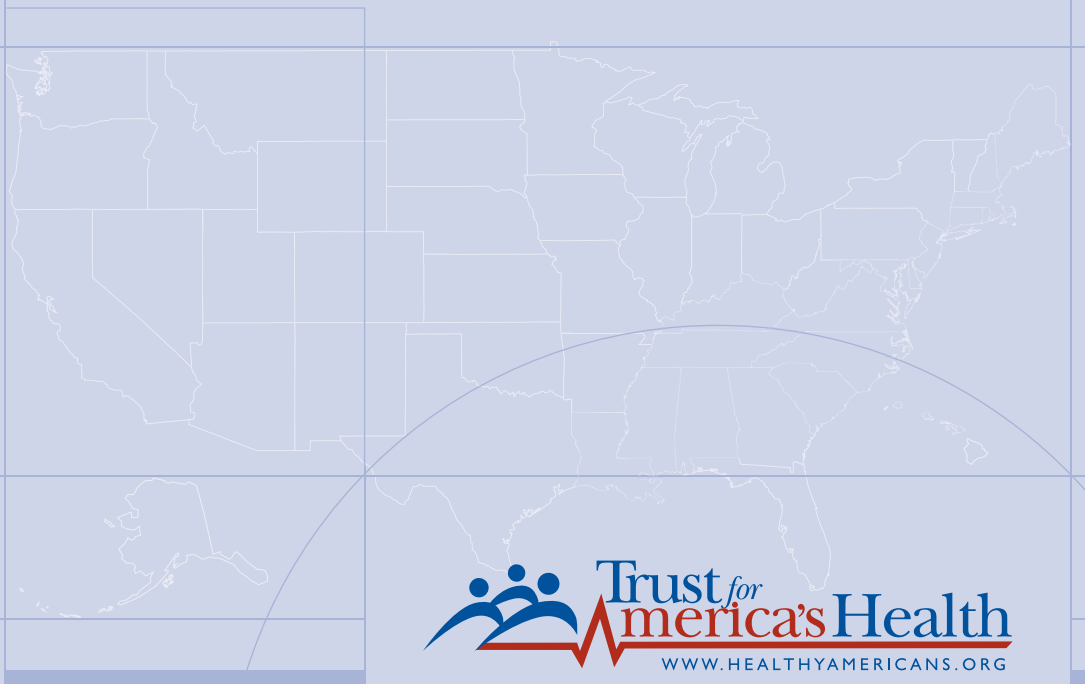


Blueprint for a Healthier America 2016

**POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT
ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS**



Blueprint for a Healthier America

The Blueprint identifies key policies and strategies to move the country toward a more value-based approach to improving health.

Communities around the country have been developing successful efforts — resulting in better health and quality of life for millions of Americans and reducing healthcare costs. And, experts have identified high-impact policy levels and models that could be used to help scale the most effective programs.

The goal is to take the most effective, high-impact strategies and scale them

around the country — to benefit and improve the health of more Americans.

Value-based healthcare is helping to support a shift from sick care once diseases have developed to helping keep people healthy in the first place — by creating new incentives and an increased emphasis on improving health. There is a strong emphasis on delivering quality care and reducing healthcare costs — but improving “population health” is also one of the top priorities of the Triple Aim.^{56, 57} Improving health also requires addressing factors that influence health in people’s daily

lives, in their workplaces, schools, neighborhoods and homes.

It requires a more strategic approach — building a mutually beneficial integration of public health and healthcare as well attending to how different factors impact health including economics, education, housing, transportation and other sectors. This approach also focuses on making the most effective use of existing resources and assets, supporting the top priority goals of communities across the country, and leveraging opportunities to align resources to help achieve shared goals of improving health and well-being.

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BLUEPRINT INCLUDE:

● **Wide-Scale Implementation of the Most Effective Evidence-based Health Improvement Strategies**

- Fully support the Prevention and Public Health Fund
- Support Place-based, Multisector Local Health Improvement Partnerships to Address Top Health Priorities in Communities Around the Country
- Develop State Expert Research and Technical Assistance Networks
- Support Greater Coordination of Federal Grant Programs Across Sectors for Better Efficiency and Outcomes
- Nonprofit Hospitals to Use Community Benefit Programs to Support Community-based Health Improvement Efforts
- Increase Innovative and Social Investment in Health Improvement Strategies
- Support Medicare, Medicaid and Private Insurer Support of Health Improvement Strategies and Services — Including a

“Navigator-Plus-Support” Model for Integrating Health and Social Services

● **Modernize the Public Health System to Be Prepared for Emergencies and Ongoing Threats**

- Support Stable, Sufficient Funding for Emergency Preparedness — to Maintain Basic Readiness and a Public Health Emergency Fund to Ramp Up when a Crisis Strikes
- Improve and Modernize Basic Public Health Capabilities in Communities Around the Country — Via Foundational Capabilities and State-of-the-Art Technology
- Create a Special Assistant to the President for Health Security and Improve Federal Leadership and Coordination for Public Health Emergencies

● **Address Major Health Issues**

- Prioritize Healthy Early Childhoods — Reduce Toxic Stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Support Healthy Students and Healthy Schools
- Healthier Aging for Seniors
- Stop the Prescription Painkiller Misuse and Heroin Epidemics
- Prevent Obesity, Improve Nutrition and Increase Physical Activity
- Eliminate Tobacco Use
- Prioritize Prevention in the Cancer Moonshot Initiative
- End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic
- Stop Superbugs and Antibiotic Resistance
- Support Environmental Health and Justice
- Address the Health Impact of Climate Change and Extreme Weather
- Achieve Health Equity
- Reverse Rising Death Rates Among Middle-Aged White Adults
- Promote Positive Mental Health

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY RECOMMENDATION INITIATIVES

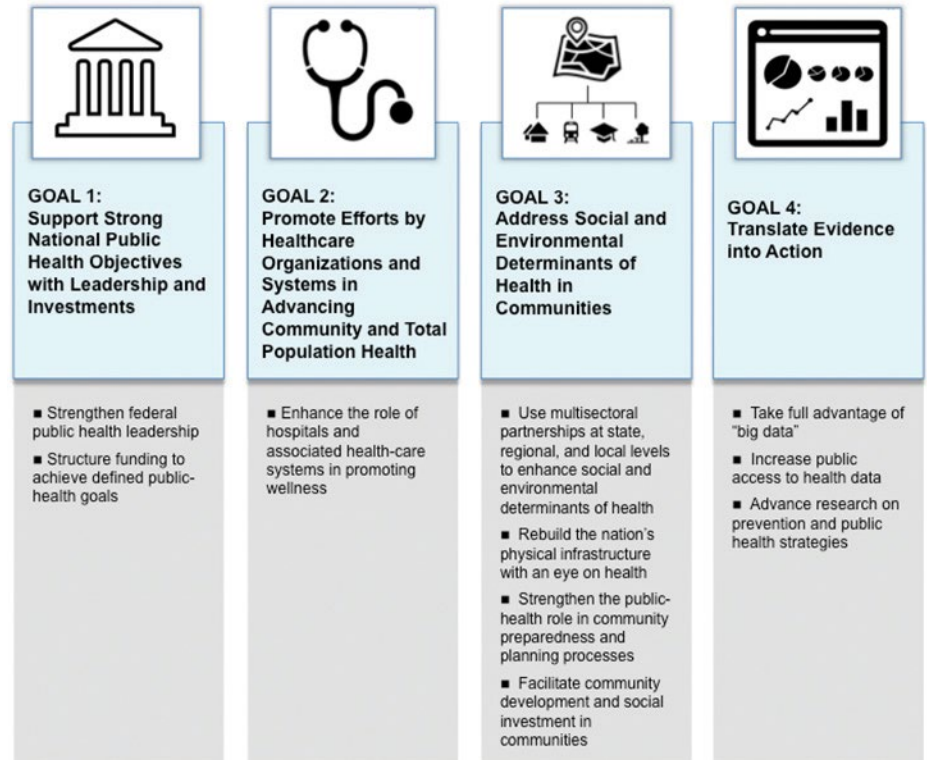
• Advancing the Health of Communities and Populations, *Vital Directions for Health and Health Care* — from the National Academy of Medicine (NAM):

As part of a broad effort to identify policy recommendations for the next Administration and Congress, NAM brought together more than 100 health experts to help inform key policy recommendations in a collection of papers to advance the overarching goals of: better health and well-being; high value-healthcare; and strong science and technology.⁵⁸ The Advancing the Health of Communities and Populations paper focused on four key goals.⁵⁹

• Democratizing Health: The Power for Community, *Vital Directions for Health and Health Care* — from the National Academy of Medicine:

Another paper in the *Vital Directions* series highlights ways to better address community needs and engage community participation in health improvement efforts.⁶⁰ It highlights a people power approach supported by The California Endowment, which is supporting the development of change agents around their state, particularly in 14 low-income communities. They equip community residents with the skills — including through the use of technology and social media — to look for and identify the impacts of social and environmental conditions and to collaborate to advance common goals.

• **The Department of Health and Human Services as the Nation’s Chief Health Strategist: Transforming Public Health and Health Care to Create Healthy Communities — from the Public Health Leadership Forum:** Over the past year, in preparation for a new Administration, the Public Health Leadership Forum (PHLF), supported by the Robert Wood Johnson



Source: Brookings Institute

Foundation, convened a high-level group of public health and private healthcare policy makers, to develop a vision and a series of recommendations for the “Federal Public Health Enterprise.”⁶¹ The overarching vision of the group is that, “everyone in America deserves to live in a healthy nation — and in healthy states, regions, cities, and neighborhoods. And America needs a healthy population to be competitive and secure in the 21st century.” As Chief Health Strategist for the nation, the Department of Health and Human Services should lead a national initiative that assures “America’s communities are places that provide every person with the opportunity to achieve optimal health and are served by a strong public health infrastructure.”

The report recommends that the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services (HHS) embrace the role of Chief Health Strategist for the nation in order to:

- Transform the healthcare and public health investments by the federal government into a Health Promoting System and adopt metrics that foster activities that support longer, higher quality life and reduce health inequities.
- Assure communities have the data, evidence, analytic capacity and flexibility they need to build healthy and resilient communities including supporting cross-sector collaborations at the federal, state and local levels.
- Assure every community is served by a well-resourced public health department that is accredited and able to provide foundational capabilities and respond to unanticipated emergencies.

Endnotes

- 55 Center for High Impact Philanthropy, University of Pennsylvania. *Invest in a Strong Start for Children: A Toolkit for Donors on Early Childhood*. <http://www.impact.upenn.edu/our-analysis/opportunities-to-achieve-impact/early-childhood-toolkit/why-invest/what-is-the-return-on-investment/> (accessed September 2016).
- 56 Berwick DM, Nolan TW and Whittington J. The Triple Aim: Care, Health, and Cost. *Health Affairs*, 27(3): 759-769, 2008.
- 57 Health Research & Education Trust, Association for Community Health Improvements, and Public Health Institute. Approaches to Population Health in 2015: A National Survey of Hospitals. In *American Hospital Association*, 2016. <http://www.hpoe.org/resources/hpoehretaha-guides/2650> (accessed September 2016).
- 58 Dzau, VJ, M McClellan and JM McGinnis. Vital Directors for Health and Health Care: An Initiative of the National Academy of Medicine. *JAMA*. 316(7): 2016. <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2544650> (accessed September 2016).
- 59 Goldman, L, G Benjamin, S Hernandez, D Kindig, S Kumanyika, C Nevarez, NR Shah and W Wong. Advancing the Health of Communities and Populations. *Vital Directions for Health and Health Care*. National Academies of Medicine. September 2016. <https://nam.edu/advancing-the-health-of-communities-and-populations-a-vital-direction-for-health-and-health-care/> (accessed September 2016).
- 60 Flores, G. *Democratizing Health: The Power of Community*. *Vital Directions for Health and Health Care*. The National Academy of Medicine. September 2016. <https://nam.edu/democratizing-health-the-power-of-community/> (accessed September 2016).
- 61 Public Health Leadership Forum. The Department of Health and Human Services as the Nation's Chief Health Strategist: Transforming Public Health and Health Care to Create Healthy Communities. September 2016. <http://www.resolv.org/site-healthleadershipforum/the-department-of-health-and-human-services-as-the-nations-chief-health-strategist/> (accessed September 2016).