



Place Matters Local Policy Agenda

The Place Matters Local Policy Agenda was created to proactively address the social conditions in Alameda County that lead to racial and ethnic health inequities. This effort, a partnership between the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) and Alameda County Board of Supervisor Keith Carson, in cooperation with community partners, begins with a focus on Oakland where the greatest health inequities in the county currently exist. However, many of the policies listed below have a countywide focus. Our goal is to expand these efforts across all Alameda County jurisdictions as our capacity grows. In addition to pursuing this agenda, ACPHD will continue to respond to new policy issues that impact health inequities throughout Alameda County as they arise.

While we plan to pursue all of the policies listed below, we will be actively working on a smaller group at any one time. The blue font indicates that we are more intensively focused on that policy at this time.

Criminal Justice

Policy 1: Require countywide pre-release discharge planning. This policy would ensure that incarcerated people, jailed for more than 30 days, would receive counseling services. These counseling services would include obtainment of housing, employment benefits and health care.

Policy 2: Youth who commit first-time misdemeanor offenses will be automatically referred to diversion programs (such as McCullum Youth Court) with funding tied to each referral. This policy would ensure that every youth who commits a first-time misdemeanor is automatically referred to a diversion program.

In addition to Policies 1&2, listed above, the Criminal Justice Workgroup also proposes to actively seek out opportunities to support the following:

Break the school to prison pipeline for students of color, especially males, by ensuring that students of color are not disproportionately impacted by school discipline policies. Clear and consistent student discipline policies and corrective actions' should be implemented, measured and tracked over time. Breaking the linkage between prison and school discipline should be accomplished through collaboration between the school district and community. Policies should be implemented along with complimentary programs such as:

- 1) Instructional programs designed to teach students appropriate behavior and alternatives to conflict
- 2) Alternatives to out-of-school suspension including restorative justice approaches to behavioral violations

Economics

Policy 1: Increase career pathways in ACPHD for community members and improve the temporary hire system. This package of policies could include setting internal policies regarding recruitment and training of temporary employees, as well as expanding the benefits offered to temporary employees to include paid sick days, retirement, etc.

Policy 2: Create Banking Development Districts. This policy would allow Alameda County and/or the City of Oakland to offer to make deposits of government funds in banking branches that agree to expand services and locate in designated underserved communities. In doing so, Alameda County and/or the City of Oakland would increase the viability of banks in new areas until the branch can attract enough deposits to support itself. This policy should be implemented in concert with efforts to increase financial education and ensure the availability of appropriate financial services.

Policy 3: Ensure Oakland Army Base Redevelopment creates quality, permanent jobs for local residents. The redevelopment of the Oakland Army Base represents an opportunity to create jobs for Oakland residents, especially those who have higher unemployment rates. This policy is also an opportunity to pilot efforts to make Oakland's local hire policies extend beyond construction jobs to include permanent jobs created on the site. In the long-term, ACPHD would like to explore a City- and/or County-wide policy extending local hire from construction only to permanent jobs located in City or County subsidized developments.

Education

Policy 1: Create, improve, expand, and implement policies that support systems integration within Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA), including Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD), Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, and the School Health Services Coalition, especially systems that impact low-income Oakland schools and schools that serve a high proportion of students of color. This includes alignment with Alameda County School Health Services Coalition's vision and Oakland Unified School District's (OUSD) vision, which will improve the coordination, reach, and impact of programs, services, and policies.

Policy 2: Support policies that help build comprehensive, high-quality, full service community schools in collaboration with the community, especially in low-income schools that serve students of color. Full-service community schools bring health, education, and other partners together to build communities of care that foster the academic success, health, and well-being of all children, youth, and families. Full-service community schools: serve as a hub for community, parent, and student engagement; provide diverse, high-quality extended day programming; create a caring, safe, and positive school environment; and promote resilience and healthy life-skills development.

Housing

Policy 1: Improve the code enforcement system. This group of policies could include moving code enforcement inspections from being complaint driven (reactive) to regularly scheduled inspections (proactive), working to develop a policy around mold, among other policy ideas. In terms of the

proactive inspection system, there are a variety of ways to move in this direction, including linking housing inspection to fire code inspections.

Policy 2: Prioritize Allocation of Housing Funds to those with Greatest Housing Need. Ensure housing funds are used to meet the needs of those with the least access to housing first (at 15% of the Area Median Income).

Policy 3: Expand the Foreclosure Vacancy Ordinance. The City of Oakland’s current Foreclosure Vacancy Ordinance requires that banks register vacant foreclosed homes and that they designate a person as a contact for all code complaints. However, this ordinance does not apply to tenant-occupied foreclosed homes and multi-unit dwellings. Expanding the existing policy or creating a new policy to ensure that tenants in foreclosed buildings can access the persons responsible for building up-keep will help protect them from substandard conditions and blight.

Land Use and Transportation

Policy 1: Modify truck routes to limit exposure to air pollution in low-income residential neighborhoods. Due to high truck traffic related to Port of Oakland associated activities, truck routes running through residential communities, and truck idling, some communities along the I-880 corridor face five times more toxic pollution per person than City of Oakland residents who live further away from the I-880 corridor. Ensuring truck traffic is diverted away from neighborhoods, and that truck routes move seamlessly through multiple jurisdictions, is one method to decrease direct exposure of Oakland residents to these pollutants.

Policy 2: Create healthy food zoning requirements or incentives to increase the number of grocery stores offering healthy food items in underserved communities. Existing zoning regulations can be amended to attract desired—and restrict less desired—land use to promote community-based food systems. Other tools could include a revolving loan fund that is available to finance supermarkets in underserved areas, award redevelopment grants and loans to community-based organizations to provide business technical assistance to increase access to healthy food outlets, or develop fast-track permitting policies for grocery stores seeking to enter underserved communities.

Policy 3: Adopt a health element in the General Plan. As the “constitution” of a community, the general plan underlies all land use decisions. All local government land use policies must rest on the principles and goals of the general plan. Since general plans also take a long-term vision, those with strong health language can powerfully orient government actions for decades. A Health Element can bring special preeminence and political visibility to a community’s health-related goals. This process is an opportunity to engage and educate the community about the state of its health and to invite residents to participate in identifying local health issues.

In addition to Policies 1-3, listed above, the Land Use and Transportation Workgroup also proposes to actively seek out opportunities to support the following:

Make public transit affordable for all youth through a free youth bus pass. This policy would provide free bus passes to Alameda County high school and junior high students in order to remove

barriers for young people to get to school and other necessary services and activities. This policy proposes to use Measure B funds – a half cent sales tax to support transportation projects and needs – available due to the completion of capital improvement projects for a youth bus pass.

Create Bus Rapid Transit dedicated lines in a way that does not negatively impact those with limited mobility. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) seeks to emulate the best features of rail through its use of dedicated bus lanes, traffic signal priority, state-of-the-art buses, and proof-of-payment systems. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is essentially light rail without the tracks, but at a lower cost to build. A BRT route is being considered by AC Transit that would run from Berkeley through Oakland and end at the San Leandro BART station. We support this plan along with the policy that those with limited mobility should not be negatively impacted.