



Aligning for Health

2023 Goals and Key Deliverables

Overall Objectives for 2023

- Continue to grow the influence of Aligning for Health among policymakers;
- Shape discussions in Washington around social needs and social determinants of health – serving as a conduit for meaningful bipartisan interactions on social determinants, helping ensure that national priorities and interests move toward meaningful, constructive action; and
- Advance policy ideas, including legislation and/or Administrative actions that empower organizations to improve health outcomes by addressing both health and social needs.

2023 Top Policy Priorities

- **Social Needs Data** – Support efforts to encourage and improve social needs data screening and coding, collection, integration and appropriate use to address social needs and identify disparities. Encourage efforts to standardize questions and data related to social needs, and to reduce burden.
- **Cross-Sector Coordination** – Support efforts to encourage and incent partnerships with social services partners to move care upstream by addressing health-related social needs. Leverage best practices from the CDC’s Accelerator Grants, the Accountable Health Communities Model, and other efforts to address health-related social needs.
- **Addressing Health-Related Social Needs** – Support efforts to provide technical assistance and clear guidance to payers, providers and others on options to address health-related social needs, including through payment models, risk adjustment, or options to pursue braiding and blending.
- **Value-Based Care** – Support efforts to advance payment policies or quality programs that encourage entities to identify social needs, take proactive actions to address social risk factors, and improve patient outcomes.
- **Additional Policy Areas to Support** - Eligibility & enrollment processes and data systems; social needs infrastructure; workforce; Food is Medicine; maternal health.

2023 Priority Actions & Deliverables

AFH will engage in several activities to fulfill our objectives and to advance our top policy priorities, including through: 1) Congressional policy development & advocacy; 2) Administration policy development & advocacy; and 3) thought leadership, policy communications, and strategic partnerships. To achieve our 2023 Objectives, AFH will take action to achieve the following top priorities:

- **Congressional Advocacy**
 - *Legislation*
 - Advocate for the reintroduction and passage of the **Social Determinants Accelerator Act (SDAA)**, the **Leveraging Integrated Networks in Communities to Address Social Needs (LINC to Address Social Needs) Act**, and other previously endorsed legislation in the House and Senate.

- Support the **development, introduction and passage of key bipartisan legislation** that advances our policy priorities.
 - Monitor and engage on a wide range of social determinant legislation and provide analyses to members; **select bills to endorse on a consensus basis as a coalition.**
 - *Congressional Caucus*
 - Support the bipartisan ***Social Determinants of Health Caucus***, including by identifying opportunities for the Caucus to play a leadership role within Congress to educate and spread awareness of SDOH and to advance bipartisan SDOH legislation; supporting various events and engagement activities in the next Congress; and engaging new members to join the Caucus.
 - *Education and Outreach*
 - Meet with Congressional offices to educate and build bipartisan champions.
- **Administration Advocacy**
 - *Regulations and Policymaking*
 - Support the **proposal and implementation of key Administrative actions** that advance our policy priorities, including through proactive meetings, advocacy, and regulatory review and comment.
 - Work with CMS and HHS to develop **guidance** or to outline **best practices** related to **social needs screening**, data collection, and use; **financing opportunities** for states, plans, and providers to address social needs and alleviate SDOH; **implementation of various social needs and SDOH strategies**; and **enhanced waiver opportunities, Innovation Center models**, and other opportunities that incent proactive actions to address social needs.
 - If AFH-supported legislation is passed, work with the Administration to **influence implementation and conduct outreach** to raise awareness of the new opportunities. Connect with grantees, including state and local governments and other stakeholders, to understand implementation and other challenges.
- **Thought Leadership & Strategic Partnerships**
 - **Convene broad multi-sector stakeholder webinars and in person forums** focused on timely or advocacy focused priorities on a periodic basis, and engage with stakeholders and partners across the health and social services sectors in this work.
 - Continue to **promote the work of Aligning for Health and our Members** through biweekly newsletters, thought leadership, public comment opportunities, and other communications.
 - **Maintain and develop new partnerships** and relationships with key stakeholder groups and regularly seek their input as we seek to advance legislation and our other key activities throughout 2023.