**SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH PROGRAM**

**FY 2024 FACT SHEET**

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, and age that affect health and quality-of-life outcomes. SDOH include income level, employment opportunities, racial segregation, food and nutrition security, housing access, neighborhood and built environment, educational opportunities, and social support networks. Differences in SDOH contribute to stark and persistent health disparities among racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in the United States. Communities with unstable housing, low income, unsafe neighborhoods, or substandard education face strikingly worse health outcomes than their whiter, wealthier counterparts.

**CDC’s Social Determinants of Health Program**

CDC partners with communities across various sectors, including housing, education, and transportation, to improve SDOH and achieve health equity. CDC’s SDOH Program targets five social determinants (built environment, community-clinical linkages, food and nutrition security, social connectedness, and tobacco-free policy) through public health programs, policy, surveillance, and research. Working closely with nationally recognized planning partners, CDC supports Social Determinants of Health Community Pilots, Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans, and Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, among other initiatives. To varying degrees, local and state health and community agencies lack funding and tools to support cross-sector efforts, and disease-specific federal funding streams limit their work.

**With appropriate funding, this program will help states coordinate local public health and community resources and ensure more communities can confront SDOH. Increasing funding for CDC programs that address SDOH will reduce chronic disease impact now and in the future, decrease medical costs, and promote healthier, safer communities.**

**Basic Facts About Social Determinants of Health**

* SDOH impact between 80-90% of patient outcomes while improving availability or quality of medical care could reduce just 10-15% of preventable mortality.
* Racial disparities create $93 billion in excess medical care costs, $42 billion in lost productivity annually, and $175 billion in losses due to premature deaths.
* Eliminating racial and ethnic disparities would reduce indirect costs of excess morbidity and mortality by more than $1 trillion over three years.
* Eliminating disparities in morbidity and mortality for people with less than a college education would have an estimated economic value of $1.02 trillion.