

San Joaquin Valley Health Fund

2018 Policy Platform

Over the last three years, a policy committee comprised of more than 50 San Joaquin Valley Health Fund (SJVHF) nonprofit leaders has met to accelerate policy and systems changes to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable children and families and advance racial equity and social justice in the region.

In order to accelerate momentum, residents and local elected officials need to work together. Recognizing that, Stockton Mayor Michael D. Tubbs and Chet P. Hewitt, President and CEO of The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, convened a Leadership Conference in October 2017 in Stockton to discuss policy priorities and to create a Leadership Executive Committee, comprised of local elected officials from the Valley advocating on a united platform of policy priorities.

A joint meeting of the Leadership Executive Committee and the SJVHF Policy Committee was subsequently convened to discuss and identify a set of priorities that can advance policy change on a larger systems level.

The San Joaquin Valley Health Fund believes advocating for a Golden State for All means that we do not leave anyone behind. Our fundamental rights derive, irrespective of legal status, from the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. As such, we will provide the leadership that some elected officials at the national level have failed to provide. Together, we are committed to building a movement across issues, ethnicities and counties so that future generations have a healthier future. The Valley is rising!

The following are policy priorities that build upon our 2017 Policy Platform.



THE CENTER
at Sierra Health Foundation

**SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY**
HEALTH FUND

2018 Policy Platform (H.E.E.L. Framework)

HEALTH

Beginning in 2017, there have been unprecedented attempts at the federal level to dismantle the health care gains from recent years. The attacks come at a significant cost to the Valley as we have some of the highest Medi-Cal rates in California. Our community clinics have expanded operations thanks to federal funding streams, and job growth has resulted from Covered California and other entities placing call centers in the region.

We stand united in our call to:

1. Increase outreach and support the Affordable Care Act and Health for All Kids in California to ensure health and dental care for every Californian regardless of immigration status and geography, i.e., portability across counties
2. Address the shortage of medical providers and specialists in the region through recruitment, retention, training and forgiveness of student loans
3. Continue expanding and strengthening Medi-Cal
4. Support investments in transition-related health care for transgender Californians
5. Advance a broad range of comprehensive reproductive justice policies

EDUCATION

According to *Update to the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, Version 3.0*, “[e]ducational attainment is an important element of socioeconomic status and a social determinant of health.” Valley counties have some of the state’s highest percentages of populations over 25 years that have not completed high school. Stronger investments in education are required so that high quality K-12 instruction is prioritized irrespective of a student’s zip code.

We stand united in our call to:

1. Increase outreach and support for quality early childhood education, including preschool programs that are culturally competent and customized to meet local community needs, especially in communities that have lacked access to or underutilized these programs
2. Ensure literacy for all students by the third grade; literacy instruction must be culturally competent
3. Support school districts to implement the state-adopted ethnic studies curriculum, including statewide standards and teacher training
4. Commit to decriminalizing school campuses and implementing restorative justice practices, including trauma-informed care, within welcoming, community-engaged schools and school districts
5. Train teachers and incorporate information on healthy relationships and dating abuse into school curriculum as required by the Healthy Youth Act
6. Prioritize adult education and training for sustainable workforce development; support community-based re-entry programs and increase college access

ENVIRONMENT

According to *California Environmental Screen 3.0*, the 4 million residents in the Valley face environmental challenges (contaminated air, pesticide use, hazardous waste generators and facilities) and have population characteristics (low educational attainment, linguistic isolation, unemployment, asthma, low-birth-weight infants), with some of the poorest scores in the state in these categories. The San Joaquin Valley is in the highest percentile for “high pollution burdens and population sensitivities.”

We stand united in our call to:

1. Improve the state’s data collection and management of safe and affordable drinking water and management of ground water and sanitation, including small and private wells
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and co-pollutants while ensuring climate change policies do not steer investments away from disadvantaged unincorporated and vulnerable communities
3. Develop funding, incentives and technical assistance to encourage widespread adoption of child-safe farming practices that promote soil health and clean water and allow the community to monitor air quality
4. Support funding, incentives and technical assistance to ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water

LAND USE PLANNING

By 2050, it is projected that the San Joaquin Valley will be home to more than a quarter of California’s population. Yet children and families have little access to green space and safe, healthy places to play, and there is a dearth of decent and affordable housing. Recent data shows that more than 82 percent of low-income and extremely low-income renters pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing, and more than 60 percent of these renters spend more than half their income on housing. Furthermore, exclusionary zoning practices exacerbate racial and economic segregation and contribute to development of more racially concentrated areas of poverty.

We stand united in our call to:

1. Prioritize increasing the supply and quality of affordable and sustainable housing and rehabilitation of existing housing through incentive availability, housing trust funds and fee reductions
2. Address homelessness, displacement, segregation and gentrification
3. Support transit-oriented development that co-locates housing, jobs and amenities
4. Prioritize existing communities and mixed use, e.g., work, school and play, for smart growth and sustainability
5. Support projects that conserve habitat, promote healthy access to green space and mitigate negative environmental burdens

IMMIGRATION

Immigrants and refugees are critical to California and are at the heart of the San Joaquin Valley.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the Valley is home to more than 3 million people and growing at double the state average. Immigrants make up 42 percent of the agricultural workforce and 11 percent of the region's overall workforce. More than 10 percent of California's undocumented immigrants and more than 13 percent of California's DACA-eligible residents live in the San Joaquin Valley. Of that population, 55% of undocumented residents are uninsured. Mixed-status families are common. It is estimated that more than one-third of undocumented immigrants are living with at least one U.S. citizen child that is under the age of 18.

We stand united in our call to:

1. Create a legal defense fund for immigrants facing deportation in every county and all major cities in the San Joaquin Valley
2. Support full implementation for SB54 to ensure immigrant rights through the enforcement of California laws, and protect immigrants while they are receiving quality health care
3. Expand One California funding to provide for guardianship preparation for families facing the possibility of deportation
4. Increase the capacity of organizations to provide legal assistance to immigrant families by including funding in the One California program for organizations to complete the Recognition and Accreditation Program of the California Department of Justice
5. Support pathways to citizenship for immigrants and efforts to keep families intact

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Thank you to all of the partners who contributed their time and expertise to developing this policy platform over the past several years.

- ACT for Women and Girls
- Black Parallel School Board
- California Center for Public Health Advocacy
- California Coalition for Rural Housing
- California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance
- Californians for Pesticide Reform
- California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton
- Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
- Central California Asian Pacific Women
- Central California Environmental Justice Network
- Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
- Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative
- Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño
- Children Now
- CLRA Foundation
- Community Water Center
- Congregations Building Community Modesto
- Cultural Brokers
- Dolores Huerta Foundation
- East Bay Asian Youth Center
- Education and Leadership Foundation
- El Quinto Sol de América
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
- Faith in the Valley
- Fathers and Families of San Joaquin
- Focus Forward
- Foodlink for Tulare County
- Fresno Barrios Unidos
- Fresno Immigrant Youth in Action
- Golden Valley Health Centers
- Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
- Greenlining Institute
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- Kings Partnership for Prevention, Inc.
- Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- Little Manila Foundation
- Madera Coalition for Community Justice
- Merced Organizing Project
- People and Congregations Together-Stockton
- Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
- Project Prevention Coalition
- Public Health Advocates
- Reading and Beyond
- Reinvent South Stockton Coalition
- San Joaquin Immigrant Youth Collective
- San Joaquin Pride Center
- Sequoia Riverlands Trust
- Stone Soup
- Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
- The Source LGBT+ Center
- The Utility Reform Network
- UFW Foundation

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