

2021 Healthy Illinois State Health Improvement Plan Update: Implementation Plan

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Purpose

In 2020, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) partnered with the Illinois Public Health Institute and the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health to create the Healthy Illinois 2021 Plan Update: An Addendum to the Illinois 2016-2021 State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan. After collecting and analyzing focus groups and surveys of IDPH and local health department staff, data were shared, and discussions were held with the State Health Assessment (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) team to create a vision for the state moving forward.

Priorities

The SHA SHIP partnership agreed that the Healthy Illinois 2021 Plan Update should prioritize building and strengthening the public health system infrastructure. Five infrastructure goals were identified and will serve as the basis for Illinois' strategy to address population health and improve health equity. Improvements in public health infrastructure will help to address social and structural determinants of health, including structural racism, and improve access to care. These determinants are critical to improving current and emerging health priorities such as COVID-19, mental and behavioral health, chronic disease, and maternal and child health. Taken together, these improvements will support population health improvement and increased health equity.

Action Plans

The SHA SHIP partnership created implementation plans for 4 of the 5 public health infrastructure priorities; an action plan for the remaining priority, "strengthen ability to investigate and diagnose health problems," will be created by IDPH. These action plans are included on pages 2 to 3.

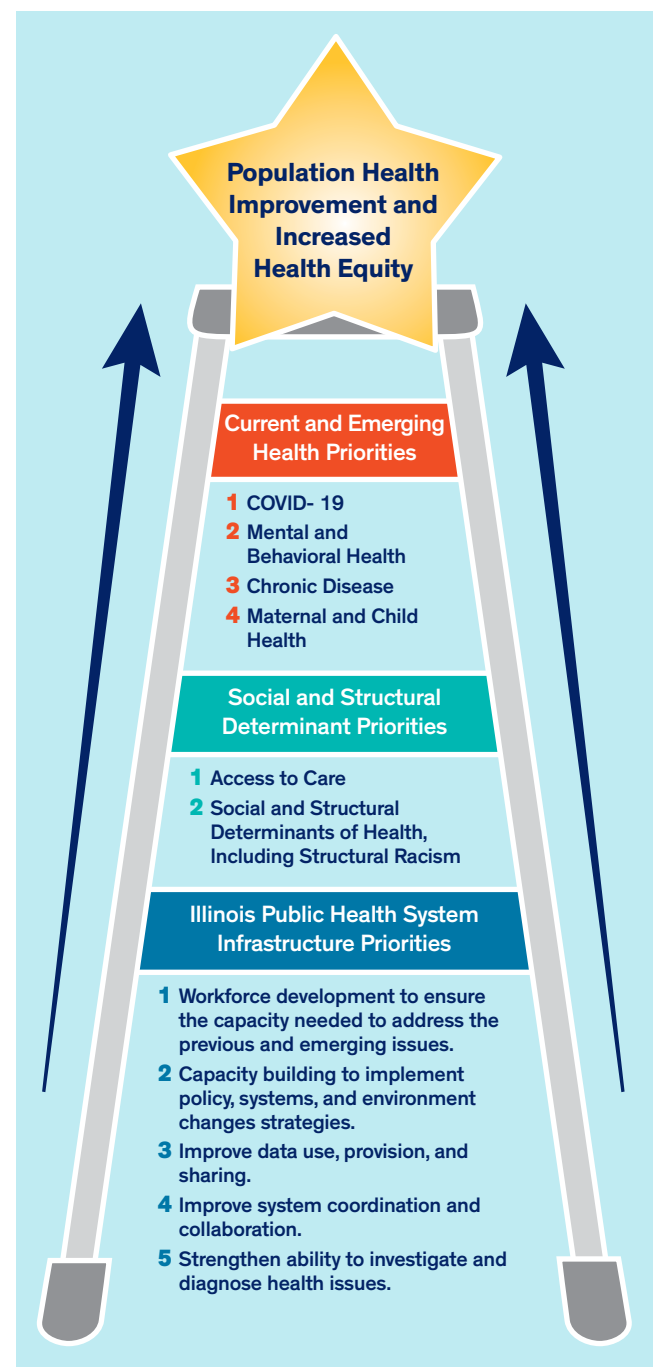
Next Steps

In addition to providing guidance on implementation strategies for the Healthy Illinois 2021 Plan Update, these action plans will provide guidance for a comprehensive equity-driven SHA and new five-year SHIP, which will be created by December 2022.

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

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FIGURE 1 Priorities from the 2021 Healthy Illinois State Health Improvement Plan Update



PRIORITY 1: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE THE CAPACITY NEEDED TO ADDRESS CURRENT AND EMERGING HEALTH ISSUES.

GOAL 1: BUILD A SUSTAINABLE AND STRONG PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKFORCE

1. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE

Develop an assessment of public health workforce development focused on building and strengthening integrative and problem-solving skills.

Strategies

1. Align SHIP strategies with funded state workforce development priorities.
2. Develop a workgroup consisting of human resources and labor representatives to assess baseline staffing standards for public health departments and a process for conducting salary evaluations of public health department positions.
3. Identify assessment tools to define baseline staffing standards and a process for conducting salary evaluations.
4. Convene a public health professional development workgroup and existing groups to understand the state of workforce development in Illinois. Existing workforce development groups include the Illinois Public Health Association; Illinois Public Health Institute; University of Illinois Chicago Policy, Practice, and Prevention Research Center; administrator associations; and other partners.
5. Review secondary data related to local health department professional development priorities, including core public health practice, skills, and knowledge (e.g., informatics and epidemiology), and emerging priorities to share with public health and health care leadership to identify consensus, gaps, and opportunities.

2. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE

Increase support for local public health infrastructure.

Strategies

1. To understand local health department needs for addressing core services and community identified priorities (e.g., priorities in IPLAN) and to support and maintain infrastructure, conduct an assessment of local health department funding, programming, staffing, and infrastructure.
2. Illinois public health administrator associations advocate to legislators for a Local Health Protection Grant increase from \$19.1 million to \$25 million.

PRIORITY 2: CAPACITY BUILDING AND FUNDING TO ADDRESS NEW AND EMERGENT PRIORITIES

GOAL 2: REDUCE INEQUITIES AND HEALTH DISPARITIES THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY, SYSTEMS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE TO ADDRESS STRUCTURAL RACISM, RACIAL AND HEALTH EQUITY, AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH.

1. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE

Define the current state of policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change strategies to address structural racism in Illinois.

Strategies

1. Increase capacity to support workgroup facilitation, assessments, data analysis, and development of summary reports related to current PSE change strategies in Illinois.
2. Establish a workgroup to create an assessment of current PSE change strategies, including representatives and reflections from local communities and subject matter experts in academia.
3. Develop lexicon and definition of terms related to PSE change, structural racism, racial and health equity, and social determinants of health.
4. Secure expertise (e.g., consultants) to develop assessment tools, collect, analyze, and produce data.
5. In order to understand readiness and identify best practices and bright spots for PSE to address structural racism, conduct an assessment of PSE awareness and consciousness and a SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of PSE strategies (e.g., health in all policies) that addresses structural racism.
6. Analyze and document findings in a summary report.

PRIORITY 3: IMPROVED DATA USE, PROVISION, AND SHARING

GOAL 3: INCREASE ACCESS AND USE OF COMMUNITY-LEVEL ACTIONABLE DATA TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES THROUGH A DATA SYSTEM OR OTHER MECHANISMS

1. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE

Increase access to community-level data to facilitate understanding of community contexts, including but not limited to social and structural determinants of health.

Strategies

1. Identify what community-level data are currently available.
2. Engage users to assess data needs.
3. Identify new data that may need to be collected or made available.
4. Engage users to make recommendations to meet data needs based on what is possible; determine how best to meet data needs based on these recommendations.

2. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE

Increase data sharing across sectors and within health sectors.

Strategies

1. Identify mechanisms to enable data sharing between entities across the public health system (e.g., public/population health clearinghouse).
2. Establish well-defined outcomes that drive data sharing.

3. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE

Improve IDPH data systems for collecting and sharing population health data with communities.

Strategies

1. Identify the barriers/challenges/limitation that exist with IQuery, data applications, and IDPH systems (i.e., INEDSS).
2. Update data in IQuery and other IDPH data systems to increase functionality and accessibility for local health departments and other community health partners.

PRIORITY 4: IMPROVED SYSTEM COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION, AND COLLABORATION

GOAL 4: IMPROVE COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION, AND COLLABORATION RESULTING IN A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AND RESPECTED PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

1. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE

Improve interagency and cross-sector communication of the public health system, including increased timeliness, consistency, and accuracy of communications and increased tailoring of communications to meet community needs.

Strategies

1. Form an interagency and cross-sector communication workgroup to plan and conduct an assessment of communications within and for the Illinois public health system.
2. Define audiences and stakeholders for communication activities.
3. Assess communication needs, assets, challenges, and opportunities of the public health system.
4. Develop a proposed communication plan that includes multi-modal and multi-directional communication pathways.

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