



Office of the National Coordinator
for Health Information Technology

Social Determinants of Health Information Exchange Toolkit

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Welcome



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Overview

- Background
- Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Information Exchange Toolkit
- SDOH Information Exchange Learning Forum
- Questions?





Background

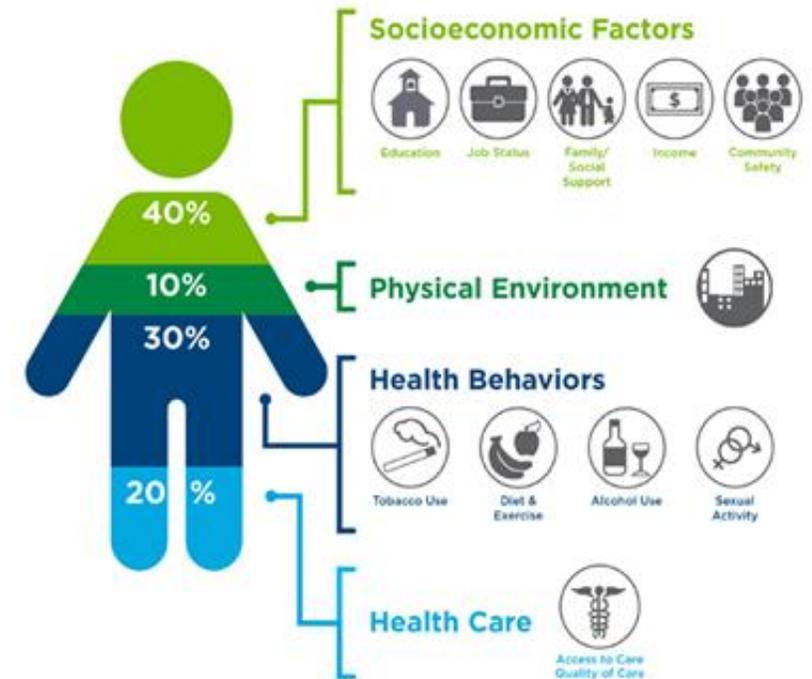
Why Are Social Needs Important?

There is growing awareness that SDOH information improves whole person care and lowers cost. Unmet social needs negatively impact health outcomes.

- **Food insecurity** correlates to higher levels of diabetes, hypertension, and heart failure.
- **Housing instability** factors into lower treatment adherence.
- **Transportation barriers** result in missed appointments, delayed care, and lower medication compliance.

Addressing SDOH is a primary approach to achieve health equity.

What Goes Into Your Health?



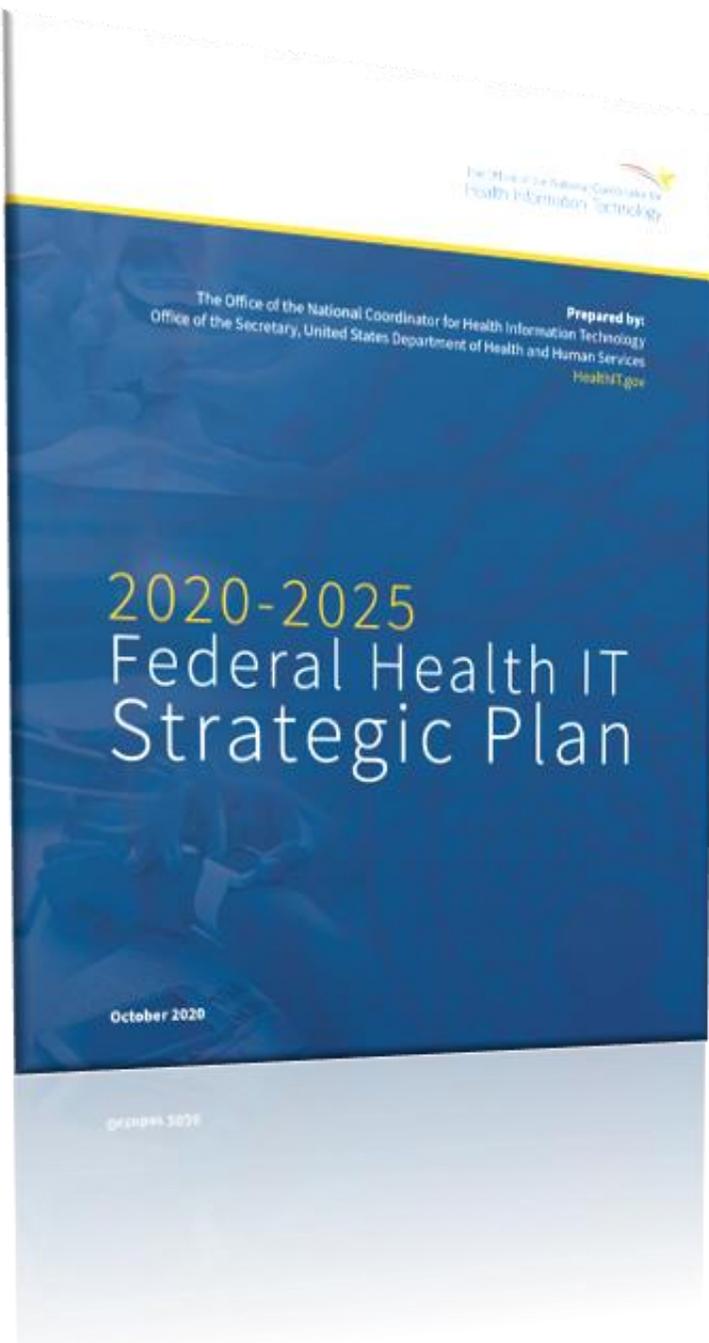
Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Going Beyond Clinical Walls: Solving Complex Problems (October 2014)

The Bridgespan Group

Sourced: Gravity Project

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/stp/socialdeterminants/faq.html>

²[https://www.bridgespan.org/insights/library/public-health/the-community-cure-for-health-care-\(1\)](https://www.bridgespan.org/insights/library/public-health/the-community-cure-for-health-care-(1))



GOAL
1 **Promote Health and Wellness** 

GOAL
2 **Enhance the Delivery and Experience of Care** 

GOAL
3 **Build a Secure, Data-Driven Ecosystem to Accelerate Research and Innovation** 

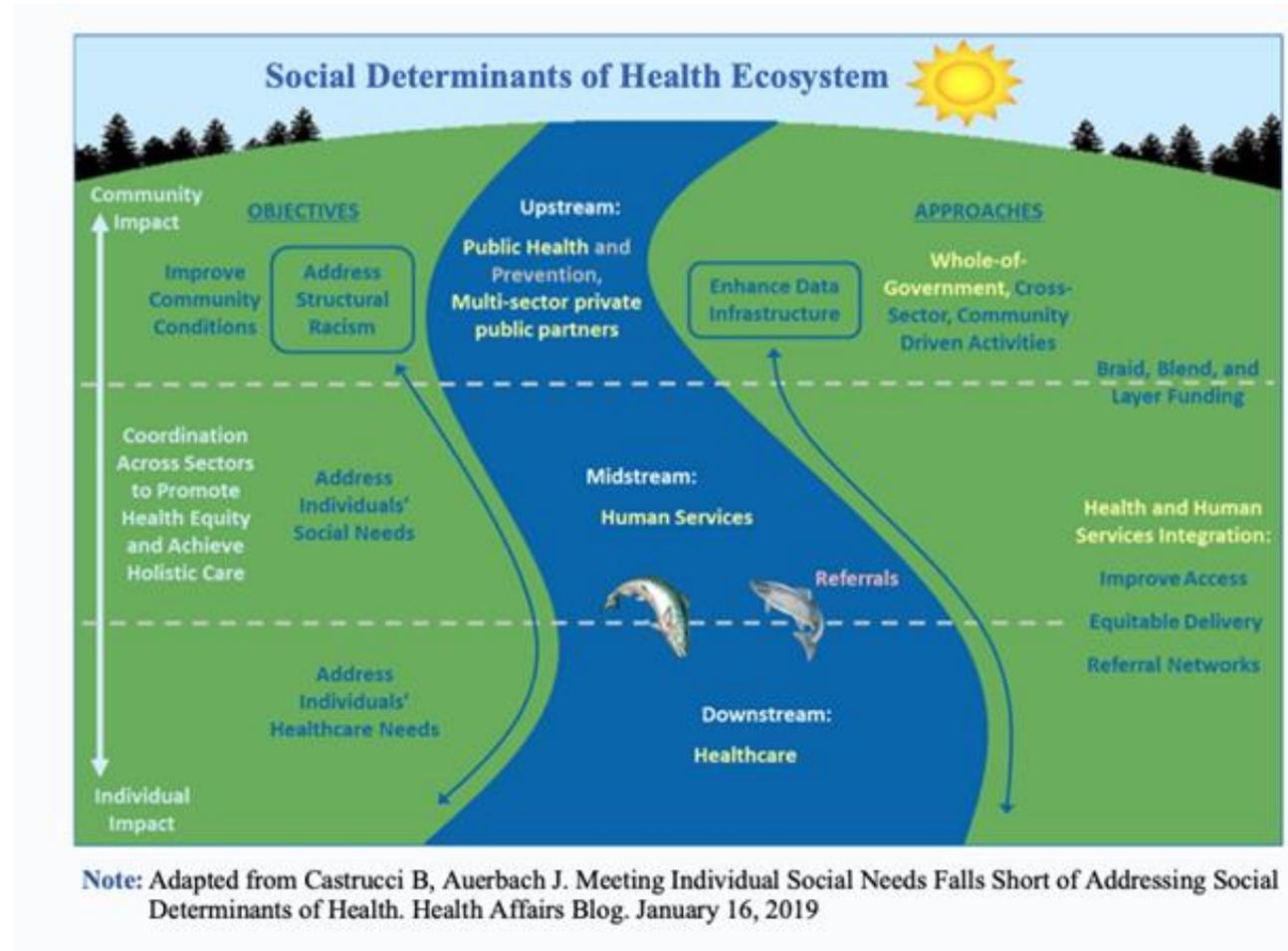
GOAL
4 **Connect Healthcare with Health Data** 

HHS SDOH Action Plan

Goal 1: Build a robust and interconnected data infrastructure to support care coordination and evidence-based policymaking.

Goal 2: Improve access to and affordability of equitably delivered health care services, and support partnerships between health care and human service providers, as well as, build connections with community partners to address social needs.

Goal 3: Adopt whole-of-government approaches, support public-private partnerships, and leverage community engagement to address SDOH and enhance population health and well-being.

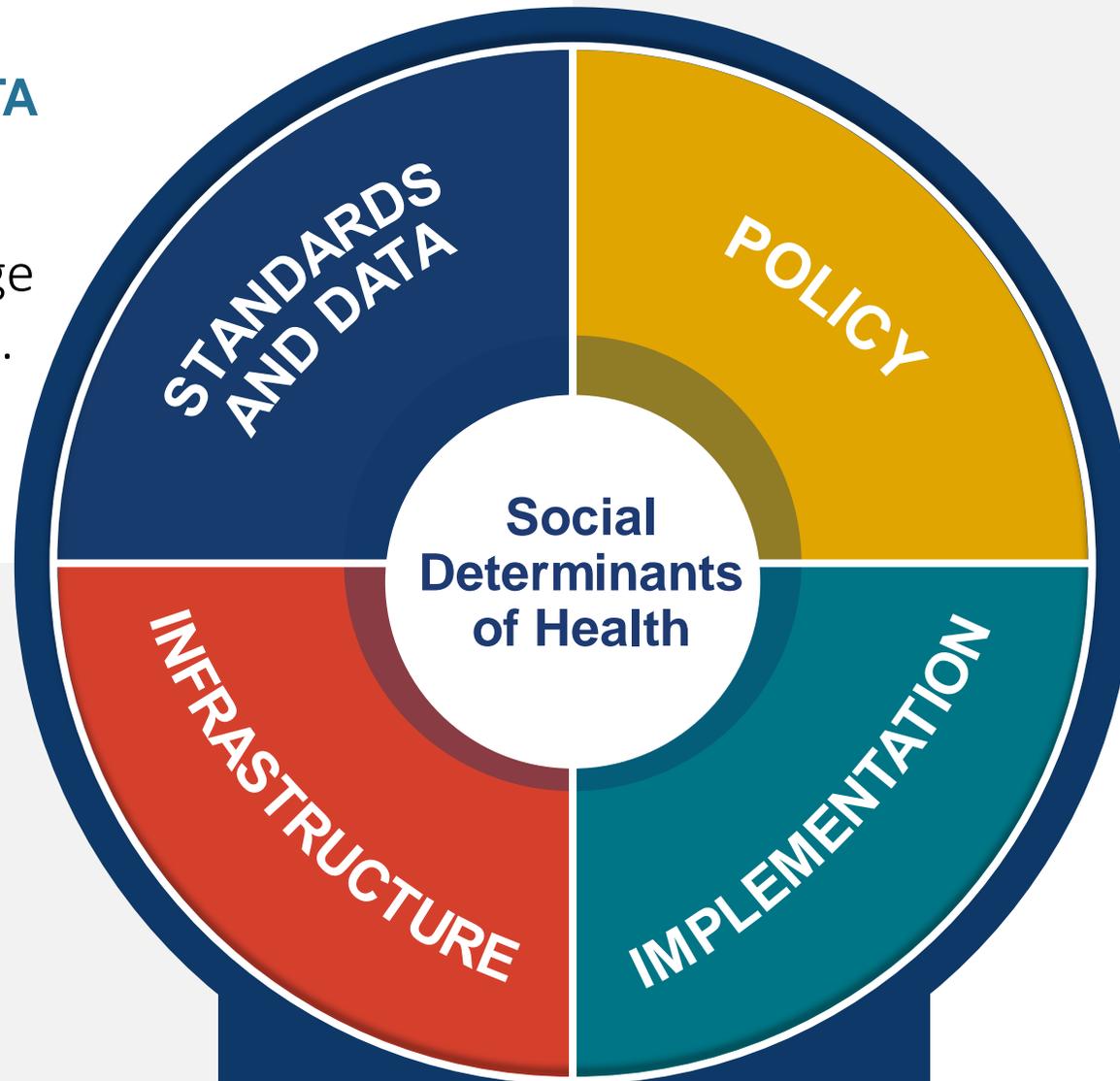


STANDARDS AND DATA

Support for advancing SDOH data and exchange standards development. Inclusion of SDOH in USCDiv2.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Work with federal partners, states, and the health IT community on SDOH interoperability initiatives.



POLICY

Included SDOH as a priority for the 2020-2025 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan. Adopted SDOH standards for HHS use in regulation.

IMPLEMENTATION

Developing SDOH Toolkit for SDOH information exchange initiatives including between clinical and community care providers.

ONC Approach to Support Interoperability

ONC is Invested in SDOH Information Exchange

Health Equity, Public Health

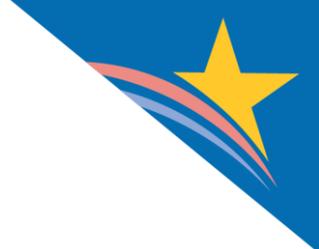
New Releases: SDOH Toolkit and Learning Forum Sessions for the Health IT Community

Mark Knee and Meley Gebresellassie | FEBRUARY 22, 2023



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[ONC Buzz Blog | New Releases: SDOH Toolkit and Learning Forum Sessions for the Health IT Community](#)

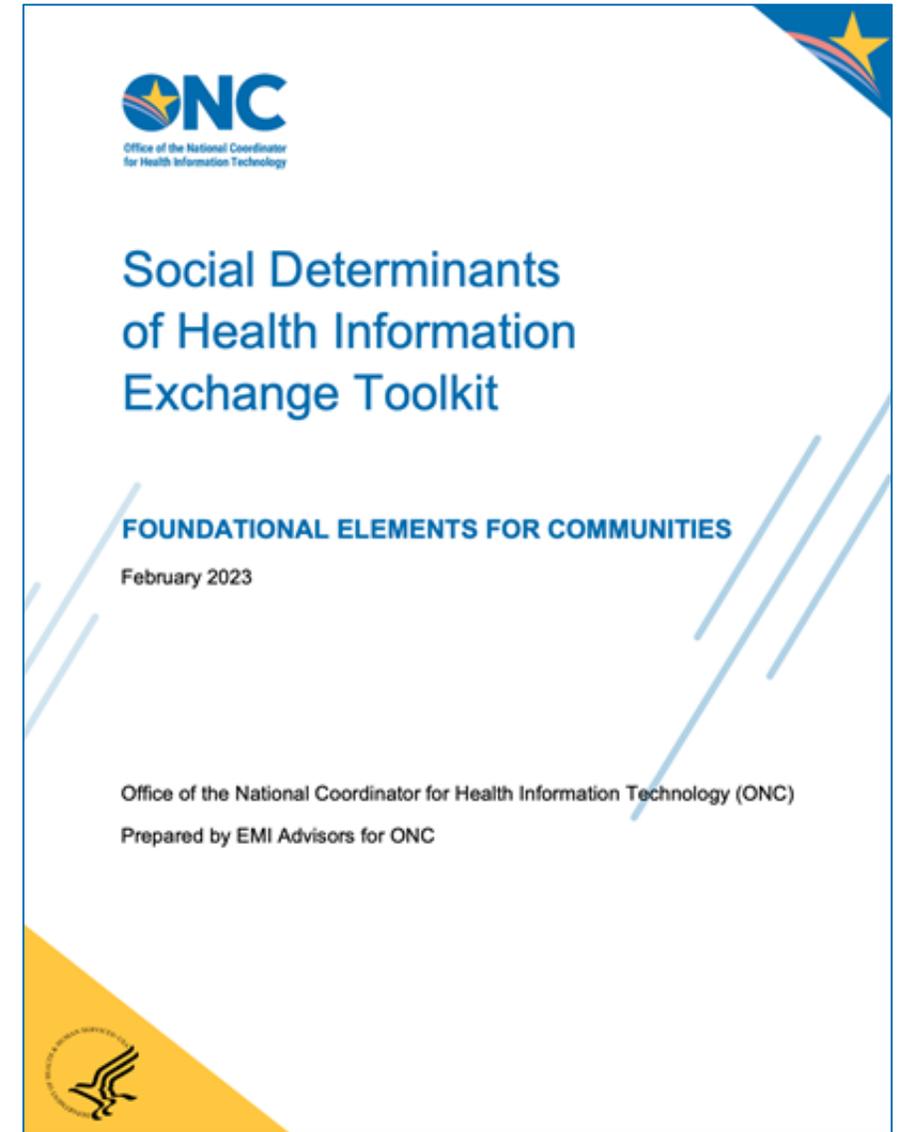


Social Determinants of Health Information Exchange Toolkit

ONC SDOH Information Exchange Toolkit publication

Developed by ONC with support from EMI Advisors and a panel of technical experts convened in 2020.

- Provides information on the SDOH information exchange landscape to stakeholders of all experience levels.
- Identifies approaches to advance SDOH information exchange goals through the ‘foundational elements’ framework.
- Provides examples of common challenges and promising approaches.
- Shares guiding questions and resources to support implementers.
- Available here: [Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Information Exchange Toolkit](#)



Purpose of the Toolkit

- The Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Information Exchange Toolkit is intended to be a practical guide that enables implementers of SDOH information exchange to learn more about the current landscape and identify key considerations and approaches to advance their goals through the consideration of important Foundational Elements.
- This Toolkit focuses on Foundational Elements for planning, implementing, and evaluating SDOH information exchange initiatives.

Intended Audience:

- Health information exchanges (HIEs)
- Community resource referral initiatives
- Networks of community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Health care provider networks
- Human services providers
- IT platform developers and managers
- Government agencies
- Payers
- Policymakers
- Other health and human services entities



Social Determinants of Health Information Exchange

Foundational Elements



Each Foundational Element has a section in the Toolkit with the following information:

- Overview
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Spotlight
- Guiding Questions
- Resources



Foundational Element: Mission and Purpose

Overview

- The stated mission and purpose of a SDOH information exchange initiative should:
 - Address the various value propositions held by interested groups, as well as the vision and scope of services, and
 - Articulate the expected benefits for collecting, sharing, and using data.
- Health equity is at the center of SDOH information exchange initiatives, and inclusion of this value proposition in the mission and purpose can highlight the importance of SDOH data in the advancement of health equity.

Guiding Questions

- Who will decide what your mission and purpose will be?
- How will communities that may be impacted by your initiative be represented in this process?

Foundational Elements: Community Readiness and Stewardship

Overview

- Exploring the existing landscape in the geographic area and/or population of focus, assessing the capacity and willingness of the community to participate, and developing shared rights and responsibilities through a process of co-design, evaluation, and decision-making.
- Community readiness reflects the existing landscape of needs, assets, initiatives, opportunities, and challenges in the community of focus, including shared interests and capacities.
- Community stewardship entails the development of shared rights and responsibilities in the process of co-design, evaluation, and decision-making.

Guiding Questions

- What landscape scans and needs assessments have been conducted with the community about needs and opportunities for change?
- Who should be involved in the SDOH information exchange initiative?





Foundational Element: Values and Principles

Overview

- Standards for establishing a framework for action, including ethical decision-making in pursuit of health equity.
- Initiatives to integrate health and SDOH processes/information should include a collaborative process of articulating, documenting, and applying values and principles that reflect the interests and priorities of people and the institutions that serve them.
- Ethical and equitable principles focus on accountability to and fairness in actions and outcomes for the community. Some principles of ethics and equity may overlap with legal considerations.

Guiding Questions

- What are the most common concerns shared by community stakeholders, and how will those concerns be equitably addressed through a governance process?
- What are the ethical principles and values that your initiative commits to uphold and reflect in the approach to data and IT?



Foundational Element: Financing

Overview

- Financing encompasses funding for start-up investments (e.g., hardware, software, capacity building, community engagement, and human resources) and ongoing costs (e.g., data and IT infrastructure, legal services, service delivery, administration, and/or stakeholder capacity) that is supported by a revenue model and/or sustainability plan.
- This funding may include funding opportunities (e.g., private-sector funding, public-sector funding, and partnerships), leveraging multiple funding streams, and incentives for community adoption and use.

Guiding Questions

- How will the costs of developing the initiative and IT infrastructure be funded?
- What are the advantages and risks of different funding strategies?

Foundational Element: Governance

Overview

Decision-making processes and groups, including as relates to:

- Institutional Governance
- Administrative Governance
- Data Governance

Guiding Questions

- How will the terms of membership and participation in the system be established?
- How will the policies pertaining to information sharing, incentives, and evaluation be made and changed?
- Given the agreements and policies pertaining to information collection, sharing, management, and use set through administrative governance processes, who should be allowed to use data and for which situations?



Foundational Element: Implementation Services

Overview

- Inclusive of **technical services** (e.g., defining requirements, standards specifications, and integration with existing infrastructure and services) and **programmatic services** (e.g., defining use cases and workflow design/redesign), as well as **support for adoption and utilization by individuals and the community**.
- The implementation process for SDOH information exchange initiatives is complex, multifaceted, and iterative.

Guiding Questions

- Have assessments been done to identify existing data systems, processes, and workflows for referrals or data sharing?
- Who will assist agencies and providers in integrating SDOH information exchange into their workflows?



Foundational Element: Technical Infrastructure

Overview

- Alignment of **hardware, software, data, processes, and standards** to enable scalable and interoperable data and IT systems.
- SDOH information exchange initiatives have important considerations, particularly since they often involve information exchange across systems and between many organizations and entities in the community.
- Standards and vendor-agnostic approaches help to facilitate interoperability in the capture, exchange, and use of SDOH data.

Guiding Questions

- What are the hardware and software needs to support priority services and use cases for the community? How will these investments be sustained and scaled?
- What are the applicable health IT standards (i.e., vocabulary/terminology, content/structure, services/exchange, administrative) to support community needs and use cases?



Foundational Element: Legal

Overview

- Establishing the framework of processes and operations, along with rights and obligations, to support data use and sharing and to support compliance with federal, state, local, and tribal laws.
- **Business operations** include procurement and contractual agreements with vendors, community members and other partners, addressing such issues as monetary fees, technical requirements, liability, indemnity, and insurance.
- **Rights and obligations related to data sharing** include data use agreements, consent model, de-identification, privacy and security practices.

Guiding Questions

- How do legal considerations relate or apply to governance structures, including data governance?
- What entities are subject to specific legal obligations?
- What federal, state, local, and tribal laws are applicable to the initiative?

Foundational Element: Measurement and Evaluation

Overview

- Monitoring and evaluation of performance metrics, individual and population outcomes, program effectiveness, and quality management and improvement.
- The CDC describes program evaluation as “a systematic method for collecting, analyzing, and using data to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and, as importantly, to contribute to continuous program improvement.”
- It is important to establish the purpose of the measurement and evaluation strategy, including important questions that need to be answered.

Guiding Questions

- What evaluation methodology will you use?
- How have you woven ethics and equity considerations into the evaluation process?
- What are your evaluation priorities? How were these determined?



Foundational Element: Policy

Overview

- Consideration of federal, state, local, and tribal policy levers to advance the ability to collect, share, and use standardized SDOH data, as well as collaboration and alignment with other relevant efforts in the community, region, and/or state for collective impact and improved outcomes.
- Understanding the policy landscape can help in launching and scaling SDOH information exchange efforts.

Guiding Questions

- What assessments have been done on the existing federal, state, local, and tribal policy landscapes?
- What entities or efforts are in alignment or opposition with your objectives, and how will you orient your strategy for collective impact to improve outcomes?



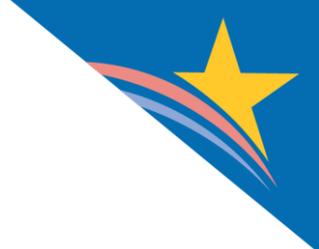
Foundational Element: User Support and Learning Network

Overview

- User support and learning network activities include assessment of community challenges and needs, education, communication, training, technical assistance, peer-to-peer learning, and identification of promising practices and lessons learned.
- Training and collaborative learning can help to build and sustain the workforce and collaborative networks to support SDOH information exchange efforts.

Guiding Questions

- Do community stakeholders have sufficient awareness, training, and experience? How will gaps be addressed?
- What are the data literacy and digital literacy capabilities of users and stakeholders, and what resources and training can support building their capacity?



**SDOH Information Exchange
Learning Forum**

Webinar series schedule

DESCRIPTION	Meeting Date/Time (EST)	Registration Link
Phase I Webinars		
Introduction to SDOH Information Exchange and the Learning Forum	March 2022	View past meeting materials and recordings here
Vision, Purpose, and Community Engagement	April 2022	
Governance	May 2022	
Technical Infrastructure and Interoperability	June 2022	
Policy and Funding	July 2022	
Phase II Webinars		
Community-Level Governance	Thur, February 23, 12-1:30pm	
Values, Principles, and Privacy	Tue, March 28, 2-3:30pm	
Implementation, Measurement, and Evaluation	Tue, May 23, 1-2:30pm	Register here
SDOH Information Exchange Learning Forum Summary	Thur, June 29, 12-1:30pm	Register here

Resources

Learn More About SDOH Information Exchange! (links below)

- [SDOH Information Exchange Toolkit](#)
- [2020-2025 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan](#)
- [ONC Social Determinants of Health Webpage](#)
- [Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Federal Programs](#)
- [HHS's Strategic Approach to Addressing Social Determinants of Health to Advance Health Equity – At a Glance](#)
- [Social Determinants of Health Data Sharing at the Community Level](#)



Questions?



Office of the National Coordinator
for Health Information Technology

Contact ONC

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<https://www.healthit.gov/form/healthit-feedback-form>



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