



# Working with Communities to Build a Robust, Equitable and Resilient Public Health System: Lessons from the Field

**Public Health Law Conference**

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AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

*For science. For action. For health.*

# Working with Communities to Build a Robust, Equitable and Resilient Public Health System



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# Agenda

- Angie – Building a Robust, Equitable and Resilient Public Health System: the Alliance for Disease Prevention and Response
- McKenzie - Challenges at the State-Level: Perspectives from Oklahoma
- Lawrence - Racism is a Public Health Crisis
- Panel Discussion
- Q&A Session

# ABOUT APHA

APHA champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the public health profession. We speak out for public health issues and policies backed by science. We are the only organization that influences federal policy, has a 150-year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health

## **Our Mission**

Improve the health of the public and achieve health equity

## **Our Vision**

Create the healthiest nation in one generation

# APHA Member Groups and Affiliates

- 33 Sections
- 5 Forums
- 1 Student Assembly
- 17 Caucuses
- 52 Affiliates (state and regional public health associations)

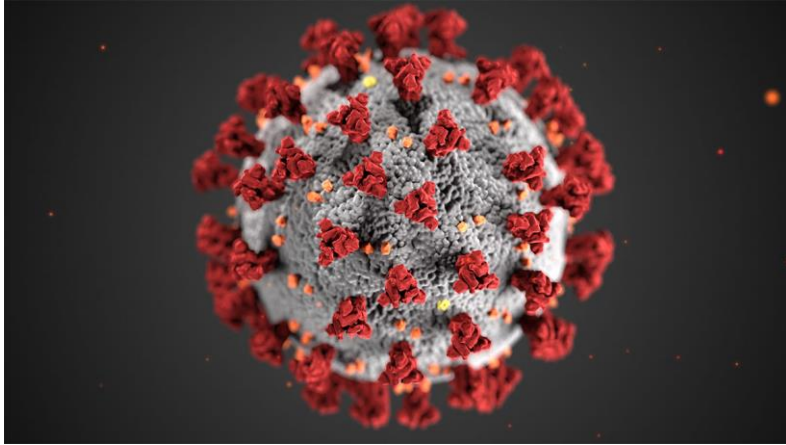


# Alliance for Disease Prevention and Response



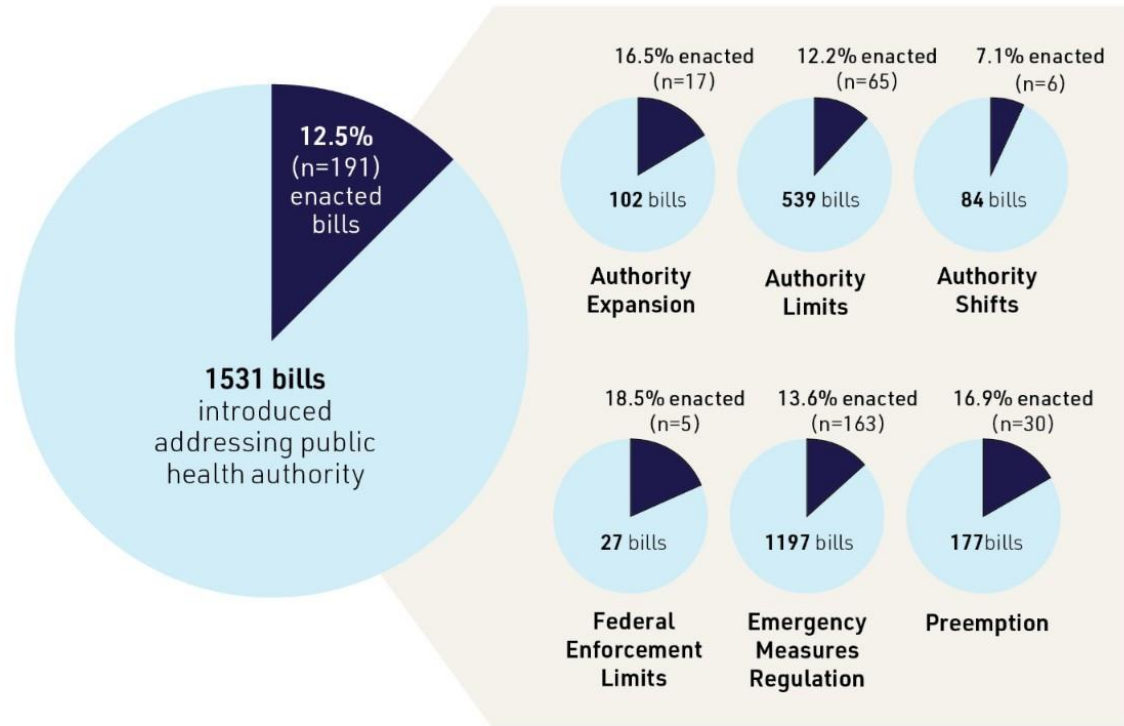
- **Focus:** building and leading a national movement to advance public health, prevent disease and promote well-being
- **Collaborative, multi-sectoral initiative**
- **Launched during the pandemic**
- **80+ organizations** engaged
- **Vision:** A resilient, equitable, and healthy nation supported by a robust public health system that is empowered to protect against societal health threats and respond to the unique health needs of every community

# Alliance for Disease Prevention & Response (Cont'd)



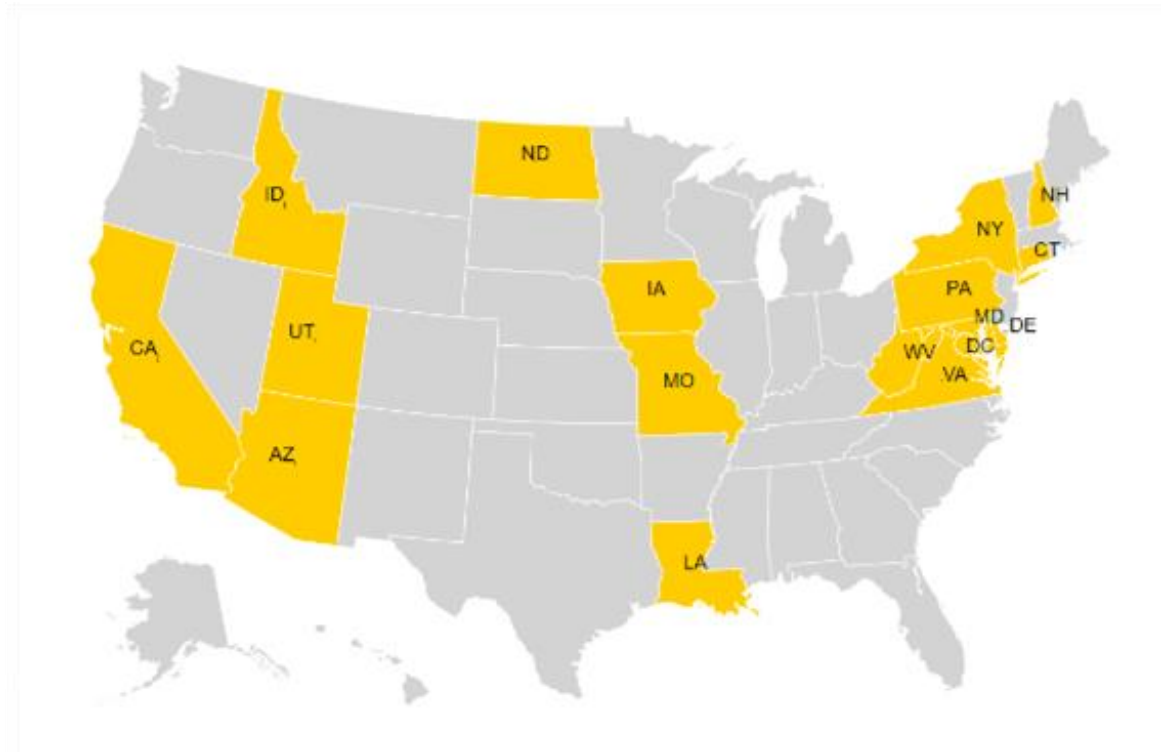
# State legislative landscape

## Introduced and Enacted U.S. State Legislation Addressing Public Health Authority by Type, January 1, 2021-May 20, 2022



\*Because bills may address more than one topic, totals reported by topic will not sum to the total number of bills.

## States that have enacted a law since May 21, 2022 that addresses authority to respond to public health emergencies



Source: [Temple University Center for Public Health Law Research](https://www.temple.edu/centerforpublichealthlawresearch/)



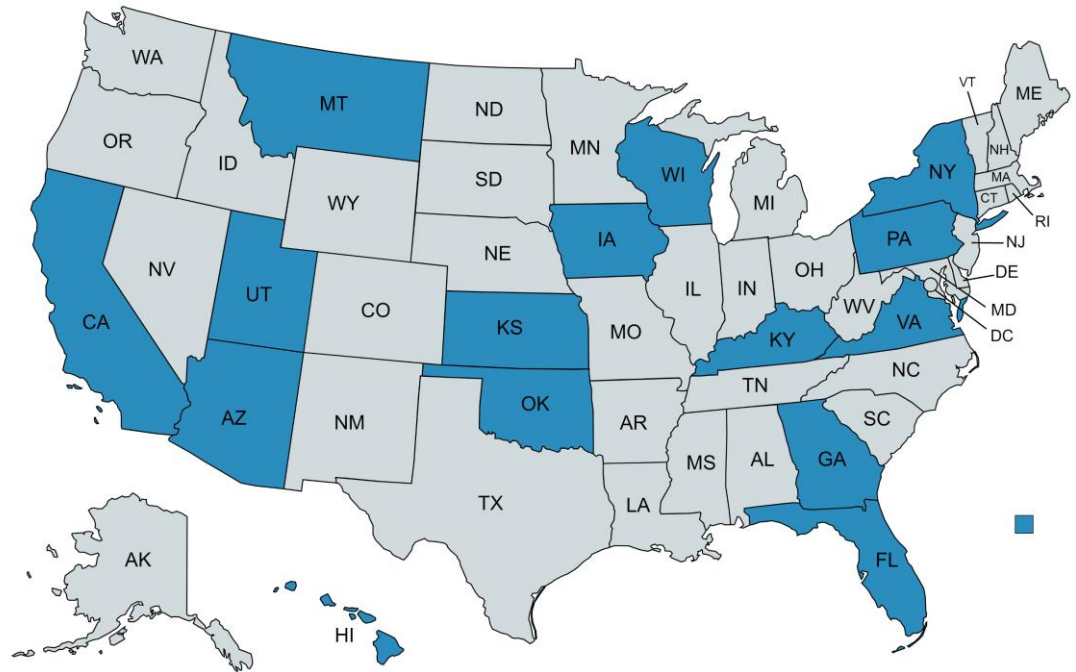
# Protecting Public Health's Authority to Act

- Educate and mobilize the public health community to protect public health's authority to act
- Support our Affiliates to strengthen public health protections
- Funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with key partners:



# Public Health Authority – Engaging Affiliates

- Funding to State Affiliates
- Grants from \$1,000 - \$20,000
- Activities funded include:
  - Strengthening partnerships
  - Improving member engagement for advocacy
  - Advocacy days with legislators
  - Software or tools to track legislation and send legislative alerts
  - Participating in conferences and coalition meetings



Created with mapchart.net

# State public health association wins!

## Iowa Public Health Association

- **“IPHA strengthened their relationships with rural public health departments and guided them through conversations with their legislators.** IPHA leadership visited public health departments across the state to build relationships at the local level and show legislators that expertise exists in their communities and that the work of public health is integral to their constituent's health and well-being and economic development within their districts.
- **Engaged legislators across the political spectrum** and invited legislators to their 18th Annual Legislative Forum.”

- Wrote an **issue brief titled “Let Public Health Professionals Do Their Jobs” and distributed it to 250 candidates** for the state legislature. This received appreciation from several candidates and led to a state legislator asking to attend their conference.
- Empowered its members to advocate for better public health policies by hosting a **well-attended Advocacy 101 training.”**

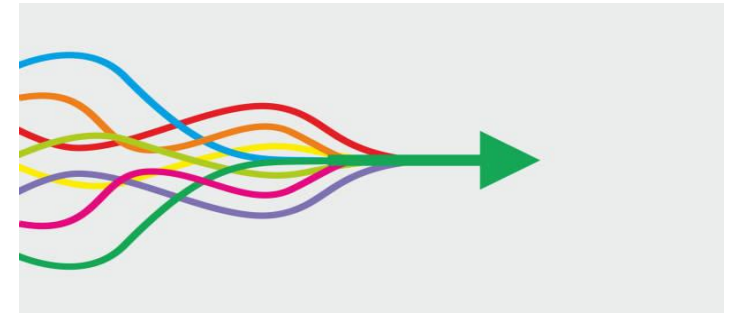
## Virginia Public Health Association

# Collaborating to Build a Robust, Equitable and Resilient Public Health System – Background

- Key lessons from the pandemic and racial tensions of the pandemic
  - Our current public health system needs to improve
  - New partners, champions, coordination and alignment are needed
- Extensive multi-faceted process supported by CDC Foundation and W.K. Kellogg Foundation
  - Reviewed 15 leading reports and engaged over 200 leaders to determine priorities
  - Undertook extensive process to learn how support community partners and CBOs
- Determined initial priorities and action steps and vetted them again
- Shared and vetted our findings

# Campaign for the Future of the Public's Health

- **Goal:** Accelerate the building of a robust, resilient and equitable public health system that advances health and well-being for all
- Alliance engaged public health and cross-sectoral leaders to:
  - Determine common priorities and areas for action
  - Ensure that communities and CBOs are supported
- Move recommendations and reports into action
- Collaborate with cross-sectoral partners to:
  - Coordinate existing work to share projects and lessons and reduce duplication
  - Engage new partners and champions
- Together, develop better public health system and improve equity through collaboration, greater common focus and innovation

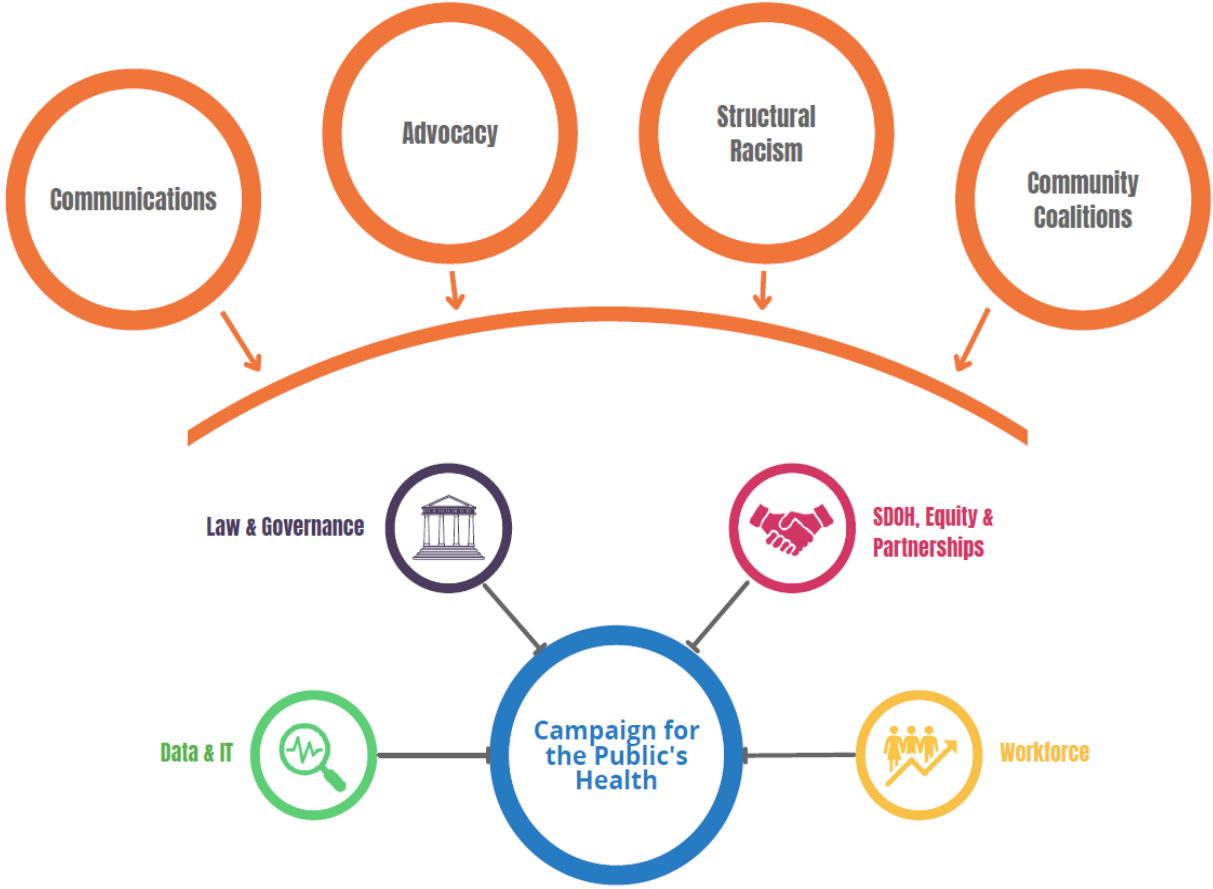


# Who has been engaged in this process?

- **Public health leaders, practitioners and organizations!**
- Community coalitions (including multisectoral, LGBTQ, AAPI health, health equity focused groups)
- Nonprofit and membership organizations
- APHA members and leadership
- APHA Affiliates (state PH associations)
- Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge leaders
- Healthcare & academic partners
- Foundations and funders
- Community health workers/Promotores
- State, territorial, local and Tribal health officers, leaders & epidemiologists \*
- Public health law & advocacy partners

# Recommended Priorities and Strategies

## Crosscutting and Topical



# Recommendations for Focus Area Goals



**Data & IT:** Build the health data information highway – an inclusive, interoperable system of systems; the enablement of real time collection, analysis and dissemination of the right info to the right user to accelerate national health security.



**Law & Governance:** Evaluate and modernize public health law and governance structures to meet threats and challenges, including to legal authority for public health. Work with local, state, federal, tribal and territorial governments to defend existing, and pass new, policy that promotes health equity and eliminates structural racism.



**SDOH, Equity, Partnerships:** Public health agencies should serve as a catalyst and/or convener of multi-sector partnerships comprised of communities, the public, private, and the non-profit sectors to address social needs that impact health outcomes.



**Workforce:** Fully staff the public health workforce that can deliver the foundational public health services to meet the needs of, and reflect the community that, they serve.



# Law and Governance - Overall Goal

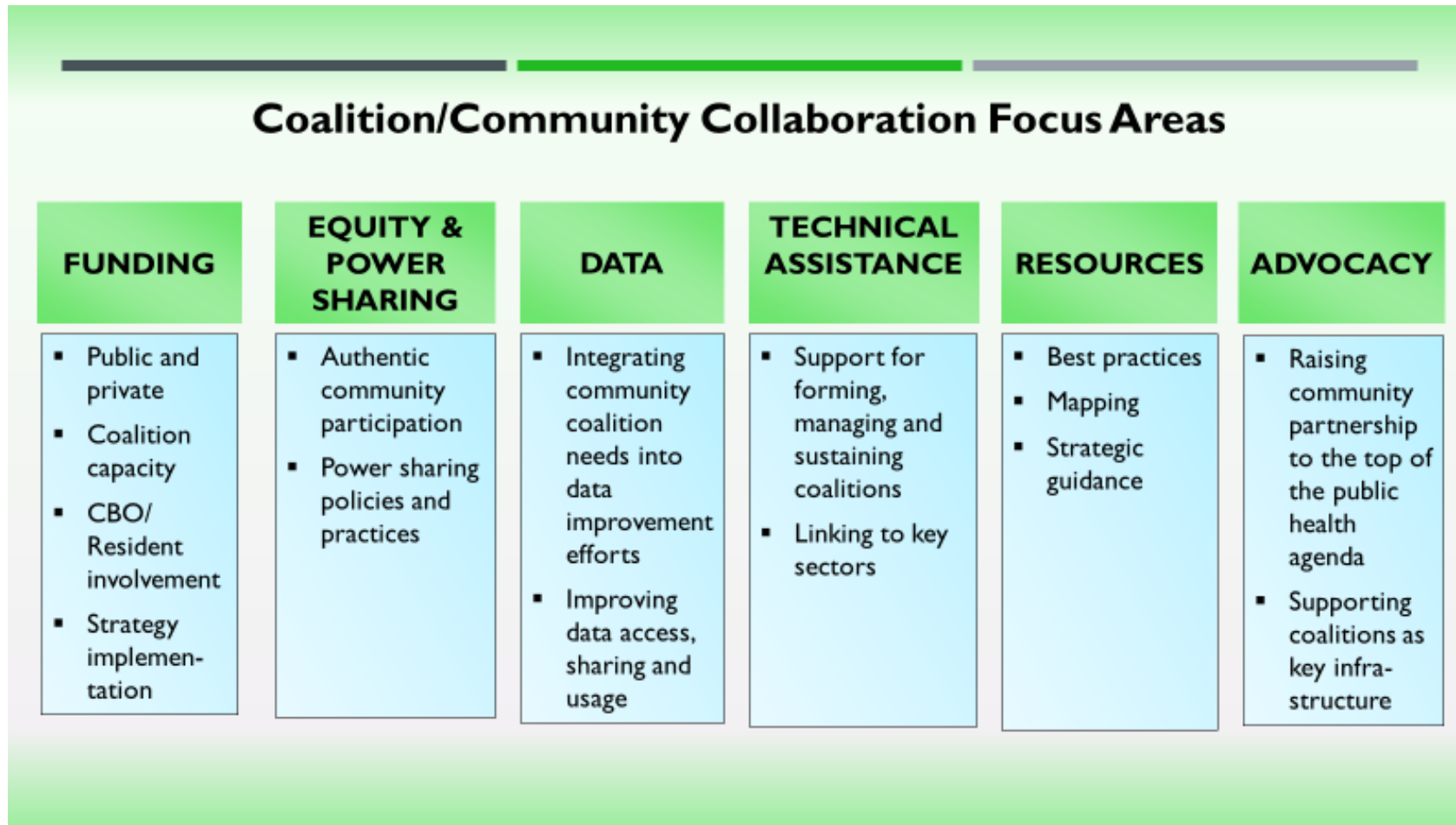
## Proposed goal from Accelerator Action Team

Evaluate and modernize public health law and governance structures to meet threats and challenges, including to legal authority for public health and build shared governance with community residents. Work with local, state, federal, tribal and territorial governments to defend existing, and pass new, policy that promotes health equity (alternately, \*promotes population health) and eliminates structural racism.

# Law and Governance: Proposed Action Steps

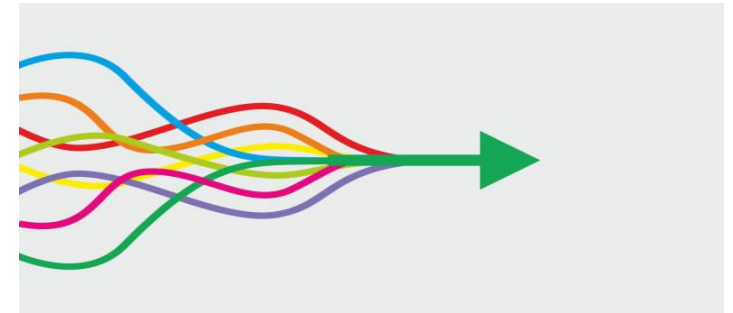
- Define and promote effective public health governance
- Communications campaign to inform the public about public health
- Engage the community in public health
- Know the Law
  - Develop and distribute model laws and policies
  - Conduct legal analyses
  - Support advocacy for public health
  - Provide training on public health law

# Lessons: Supporting Community Coalitions and Collaboration



# Campaign for the Future of the Public's Health

- **Goal:** Accelerate building a robust, resilient and equitable public health system that advances health and well-being for all
- Continue to engage public health and cross-sectoral leaders to:
  - Determine common priorities and areas for action
  - Ensure that communities and CBOs are supported
- Move recommendations and reports into action
- Collaborate with cross-sectoral partners to:
  - Coordinate existing work to share projects and lessons and reduce duplication
  - Engage new partners and champions and advance communities
- Together, develop better public health system and improve equity through collaboration, greater common focus and innovation



# Please come join us!

- To truly make a difference, we need everyone working together!
- There are important roles for those who focus on law and policy:
  - Providing thought leadership
  - Sharing examples of positive laws and policies
  - Analyzing the impact of current or new laws
  - Advocating for health and equity
  - Recommending equitable laws and policies
  - Bringing new voices and perspectives to this work
  - Sharing stories and lessons
- For more: [www.apha.org/alliance](http://www.apha.org/alliance)

