



Prevention Institute's 2020 Federal Policy Priorities

Prevention Institute (PI) advocates for policies and structural changes that bolster health, safety, and wellbeing through thriving, equitable communities. We hold health equity and racial justice at the heart of all our efforts and recognize that *how* we show up as advocates, partners, and allies for front-line communities and organizers, is as important as *what* we advocate for. Our policy priorities reflect opportunities to prioritize investments that contribute towards core elements that allow individuals and communities to flourish and thrive including:

- **Belonging/connectedness:** feeling part of a community;
- **Control of destiny:** the ability to make and take action;
- **Dignity:** living in a climate of mutual respect and regard for all;
- **Hope/aspiration:** optimism that allows forward movement;
- **Safety:** the experience of security: interpersonally, emotionally, and with one's surroundings; and
- **Trust:** the ability to count on the circumstances surrounding you.

Policy Priorities for Health Equity and Racial Justice

Prevention Institute embeds core equity considerations and outcomes across all of our policy work and we also pursue specific policy opportunities to advance health equity and racial justice.

Prevention Institute champions efforts to:

- **Protect the health, safety, wellbeing and dignity of immigrant families** through humane immigration policies and by opposing efforts to restrict/eliminate access to essential public health programs and social supports.
- **Oppose changes that limit access and eligibility to vital programs that address health, safety, and wellbeing**, including WIC, SNAP, school meals, early education, housing and utility assistance, transportation access, comprehensive reproductive health services, and healthcare access.
- **Pass paid sick leave and family leave policies that cover ALL workers** and do not further exacerbate economic inequality and health inequities.

Prevention Institute supports and applauds efforts to:

- Implement an equitable and inclusive 2020 Census that fully captures and reflects the diversity of those living in the United States.

Policy Priorities for Health

Prevention Institute champions efforts to:

- **Increase federal funding for public health and prevention programs** that enhance health, safety, wellbeing, and equity across federal agencies, including the Prevention and Public Health Fund.
- **Protect and grow the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program (REACH)** and increase the number of community-based organizations that receive direct funding.

Prevention Institute supports and applauds to:

- Prevent, prepare for, and mitigate against the health, equity, and social justice related impacts of climate change and other environmental threats.
- Promote maternal and child health outcomes, including addressing maternal morbidity and mortality, and infant mortality.

Policy Priorities for Safety

Prevention Institute champions efforts to:

- **Increase resources and capacity building for public health departments and communities** to implement and participate in comprehensive community efforts to address and prevent multiple forms of violence (e.g. school, community, intimate partner, sexual assault, and child abuse and exploitation).
- **Advance a [comprehensive public health platform](#) to prevent all forms of gun violence**—including mass shootings, intimate partner violence, suicide, community violence, and violence involving law enforcement—that includes reducing imminent risk of lethality, addresses risk and resilience factors, builds prevention infrastructure, and supports continuous learning and innovation.

Prevention Institute supports and applauds efforts to:

- Protect healthy child and family development and prevent multiple forms of violence, including child maltreatment, domestic violence, sexual violence, and suicide.

- Reform the criminal justice system away from punishment and towards an emphasis on public health approaches that address the underlying contributors to violence.
- Align federal research dollars with community safety priorities and public health strategies to prevent violence.

Policy Priorities for Wellbeing

Prevention Institute champions efforts to:

- **Emphasize community-level primary prevention strategies** to complement an ongoing focus on individual treatment as part of the national response to diseases of despair—including opioids and other substance misuse, and suicide.
- **Grow and support federal efforts and investments** that strengthen protective factors in communities to promote mental health, wellbeing, and resilience.
- **Advance strategies that promote healing and build resilience** to counterbalance community-level trauma and despair as a result of systemic and structural harms along racial/ethnic lines, socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, and gender and gender identity.
- **Support federal investments that highlight and amplify the strengths, assets and hopefulness of young leaders**, particularly in communities of color

Prevention Institute supports and applauds efforts to:

- Achieve mental health parity and greater access to quality, affordable mental health services through healthcare, schools, and other community settings.
- Develop a robust, resourced mental health and wellbeing workforce which includes peers and people in recovery.
- Prioritize trauma informed care and the prevention of adverse childhood and community experiences.