

Vision

A healthy, equitable, and thriving community.

Mission

SLO Health Counts is a community-wide initiative that works to equitably improve health for those who live, work, and play in San Luis Obispo County.

Values

Inclusive Leadership & Shared Responsibility: SLO Health Counts engages populations, organizations, and sector representatives who together represent the diverse perspectives of our community to contribute their insights, set priorities, strategize next steps, commit to action, and share the responsibility for improving community health needs.

Innovation: SLO Health Counts responds to dynamic and emerging health challenges with creativity and collaboration.

Capacity Building: SLO Health Counts builds capacity by connecting organizations and community members, sharing data and best practices in community health planning and improvement activities, and highlighting funding opportunities.

Goals & Objectives

SLO Health Counts:

Responds to Emerging Issues. Completes data collection and analysis. Prioritizes issues and recommends or initiates response actions.

Supports a Community Health Assessment (CHA). Supports the process for conducting updates to the comprehensive community health assessment for San Luis Obispo County using surveys, community engagement, and in-depth data

analysis. The CHA is completed every five years, reviewed annually, and updated as needed.

Develops a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Uses findings from the CHA to develop or update a plan to improve community health. The plan includes priorities, goals, objectives, strategies, and policy recommendations. The CHIP is completed every five years, reviewed annually, and updated as needed.

Shares Policy Recommendations. Reviews local policies and best practices, analyzes policy impacts on community health, and shares recommendations for local policy improvement.

Definitions

Health: Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.¹

Health Equity: Equity is the absence of unfair, avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically or by other dimensions of inequality (e.g. sex, gender, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation). Health equity is achieved when everyone can attain their full potential for health and well-being.²

Membership & Roles

Leadership Council: The Leadership Council champions SLO Health Counts' work by connecting influential community members and funders and advocating for resources to support the achievement of SLO Health Counts' vision. The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Director/Health Officer invites community leaders to serve on the Leadership Council.

Steering Committee: The Steering Committee sets the guiding framework and strategy for SLO Health Counts. The Steering Committee oversees project work and ensures completion of SLO Health Counts' goals and objectives. See the following

¹ World Health Organization: [Constitution of the World Health Organization \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/about/constitution)

² World Health Organization: [Health Equity -- Global \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/health-equity)

pages for detailed information about Steering Committee member expectations, benefits, and the application and appointment process.

Subcommittees/Work Groups: SLO Health Counts works with community partners and coalitions to address specific areas of community health improvement.

Steering Committee Membership

We welcome committee members who are dedicated to community health improvement and bring diverse:

- **Personal and professional experiences, including lived experiences of health inequities**
- **Expertise regarding a population health issue or sector impacting community health**
- **Collaboration experiences** with community groups and organizations
- **Demographic backgrounds** (including abilities, age, educational background, ethnicity, gender identity, geography within SLO county, household income, immigration experience, occupation, race, religion, sexual orientation, and others)

In addition, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Director/Health Officer will serve as an ex-officio member of the committee.

Benefits of Participating on the Steering Committee

- Collaborate with leaders across sectors and meet new people committed to community health improvement
- Bring emerging issues to the group for conversation, analysis, and action
- Strengthen community health equity by recommending priorities and strategies for community-wide project work
- Set mutually beneficial goals, share data, and collaborate with other organizations and groups to improve efficiency and community health outcomes

Steering Committee Member Expectations

- Set the guiding framework and strategy for SLO Health Counts
 - Assess community health data to identify ongoing and emerging health issues
 - Prioritize community health issues that will improve health equity
 - Strategize funding priorities, if/when there is funding, and create a framework to fund community health improvement projects
 - Monitor community health improvement projects' progress
 - Guide and oversee community health improvement planning and implementation processes
- Oversee project work and ensure completion of SLO Health Counts' goals and objectives
- Attend monthly meetings
- Serve on the Steering Committee for at least two years (we will check in with each member and review their membership status at least every two years)
- Bring your wisdom from personal and professional experiences to the group
- Participate in discussion during meetings and create a balanced space where everyone has a chance to share their perspectives
- Be open to learning from your peers and new information
- As needed:
 - Serve on subcommittees
 - Represent Steering Committee in presentations to the SLO Health Counts Leadership Council and other audiences
 - Review communications materials regarding SLO Health Counts activities and provide feedback

Steering Committee Application and Appointment Process

- Steering Committee members or Public Health staff can suggest new members
- Community members can also express interest in joining the committee

- Public Health staff contact potential new members and go over the SLO Health Counts charter and interest form
- Potential new members share responses verbally or submit written responses
- Public Health staff share responses with the Steering Committee
- Steering Committee reviews, discusses, and makes a recommendation to the Public Health Director/Health Officer
- Public Health Director/Health Officer reviews recommendation and appoints new member or brings recommendation back to the Steering Committee for additional discussion
- Public Health staff contact potential new member and share decision and next steps

SLO Health Counts Steering Committee Interest Form

Name:

Contact information:

Why are you interested in serving on the Steering Committee?

What experiences and strengths will you bring to the committee?