

## Summary - Promote Public Policies that Address Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and Can Lead to Greater Health Equity

Social determinants of health was the third of four priority areas in our April 2021 [Emerging From COVID-19: An Action Plan for a Healthier State](#), a set of 24 consensus-driven recommendations designed to strengthen our health care system.

COVID-19 exacerbated the impact of racism and other structural inequities on social determinants of health (SDOH) and health outcomes. We need to identify both short and long-term steps to address SDOH in underserved communities. An important step is to increase the data that is collected, tracked, and reported to include race, ethnicity, occupation, and language to allow for informed decision-making at all levels.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

19. Engage stakeholders and experts to identify key issues and impactful interventions.
20. Identify long-term interventions to create systemic change while also prioritizing immediate steps.
21. Increase the tracking and reporting of health outcomes and public health information by race, ethnicity, occupation, and language.

### RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN

- The New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) released a draft [New Jersey Quality Strategy](#) required by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for all states implementing Managed Care in its Medicaid Program. It includes plans for the Division and its contracted MCOs to collect race, ethnicity, and language (“REaL”) and disability data.
- NJ FamilyCare’s recent Demonstration Waiver renewal included increased housing support services to connect those with identified needs, including pregnant individuals on Medicaid, with housing services through collaboration with managed care organizations, community-based partners, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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