



Raise Awareness: Recommendations to Advance Social Connection



Coalition to End
Social Isolation
& Loneliness

We envision a society where every individual will one day have the opportunities and supports necessary to be socially engaged.

The Challenge

Social isolation and loneliness take a toll on individuals, leading to poorer health outcomes, higher rates of mortality, and higher healthcare costs. Social connection, or lack of social connection, is a social determinant of health that influences physical, mental, and emotional health outcomes. A lack of social connection has been compared to the health impact of smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Our Recommendations

The Coalition believes that the first step in addressing this challenge is increasing public awareness and understanding of the adverse effects associated with social isolation and loneliness and highlighting social connection as a protective factor. Increasing awareness will amplify the other policy goals, including improving access to services and supports and promoting research.



To raise the visibility of social isolation and loneliness as a public health issue, policymakers should:

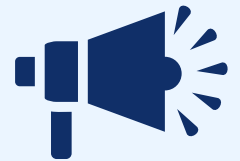
1. Institute an Inter-Developmental and Agency National Coordinator of Social Isolation and Loneliness to lead and coordinate administrative efforts, identify, and leverage current federal and state resources, and make recommendations to cabinet officials and the White House to reduce stigma and encourage social connection.



2. Develop a national strategy to address social isolation and loneliness and the benefits of social connection among all populations that builds off the SOCIAL Framework, foundation research spearheaded by the Foundation for Social Connection's Scientific Advisory Council.



3. Provide funding for a national public education campaign that builds upon and leverages actions, interventions, and approaches from the Equitable Long-Term Recovery and Resilience (ELTRR)'s Federal Plan, the National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's report, the U.S. Surgeon General, including the Framework for Mental Health & Well-Being in the Workplace, Advisory on Protecting Youth Mental Health, and future work.



4. Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop national guidelines for social connection, which includes best practices and implementation strategies for the design and development of programs for all individuals across the lifespan.



5. Advocate for funding for the Administration for Community Living (ACL)'s Commit to Connect initiative to evaluate innovations to address social isolation and loneliness, assess the evidence base to support program and technology solutions, and develop a methodology for ranking and building the evidence on solutions.



**Join us in advocating for solutions that encourage greater social connection.
Read our full 2023-2024 Policy Priorities [here](#).**

About Us

The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness, founded in 2018, advocates for policy change that combats the adverse effects of social isolation and loneliness. The Coalition represents some of the most influential consumer groups, patient advocates, health plans, community-based organizations, behavioral health groups, and private sector innovators in the United States. Visit our website at www.endsocialisolation.org