



Housing, Transportation, Nutrition Sectors: 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 investment in community infrastructure, including affordable and accessible housing and transportation will help to develop spaces and platforms for individuals to gather and form social connections. In addition, the Coalition believes that providing access to resources to help individuals fulfill their basic health needs and reduce financial stress due to food insecurity will support their overall well-being and lessen the risk for loneliness.



To address social isolation and loneliness and to engage social connection in the housing, transportation, and nutrition sectors, policymakers should:

1. Support federal legislation that would establish grants and opportunities for braided funding for state and local governments to implement social interventions and foster social connection in health, education, employment, housing, transportation, environment, and arts sectors.



2. Support social prescribing practice in medical institutions including hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community health centers to refer patients to community-based resources such as housing assistant, transportation support, and food security.



3. Promote housing services and supports through expanding Service Coordinator funding to all Section 202 HUD funded properties.



4. Prioritize housing investments that structurally build in resources for onsite services and resident support.



5. Improve access to non-emergency medical transportation and non-medical transportation programs.



6. Protect the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and preserve the flexibilities established during the COVID-19 pandemic.



7. Support the Opportunity to Address College Hunger Act and similar legislation to promote awareness and access to social services for individuals enrolled in colleges, universities, and other institutes of higher education.



8. Increase funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition programs, supportive services, evidence-based disease prevention programs, multigenerational services, resource centers, and other state/local programs.



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