



Recent federal executive orders and actions have placed unconscionable strain on an already under-resourced and overstretched public health infrastructure. Over the past few weeks, we've gathered information on critical health, equity, and public health issues affected by these executive actions—from federal immigration enforcement powers to vaccine preventable diseases; the environment, energy, and natural resources; diversity, equity, and inclusion; LGBTQ+ rights; data collection; and research funding. [Read the full article.](#)

Law & Policy Insights



[Federal Judge Temporarily Blocks Enforcement of New Administration's DEI-Related Executive Orders](#)

In the latest development in the new administration's efforts to dismantle diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs, a Federal judge on Friday, February 21, 2025, granted a motion for preliminary injunction halting several provisions of two recent executive orders. Those bringing the lawsuit describe DEI as “foundational to the nation's promise of equality for all.” This article takes a closer look at the lawsuit and what it could mean for DEI programs.



[A New Argument from DOJ May Help to Increase Disability Protections for People Who Use Drugs](#)

In a recent court case in which an arrested individual was denied overdose medication and subsequently died, the Department of Justice provided an official interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions arguing that ADA protections do extend to the incarcerated, regardless of their illegal drug use

Resources



[Immigration Executive Actions and Public Health](#)

This resource provides an overview of several Trump Administration immigration-related executive actions and identifies legal challenges. It highlights how these and other anti-immigrant efforts harm the public's health and deepen health inequities. Finally, it provides answers to frequent questions on implications for health departments, community-based organizations, and others navigating the changing landscape.



[Legal Considerations for Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence in School Health](#)

This resource explores current applications of AI in school health and highlights potential benefits as well as some of the barriers that may arise during implementation. It briefly describes the regulatory framework of AI technologies, federal recommendations, and state regulations, and concludes with recommendations for promoting the responsible and ethical use of AI in school nursing.

Webinar



[Unpacking Racial and Health Equity Impact Assessments: Legislation, Tools, and Strategies for Community-Centered Change](#)

March 20, 2025 | 12 – 1:30 p.m. CT

Join the Network, the Public Health Law Center, and other partners for a two-part webinar series focused on the design and implementation of racial and health equity impact assessment (R/HEIA) laws across the U.S. Gain valuable insights, tools, and recommendations for the design and use of R/HEIAs to create more equitable health outcomes in communities.

Recent Webinar Recordings



Food Insecurity and Food Safety: Policy and Legislative Actions

This webinar, held February 20, 2025, discussed how States are increasingly adopting “food freedom” laws that exempt retailers from food safety regulations. At the same time, food waste and food insecurity are growing. View the recording to learn about the food freedom trend along with law and policy levers that can reduce food waste and address food insecurity. [View the webinar recording.](#)

Conference



2025 Public Health Law Conference: Connection. Collaboration. Community.

September 16 - 18, 2025

This is a critical time for public health and understanding how to leverage law and policy to not only ensure the continuation of the progress we have made, but also to advance the work we remain committed to is more important than ever. Join us September 16 - 18, 2025 to learn, connect, collaborate, and advocate to protect the health of our communities.

Announcements

Privacy Officer Peer Group Learning Session: CoE-PHI Training Packages to Understand and Apply 42 CFR Part 2

Wednesday, March 12 | 2 - 3pm CT

Join the Network for a presentation from the [Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information \(CoE-PHI\)](#) who will provide a brief overview of their set of three updated training packages that can be used to train organizational staff on understanding and applying federal health privacy laws that apply to substance use treatment information. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in breakout groups for further discussion and connection with their peers. Join the [State and/or Local Privacy Officer Peer Group](#) to receive an invitation to the Peer Group Learning Session.

Worth Sharing

Executive Orders & Public Health Practice: FAQs

In response to the recent flurry of federal executive orders, the Network and our partners at [Act for Public Health](#) have created these FAQs to help readers understand executive orders, the goals and

limits of their application, and how public health practitioners might think about them. While executive orders can be issued at all levels of government (federal, state, and local), this explainer focuses only on federal executive orders.

Job Opportunities

Director, Health Equity - Remote

The Network is seeking a Director to oversee its Health Equity Team, which is committed to advancing health and social justice in communities by using law and policy to improve health outcomes for traditionally under-resourced communities and populations. The Health Equity Director will oversee and manage the team's day to day operations, strategic planning, outreach efforts, capacity building, legal technical assistance, trainings and presentations, and resource development activities.

Fund Development Consultant

The Network requests proposals for a Fund Development Consultant to help us create a multi-year fund development and implementation plan for our organization and provide hands-on support for our philanthropic and other fundraising efforts. We are seeking a highly experienced fundraising consultant to help us refine our strategy, develop and implement a fundraising plan, and expand our prospect list with the goal of raising new philanthropic funds, and diversifying our funding sources over five years. [View and download the full RFP.](#)

Tell Us What You're Working On.

We're Ready to Help.

Our law and policy experts can help you identify the key considerations central to your unique challenges and provide law and policy pathways you can leverage to make a difference.



[Request Assistance →](#)

Thank you!

Your interest in the work of the Network is important. Together, we can advance law as a tool to improve public health. **Please forward the Network Report and encourage others to [join the Network!](#)**

The Network for Public Health Law provides information and technical assistance on issues related to public health. The legal information and assistance provided in this document does not constitute legal advice or legal representation. For legal advice, readers should consult a lawyer in their state.