

POLICY MAKING AND HEALTH EQUITY

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Purpose



“Policy is a law, regulation, procedure, administrative action, incentive, or voluntary practice of governments and other institutions”
-CDC, 2025

Health is influenced by these practices and affects community members through legislative development where people work, play and grow.

We will discuss an overview of policy history in Jefferson County, Alabama, advocacy for policy using SDoH, the multidimensions of the policy making process (ethics, evidence, and roles), and programs available to Jefferson County community members.

Policy Creation

1. Legislation introduces a bill
2. A bill is assigned to a committee and debated
 - a. The committee approves or denies the bill.
 - b. The bill is amended and reviewed by the committee.
3. Voting takes place
 - c. Both chambers must agree on the bill version
4. The governor decides to sign the bill or veto



Ethics and Roles

1. Identifying political factors that influence policymaking
 - a. This includes the influence of different interest groups/stakeholders
2. Create an integrated framework
3. Priority of the problem
4. Benefits/Harm
5. Cost/Resources/Cost-effectiveness
6. Impact on equity
7. Feasibility
8. Applicability



Programs for Change

Cooper Green Mercy Health Services:

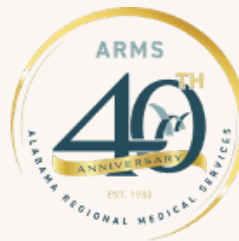
- Primary care, specialty care and urgent care for uninsured community members.
- Comprehensive care and equips patients with financial assistance.

Alabama Regional Medical Services:

- Accessible and affordable healthcare for low-income and uninsured populations.

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Cooper Green Mercy Health
AFFILIATE OF UAB HEALTH SYSTEM

What's Next?

1. Get involved during town halls for policy implementation
2. Build trust with Stakeholders, Residents and Public Health professionals
3. Utilize tools within the community
4. Leverage evidence based policy
5. Create transparency within stakeholders and residents

