

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DOVER

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER THREE**

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

**RE: CREATION OF THE DELAWARE COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL DRIVERS
OF HEALTH**

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware recognizes the critical importance of addressing social drivers of health—specifically housing stability, food security, economic opportunity, education, and access to healthcare—to enhance the well-being of all Delawareans; and

WHEREAS, health outcomes in Delaware are significantly influenced by social drivers of health, including economic stability, education access and quality, healthcare access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context; and

WHEREAS, social drivers significantly influence individual and community health outcomes, with factors such as income, education, and living conditions contributing to disparities in health and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, disparities in health outcomes disproportionately affect vulnerable populations in our State, exacerbating inequalities and hindering our collective progress; and

WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation approximately 10.7% of Delawareans live at or below the federal poverty level, and by effectively addressing these social drivers, we can empower individuals to break cycles of poverty, create pathways to fulfilling, successful, and healthy lives, and ultimately enrich our communities and the State; and

WHEREAS, the effective integration of technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI) and next-generation citizen services can provide innovative solutions to complex social challenges, including credit report stability, reentry citizen reintegration for the betterment of the State, and access to essential services; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in five children in Delaware faces food insecurity, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions; programs such as the AI predictive Smart Food Program, which is an AI-driven app that matches surplus food with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) demands, which can significantly reduce food waste while ensuring

that healthy food reaches families in need. Approximately one in five children in Delaware faces food insecurity, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions; and

WHEREAS, recent innovations in background check reporting offer contextualized alternatives to traditional checks, using qualitative data to help businesses and governments access a diverse talent pool, including those with criminal records. With around 30% of Delaware's population having a criminal record, the State must pursue services that provide job readiness and alternatives to traditional checks to promote economic equity and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. This requires a contextualized background check report that considers all aspects of a Delawarean's competence and suitability for opportunities. Additionally, the FBI indicates that up to 50% of background check data may be inaccurate, underscoring the need for reliable and equitable solutions through an innovative background check vendor to ensure fair hiring practices and equal opportunities for all; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships, along with predictive and proactive government solutions, promise cost-effective and impactful outcomes in critical areas including population health, housing, workforce development, and food security; and

WHEREAS, Delaware aspires to be a leader in delivering equity and justice through technology-driven, citizen-focused solutions that can transform American systems and inspire practices worldwide; and

WHEREAS, individuals facing substance use disorders, mental health challenges, reentry barriers, veterans, and those experiencing homelessness are deserving of heightened protection, with dedicated support and interventions; and

WHEREAS, programs like the AI predictive Smart Food Program that aims to tackle food insecurity and reduce waste through AI-driven solutions, align with the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware is committed to fostering an environment that supports grant acquisition and utilization, thereby enhancing funding opportunities for initiatives that address social drivers of health and create equitable access for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware is committed to fostering collaboration among governmental agencies, community organizations, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to develop and implement effective strategies for addressing these social drivers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BETHANY A. HALL-LONG, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby DECLARE and ORDER that:

1. Establishment of the Delaware Commission on Social Drivers of Health

By the authority of the Governor, the following commission is hereby established to address and recommend solutions to facilitate the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technology and data-driven programs that focus on social drivers of health, housing and labor, and supporting vulnerable populations.

The Commission shall consist of 15 members, appointed by the Governor, to a term of four years, subject to renewal. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Any vacancies shall be filled by the Governor. The following shall serve as members:

1. The Secretary of Health and Social Services or their designee
2. The Secretary of Labor or their designee
3. The Chief Information Officer of the Department of Technology and Information or their designee
4. The Director of the Delaware State Housing Authority or their designee
5. The Director of the Division of Public Health or their designee
6. The Director of the Division of Social Services or their designee
7. One representative from the Delaware Artificial Intelligence Commission
8. One representative from a Non-Profit Organization
9. Two reentry leaders
10. Two representatives from the private sector in Delaware
11. One representative from the Wilmington Housing Authority
12. One representative from the Government Efficiency and Accountability Review Board

The Governor shall appoint a chair from the membership of the Commission.

The Commission shall establish two subcommittees to ensure a comprehensive approach to addressing social drivers of health. These subcommittees will focus on specific areas, collaborating across sectors to develop actionable recommendations. The subcommittees will be chaired by two of the appointed members, who will be elected by the Commission members.

1. Subcommittee on Social Determinants of Health
 - *Housing Stability
 - *Health and Social Services
 - *Food Security and Nutrition
2. Subcommittee on AI
 - *Workforce Development
 - *Economic Opportunity
 - *Technology and Innovation

Each subcommittee will be tasked with analyzing its respective area, proposing solutions, and reporting regularly to the Commission with updates, recommendations, and findings. The work of the Commission and its subcommittees will be crucial in driving forward the Governor's

initiative to enhance citizen services and improve outcomes in population health, housing, and workforce development.

By the authority of the Governor, the Commission shall deliver annual reports to the leadership of the Delaware General Assembly, detailing the progress of these initiatives, including measurable outcomes and recommendations for improvement. A commitment to continuous improvement, community feedback, and transparency will guide the evolution of these programs, ensuring responsiveness to the needs of Delawareans.

Together, the Commission and its subcommittees aim to drive meaningful change and improve health outcomes for all Delawareans.

2. Priority Projects of the Commission and the State

The Commission, working with all agencies and departments in Delaware, shall develop, implement, and coordinate the following programs:

Smart Food Program

The Commission shall coordinate with the Department of Health and Social Services on the implementation of the Smart Food Program to combat food insecurity and waste. This program may employ an AI-driven app that provides features such as digital coupons, recipe suggestions, and meal planning tools.

Engagement of Businesses and Developers

The State will explore incentives to be offered to businesses and developers engaged in mixed-use, affordable housing projects that include workforce development initiatives for vulnerable populations. These incentives will include tax credits and expedited permitting processes. The Commission will also consider additional incentives for partnerships that provide comprehensive support services, such as mental health and substance use disorder treatment, along with workforce development programming and vocational training opportunities.

Workforce Development and Economic Opportunities

The Commission shall work with the Department of Labor to explore workforce development programs designed to meet the specific needs of vulnerable populations, providing training and employment pathways in collaboration with local businesses, housing providers, and educational institutions. The Commission shall explore opportunities for housing developments that incorporate employment opportunities for residents, fostering economic self-sufficiency and upward mobility.

Risk Mitigation and Scoring Model

The Commission will explore the feasibility of a background check risk mitigation tool that could be utilized to assess calculated risks and establish risk tolerance scores for employment, loan products, and housing.

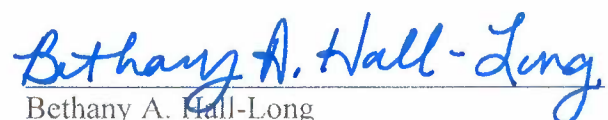
Grant Acquisition and Utilization

This Executive Order encourages collaboration with federal, state, and private funding sources to maximize resources for initiatives addressing social determinants of health. State agencies shall actively seek and apply for grants that support the objectives outlined in this Order, enhancing Delaware's capacity to implement sustainable programs that uplift individuals and communities.

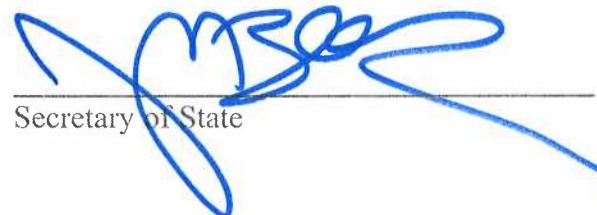
Cross-Agency Collaboration and Citizen 360 View

Delaware agencies and departments related to public health, public safety, and economic vitality are directed to take bold actions to leverage Cross-Enterprise Artificial Intelligence technologies. Agencies shall collaborate on creating a "Citizen 360" view that does not expose Personally Identifying Information (PII) but provides a descriptive, predictive, and actionable perspective on public health, public safety, and economic vitality. The goal is to identify communities facing disproportionately difficult challenges, define Cross-Agency initiatives, and incorporate collaboration into management and budgeting processes to assure improvement in citizen outcomes and economic impact.

APPROVED this 17th day of January 2025.


Bethany A. Hall-Long
Governor

ATTEST:


Secretary of State

