



2025–2026 Policy Priorities to Achieve Health Equity

The American Academy of Nursing (Academy's) vision is healthy lives for all people. To actualize our vision, the Academy's mission is to improve health and achieve health equity by impacting policy through nursing leadership, innovation, and science, through three primary objectives:

CREATE solutions that matter;
INSPIRE change that propels transformation; and
ENVISION a healthier future.

For over 50 years, the Academy has advocated boldly to address the most pressing policy issues in health care. In conjunction with the organization's Expert Panels, comprised of Academy Fellows in policy, practice, research, and academia, the 2025-2026 policy priorities to achieve health equity further a longstanding commitment to addressing the underlying factors that impact the ability to achieve healthy lives. Each of the Academy's priorities is synergistic and supports policies that strive to promote holistic, patient-centered care.

Increase Accessibility to All Forms of Health Care

The Academy believes that to truly improve the health of all people, policies must advance evidence-informed solutions that ensure everyone has access to critical resources and high-quality health care. Moreover, the Academy will continue to safeguard the mental health, social connection, and safety of every individual, in any location, during all health stages by working to improve the ways in which care is delivered, paid for, and received.

Protect the Health and Well-Being of Communities

The Academy will continue to champion evidence-informed policies that strengthen the public health infrastructure and support sustainable investments to ensure positive health outcomes are prioritized. This requires purposeful attention to the micro, macro, and meso level of each community and the health care providers who serve them.

Modernize and Innovate the Health Care System

The Academy supports evidence-informed policies that adopt modernizations in technologies, treatments, and models of care that are sustainable, reduce burden, and are effective over time. Innovation in the health care industry, including emerging practices and complex technologies, such as artificial intelligence, must be tested before they are advanced to protect patients, providers, and systems. This requires increased investments in research and scientific careers.