

Health Resilience Concept Note



Healthy communities are built around multiple factors such as eating better, connecting with others and being outdoors.

The pandemic and its disruptions have highlighted dangerous gaps in our health-related systems and the detrimental effects these have on all Californians. UC ANR is renewing a focus on an integrated, holistic, and equity-driven approach for building an inclusive, healthy, and sustainable California where we all can thrive. We'll do this by integrating and expanding our own expertise in spreading health awareness and education, by increasing access to healthier and locally-sourced foods, and by strengthening public policy that leads into long-lasting systemic change. We deploy an unparalleled network of change agents, living and working in each county across our state, to serve as

liaisons, educators and collaborators in supporting California residents and organizations to advance community-driven, science-based-solutions that support a healthy California for all. By investing in our UC ANR Health Resilience Network, together we will work to ensure health and wellness among all Californians, each and every day, for generations to come.

Our Vision: What Health Resilience Means to Us

We are energized by the urgent opportunity to improve individual and community health by expanding areas of innovation and synergy where our existing programs are delivering and collaborating on a range of health and wellness topics, including physical, psychosocial, economic, and environmental health. The systems we rely on to support these areas of collective and individual wellbeing must be strong and flexible, and continuously improving to overcome the challenges and to address the inequities of our time. Our current food systems, healthcare systems, education and social welfare systems can be even more interconnected to support Californians of all walks of life in accessing the opportunities and making the choices that contribute to individual health, thriving communities and a sustainable healthy environment. ANR's focus on Health Resilience means joining in the public health effort to address social determinants of health, working to become increasingly interdisciplinary in strengthening effective collaborations that maximize our efforts to promote individual health, increase healthy food access, strengthen economic wellbeing, and bolster inclusive societies for the long-term. As we advance in these efforts we will live into a healthy and resilient California where we all experience overall improved quality of life.

Our Approach

UC ANR has a statewide network of trusted and respected change agents as skilled practitioners who live and work in communities across every county in California and are experienced in delivering and

developing evidence-based practical programs designed with communities. These programs deliver direct education, affect policy, system, and environmental changes, and advance related research and evaluation efforts. UC ANR also evaluates and develops practices, disseminates new research and innovations through training and guidance documents, provides coordination and capacity for local and state-level collaborative implementation and policy efforts, and helps identify and promote appropriate policies. This broad network of professionals provide guidance, expertise, and coordination on food systems, food safety, nutrition, gardening, food resource management, financial literacy, youth development, college and career readiness, improved environments, leadership building, engaged citizens, improved health, and equity throughout the state.

The success of our network is partnership – our UC ANR state level Community Health Team collaborates with UC ANR Educators at the community level and all of these change agents actively engage with multiple partners at the local, county and state levels. Through our Health Resilience approach, we will expand this network to grow a robust and coordinated community health team to leverage science-based needs assessment data, program models and ongoing evaluations to co-create meaningful community collaborations across an expanded array of intersecting health topics, designed to improve the holistic health of all Californians. We work in collaboration with local community partners, that is responsive to community priorities and highly invested in serving all communities. This approach will build on and interconnect ANR's existing programs and initiatives and activities (including 4-H, CHFL, EFNEP, MGP, MFP, NPI, SAREP, IPM, and Cal Naturalists). UC ANR will learn with, and from, similar state networks within and outside of California to leverage and contribute to widespread learning across our region, nation, and world.

Get Involved

The call to participate in UC ANR's Health Resilience Network is an opportunity for all UC ANR colleagues across domains and functions to initiate open dialogue and relationship building with colleagues to learn about each others' work, explore overlap in partnerships, geographic reach, communities served, and strategic goals. ANR change agents can listen for and elevate the health related community concerns of their local, county, and state partners, and consider participating in opportunities for meeting within and across teams to increase shared learning and communicating and to build synergies and connections to bolster a UC ANR Health Resilience Network.

Advancing Our Shared Legacy

As a trusted institution with over a hundred year history of impact, UC ANR provides program delivery that empowers communities at every level, bringing positive outcomes within our communities in the areas of agriculture, nutrition family and consumer sciences. Our ongoing work will carry forth this legacy into a rejuvenated trajectory to address broader aspects of community nutrition and health and address the most relevant and pressing health concerns of our time. We are proud of our long-standing presence and service in California communities and are committed to evolving our approaches to meet community needs, amplify community strengths and show up in solidarity alongside our neighbors, offering ideas and expertise in the communities where we live, work, and play.