



## MECHANISMS FOR ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY Issue Brief

# State and Local Efforts to Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis – Western Region Update

## Introduction

In the summer of 2020, disparities in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continued to worsen and racial justice protests mobilized following high profile police violence against people of color including George Floyd’s murder by a police officer. Cities, counties, states, and other agencies and organizations increasingly issued formal resolutions declaring racism a public health crisis. In June 2020, [the Network analyzed some of the first resolutions issued](#) to assess common threads and identify the commitments made to address systemic racism across the determinants of health. Since then, over [300 localities](#) have acknowledged that racism is a public health crisis. These resolutions are available in a [searchable library](#) published by the Collaborative for Anti-Racism and Equity (CARE) and are also recorded in a [map](#) maintained by the American Public Health Association (APHA).

These resolutions play a crucial role in highlighting racism as a root cause of health inequities, creating opportunities to drive resource allocation and inspire changes to law and policy. Although most of the resolutions lack the force of law, they serve as statements of intent by lawmaking bodies to address systemic racism, acknowledge the role of law and policy in creating and sustaining inequities, and identify specific issues affecting local communities. The language and content of resolutions can help to normalize conversations around health equity; drive policy, planning and budgeting efforts; increase the use of racial equity tools; and serve as accountability checks if policies or outcomes deviate from the commitments made.

This Issue Brief, part of a [series of Network analyses](#) looking at resolutions in each region of the country, summarizes resolutions issued by government entities in the [western states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington](#) (Figure 1). This Issue Brief focuses primarily on resolutions passed by state and local governments, including city councils, county boards, city and county executives, school boards, boards of health, and state legislatures. For the purposes of this analysis, the term “resolutions” includes resolutions, declarations, proclamations, and formally approved statements.

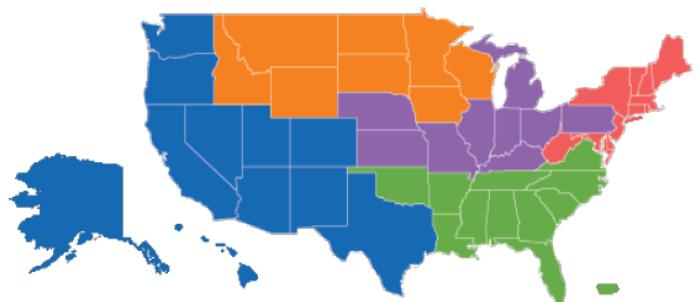



Figure 1



This Issue Brief summarizes the language of resolutions and does not consider implementation or activities that may have furthered, or hindered, the goals and activities identified in the language of each resolution. Only resolutions that include a clear declaration of racism as a public health crisis or emergency that can be verified from an official source (such as meeting minutes or a signed and/or numbered resolution) are included.

This analysis focuses on the operative language of resolutions, which is found in the “resolved” section of the resolution. The language in the preamble, or “whereas” sections, of the resolutions, while important to provide supporting data, background, and context, was not assessed as part of this work.

The language of resolutions is divided into six broad categories that recognize common themes and commitments among declarations:

- Organizational policies or practices
- Funding and infrastructure
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Accountability measures
- Issue focus
- Call to action

Templates and toolkits and other declarations adopted by government entities and non-government bodies can guide advocates and policy makers in designing and issuing resolutions in their own areas. States, cities, and counties may include similar language originating from these templates, but also may tailor resolutions to the specific issues, assets, and needs of a given community. No matter how resolutions are drafted, their success will be determined by subsequent action to change organizational culture; build the capacity of organizations and communities; strengthen relationships to achieve collective impact; and engage impacted communities in the process to identify, design, and implement solutions. Some of these stories are shared in [APHA’s Declaration to Action Storytelling Map](#), profiling implementation action in six jurisdictions.

## Summary of State and Local Resolutions in the Western Region

As of March 2024, 82 resolutions declaring racism a public health crisis were issued by government entities in nine western states, including in Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington. The table at the end of this brief provides a detailed list of these resolutions. California has the most with 46 resolutions, followed by Washington with 14 resolutions. No government entities in Alaska or New Mexico have issued formal resolutions declaring racism a public health crisis as of this date.<sup>1</sup>


Commitments to addressing racism and its negative impacts on health varied across these resolutions. Some jurisdictions adopted resolutions with minimal language that simply acknowledges racism as a public health crisis without specifying further actions. Most resolutions contain more detailed commitments such as implementing various strategies, task force teams, and accountability strategies to combat the crisis. More than half the resolutions mention systemic or structural racism. This is important for normalizing conversations about the connections between race and health across systems to help create shared understanding, commitment, and partnerships to abolish the harmful impacts of racism on the public’s health.

### Organizational Policy or Practice

Commitments to identify and adopt anti-racist organizational policies and practices can help propel needed culture change within government agencies. Resolutions commonly include commitments that emphasize assessing and reviewing existing policies; increasing diversity and advancing racial equity within the government workforce and operations; and ensuring or promoting racial equity training or education. These commitments can also affect the ways in which states, cities and counties interact with communities. This is important because addressing racism as a public health crisis means recognizing that it is a systemic problem requiring systemic solutions.

#### Reviewing and assessing policies for equity impacts

A review of organizational policies, practices, and collective norms is a critical first step before change can occur in the communities served and among systems and institutions in which government operates. Most resolutions in western states and localities include commitments to review policies and procedures to promote racial equity work and ensure equity is a



core value. Examples include the [Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors](#) and [Riverside County Board of Supervisors](#) in California; the [Jefferson County Board of Health](#) in Colorado, and the resolution adopted by the [Tacoma-Pierce County](#) in Washington, which charges the County Health Department to “assess internal policies and procedures to address and reform structures and processes that contribute to race based decisions and actions”.

Many resolutions also commit to some type of equity lens to assess and review policies to support work to eliminate those policies, procedures, practices and protocols that accommodate and enable racial and other forms of discrimination against specific populations (e.g. Los Angeles County, Mono County and Redlands (CA); Salem (OR); Bellingham, Jefferson County and King County, (WA)).

Specific resolutions include Oregon’s [Lane County](#) which directs the Board of Health to use an “equity lens to form policy recommendations that will demonstrably improve health outcomes in Lane County related to race and ethnicity”; the [San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors](#) (“SFMTA Board of Directors”) which commits the agency to using a racial equity lens “to conduct all human resources, vendor selection and grant management activities..., including reviewing all internal policies and practices such as hiring, promotions, leadership appointments and funding”; and the [Santa Cruz City Council](#) in California which commits to using a racial equity lens to review codified ordinances and proposed ordinances.

Several resolutions highlight the use of racial equity impact assessments (REIAs), [a tool increasingly adopted by state and local governments](#) to promote equitable policy decisions. REIAs evaluate racial equity impacts and predict whether proposed policies may create, perpetuate, mitigate, or reduce racial disparities, while fostering public awareness, engagement, and policy improvement. For example, in the resolution adopted by [Multnomah County](#) in Oregon, the County Board of Commissioners agree to “Champion critical County efforts that center a racial justice and racial equity lens by...using racial impact assessments in the development of all resolutions, ordinances, and other items requiring board action”. Similarly, in the resolution adopted by the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#), the Department commits to “incorporate a racial equity assessment in line with national best practices in decision-making at all levels, including fiscal allocation and workforce inclusion and retention.”

Lastly, a handful of resolutions also promote the use of racial equity tools to help embed equity principles in decision-making processes. For example, Colorado’s [Boulder County](#) and Washington’s [Kitsap County](#) committed to using the [Government Alliance on Race and Equity \(GARE\)](#) tool to develop a racial equity plan.

### **Increasing diversity and advancing racial equity within the government workforce and operations**


Commonly, resolutions adopted by city and counties commit to making progress towards becoming an “equity and justice-oriented” organization, task force, advisory committee, or governance structure, such as resolutions adopted by the City of [City of Alameda](#) and [Riverside County](#) in California, [Dallas County](#) in Texas, and Washington’s [Kitsap County](#).

These resolutions can also include commitments that identify specific activities to increase diversity and incorporate anti-racism principles across leadership, staffing, or contracting (e.g. Alameda, Indio, SFMTA Board of Directors, Monterey County, Riverside County, and San Francisco City and County (CA); Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CO); Salem (OR); Dallas County and Austin (TX); Jefferson County, Spokane Regional Health District, Thurston County, and Whatcom County (WA)).

For example, [Monterey County](#) commits to “identifying specific activities to enhance diversity with the County Government workforce and support the implementation of the County’s Equal Opportunity Plan” and “expanding and actively have employment outreach to continuously improve workforce diversity through recruitment strategies that seek people of color in collaboration with associations and educational institutions that have strong diversity representation and commitment.”

### **Promoting racial equity training and educational efforts**

To support efforts in promoting inclusive, well-informed, and equity-driven governmental organizations, many resolutions include commitments that promote or encourage racial equity training (e.g. Los Angeles, Monterey County, Palm Springs, Redlands, Riverside City, San Francisco City and County, and SFMTA Board of Directors (CA); Boulder County (CO); Lane County and Salem (OR); Dallas County (TX); Bellingham, Jefferson County, King County, Kitsap County, Snohomish County, Spokane County, and Whatcom County (WA)).



Noteworthy resolutions include [Boulder County](#), which requires “Courageous Conversations about Race (CCAR) trainings and ongoing discussions for all Boulder County employees”; the [City of Salem](#), which commits to continue to build on “learning opportunities for elected officials and employees, with a plan to provide broader training and conversation throughout the organization in 2021”; and the [City of Santa Cruz](#), which commits to “providing on-going training... and capacity building for public servants, employees, and partners that will deepen the understanding of racism, white supremacy, and equity practices and will support reflection of deeply held beliefs and assumptions.”

Another common commitment is supporting education or educational activities to understand and address the effects of racism (e.g. Adelanto, Los Angeles City Council, Mono County, Monterey County, Orange County, Rialto Unified School District, Riverside County, Riverside City Council, Sacramento County, Santa Barbara County, Santa Cruz County, and Santa Cruz City Council (CA); City and County of Denver (CO); Salem (OR); Dallas County and Austin (TX); and Spokane Regional Health District (WA)).

For example, in the [Mono County's resolution](#), the County Administrative Officer and County staff is directed to “participate in regularly scheduled trainings for the Board of Supervisors and other elected officials, county staff, and the public, on topics including workplace biases and how to mitigate them, and understanding racism.” According to the resolution, “these trainings should be meaningful, thoughtful, and data-driven education efforts aimed at understanding, addressing, and dismantling racism, and how racism affects public health, family stability, housing, early education, economic development, public safety, and the delivery of human services.”

In the [Rialto Unified School District's resolution](#), the District agrees to “incorporate educational efforts to expand understanding of racism and how racism affects individual and population health” by including “classes addressing the history of racism in the United States and California; curriculum addressing the history and current effects that racism has in Black communities, Indigenous communities and other communities of color, lasting effects of racism and intergenerational trauma in the United States and California; and Ethnic studies courses.”

## Partnership and Collaboration


Resolutions declaring racism a public health crisis can also commonly include commitments to access tools and resources to increase partnerships with organizations working on racial equity. These commitments often focus on the role of the most impacted communities and recognize that these communities must be the ones to identify and lead solutions. The commitment may prioritize building the capacity of community members to lead conversations about racism and health equity; including community voices in policymaking; removing barriers to participation; and creating pathways to engagement in community-wide racial equity strategies.

### Cultivating ongoing community involvement in decision-making

Many resolutions commit to engage actively and authentically with communities of color (e.g., Pima County (AZ); Adelanto, Contra Costa County, Los Angeles, Mono County, Redlands, San Bernardino City, San Bernardino County, Santa Cruz City, San Diego County, and Santa Rosa (CA); Jefferson County (CO); Salem (OR); Harris County and Dallas County (TX)). This includes the resolution adopted by [San Diego County](#) which commits to “support community efforts to amplify and address issues of racism and engage actively and authentically with communities of color” in conjunction with the County’s Human Relations Commission. Another example is the [Pima County's resolution](#), which directs the County Administrator to support strategies “expanding the Healthy Pima membership to include more representation from communities experiencing health inequities and from those advocating for improvements.”

It is important not only to make commitments to collaborate and partner to address racism as a public health crisis, but to outline how those commitments will operate. Resolutions that provide some specific details about their commitment to engaging, collaborating with, and building community capacity include California’s [Sacramento County](#) and the [City of Santa Cruz](#), Oregon’s [Multnomah County](#), the [City of San Antonio](#) in Texas, and Washington’s [Snohomish County](#).

In [Spokane Regional Health District's resolution](#), the Health District commits to “lead, engage, and call-to-action the community, partners, and other jurisdictions in strategic partnerships to develop and implement public policies for the purposes of eliminating health inequities.” Specifically, the District must “provide institutional means for community-based organizations and individual community members most impacted by racism to participate in decision-making for programs, policies, services, interventions, and materials.”



In [Contra Costa County's resolution](#), the County Board of Supervisors directs the Contra Costa Health Services to “support the development of a strategy for *immigrant inclusion [emphasis added]* in partnership with the Department of Employment and Human Services as part of the community planning process to establish an Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice.” This statement recognizes that Contra Costa’s community has a high number of immigrants and allows for their inclusion to actively collaborate for the health of the whole community.

Resolutions can also include commitments to convening stakeholders and/or hosting community listening sessions to solicit feedback to shape policy, budget, and reform ideas. (e.g., Long Beach, Monterey County, Napa, San Diego County, San Francisco City and County, and Santa Barbara County (CA); Thurston County, (WA)). Washington’s [Snohomish County Health Board](#) commits to “adopt guidance and practices for inclusive, authentic and frequent community participation including the establishment, maintenance, and resourcing of a community-led communities of color advisory board, comprised primarily of county residents and community partners with lived experience of racial and or ethnic inequity.”

### **Collaborating with other agencies and organizations**

Many resolutions identify specific partners, organizations, and coalitions by name to support efforts in identifying policies that improve health in communities of color. For example GARE, which is a national network of local government agencies working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all, is mentioned in several resolutions across several states and localities, including Washington’s [City of Bellingham](#) and [Whatcom County](#), Colorado’s [Boulder County](#), and the resolution adopted by the [Hawaii Legislature](#). Other resolutions, like those adopted by [San Bernardino County](#) in California and [Dallas County](#) in Texas, commit to advocating through the [National Association of Counties](#) for relevant policies that improve health and health outcomes in communities of color and support local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.

Lastly, a portion of resolutions focused on collaborating with law and justice agencies to address public confidence in public safety, such as resolutions adopted by [Mono County](#) and the cities of [Adelanto](#), [San Bernardino](#), and [Santa Rosa](#) in California. In the [San Bernardino County's resolution](#), the County commits to actions that prioritize equity including, among other things, collaborating with law and justice agencies and the community “to ensure public confidence that public safety is administered equitably”.

In implementing these commitments, it is important for jurisdictions to consider how to define “community” and how government agencies can truly “engage authentically” with communities of color to conduct assessments, develop plans, implement actions, and monitor progress. Communities most impacted must be the ones to identify and lead solutions.

### **Accountability Measures**

Resolutions declaring racism a public health crisis often include commitments related to responsibility, oversight, communication (such as long-term plans or reports), and strategies to ensure effective implementation of the resolution.


#### **Developing a report or plan**

The most common accountability measures in the resolutions in this region include commitments to developing reports or plans – including strategic, annual, or other, to assess progress, capitalize on opportunities to achieve racial equity, or inform meaningful action steps (e.g. Banning, Coachella, Contra Costa County, Long Beach, Riverside City, Redlands, Sacramento County, Santa Rosa, and Ventura County (CA); Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, and Boulder County (CO); Lane County and Multnomah County (OR); Austin and Dallas County (TX); Salt Lake City (UT); and Bellingham, Jefferson County, and Thurston County (WA)).

In California, this includes resolutions adopted by the [San Francisco Health Commission](#), committing the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) to developing “a plan to improve the experience of Black/African American DPH staff, as measured by the staff engagement survey and human resources data related to hiring, discipline rates, and dismissal rates.” The DPH is also committed to reporting on the progress of the Plan to the Health Commission twice a year.

#### **Forming a task force or committee**

Another common commitment is the formation and/or reliance on a task force, committee, council, or team to lead the work. In California, among the localities that created these kinds of groups include resolutions adopted by the [Mono County Board of Supervisors](#), which created a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee; and the [Riverside County Board of](#)



[Supervisors](#), which created a Riverside County Task Force. In Texas, [Austin City Council's resolution](#) created a Mayor's Task Force on Institutional Racism & Systemic Inequalities. In Washington, [Thurston County's resolution](#) created a Policy Advisory Committee.

Reporting, monitoring, and establishing a dedicated team are crucial measures to ensure accountability, as they provide a clear framework to track and evaluate adherence to the commitments outlined in a resolution.

## Issue Focus

Many resolutions adopted by states and localities identify specific issues or areas of focus as part of addressing racism as a public health crisis. The issue identification is important because it provides a specific focus area to direct resources in ways that can be responsive to community needs.

For instance, several resolutions reference police, policing, public safety, and/or criminal justice. These resolutions are primarily found in California (e.g., Adelanto, Goleta, Indio, Fontana, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Mono, Napa Oxnard, Rialto, and Riverside County). As noted at the beginning of this brief, reforming policing and public safety mobilized vast communities across the nation. A notable example includes the [Ventura City Council's resolution](#), with its focus on supporting communities more likely to be subjected to unjust treatment by law enforcement and Council's adoption of the Mayor's statement regarding the "#8CANTWAIT" policy recommendations. The [City of Santa Barbara's resolution](#), which condemns any and all police brutality, is another.

Another group of resolutions recognize [adverse childhood experiences](#) (ACEs), which are linked to chronic illness, substance misuse, and mental health problems in adulthood (e.g. Banning, Los Angeles, Mono County, Orange County, Rialto, San Bernardino County, Santa Barbara County, and Santa Clara County (CA), and Dallas County (TX)).

There are also resolutions relating to the use of data, the collection of racial and ethnic data and/or leveraging existing quantitative data to drive solutions, such as Oregon's [Lane County](#), Utah's [Salt Lake City](#) and Washington's [Seattle & King County – Public Health](#). In Salt Lake City's resolution, the Mayor and City Council jointly commit to reporting and reviewing data, including disaggregating City health data. They seek to identify and address the following, "Current tasks to be done, Next steps to address poor outcomes, Make public health data available online, Increase transparency, Utilize City equity staff to work with County Health partners to address systemic barriers to health including racism."


Other areas of focus include climate justice ([Multnomah County, Oregon](#)), culture and traditions of communities of color (e.g. [Rialto Unified School District](#), [Hawaii State Legislature](#), [Hawaii State Health Department's Health Reduction Services Branch](#), "community-based alternatives to address harms and prevent trauma" (e.g. [Sacramento County](#) and [Riverside County](#) in California), and housing and/or job displacement ([Oakland, CA](#) and [San Antonio, Texas](#)).

A noteworthy example is [Kitsap County's resolution](#) in Washington, which focuses on the County Board and the Kitsap Public Health District 's commitment to strengthening intergovernmental relationships with Tribal governments. More specifically, the resolution directs the Board to "consulting with Tribal governments on a government-to-government basis to further understand tribal history and culture, cultural competency, and indigenous practices tied to health outcomes" and to incorporating "this knowledge in Kitsap Public Health District's policies to improve the well-being and future public health of Tribal peoples and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color." The resolution also commits the Board and the Kitsap Public Health District to "partnering with community to co-create solutions to address structural inequities."

## Funding and Infrastructure

This category recognizes the resolutions that identify the resources needed to support racial equity work, including funding and personnel, and specific positions or offices charged with implementation (like a Chief Equity Officer or Office of Equity). Most resolutions under this category commit to securing or pursue funding or resources, such as resolutions adopted by [Palm Springs City Council](#), the [Santa Cruz City Council](#), the [Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors](#) in California and the [Lane County Board of Commissioners](#) in Oregon.

There are four notable examples of resolutions from California. First, is the [San Francisco Health Commission's resolution](#), which explicitly states that the Commission will provide funding to the Department of Public Health's health equity work, primarily for physical office space and staffing. Second, is the [Contra Costa County's resolution](#) which commits the Contra Costa Health Services to hiring a Chief Equity Officer.



Third is the [Oakland City's Council resolution](#) which directs the City to dedicate “financial resources for such comprehensive demographic data collection for Fiscal Years 2022-2026”. It also commits the City Council to provide “funding during the mid-cycle budget “for a Race and Equity Data Analyst, located in Department of Race and Equity (DRE), and consulting services in the amount not to exceed \$350,000, to support DRE and the City to advance necessary improvements in systems for collecting and processing data to track performance and equity progress.” The resolution also declares the Oakland City Council’s “intent and commitment to allocate funding, staff, and additional resources to actively engage in studies and actions to advance racial equity to identify and repair the harm done to Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian and Pacific Islander, and other people of color.”

Lastly, the fourth example, the [Sacramento County's resolution](#), directs the County to "prioritize the investment of time and budget in promoting racial equity to address social determinants of health." It also commits the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to consider adopting a separate resolution to establish a "Sacramento County Racial Equity Policy Cabinet," which would be responsible for promoting strategic coordination, cooperation, and collaboration across all County Departments and the community in support of racial equity efforts.

These resolutions illustrate different strategies to fund and support ending racism as a public health crisis. Such measures are critical to realizing this goal and should be a component of any declaration issued, demonstrating the importance of dedicating resources to ensure that commitments can be put into action.

## Call to Action

Many resolutions contain a statement of support or encourage other state, local, and national leaders to also recognize racism as a public health crisis. This can be a key component of a resolution because having cross-governmental support and solidarity may motivate other entities to take similar steps. The call to action, in terms of who the resolution tries to mobilize and what they are being asked to do, varies across resolutions.

A handful of resolutions, like those adopted by the [Hawaii Legislature](#), California’s [Banning City Council](#) and [Riverside City Council](#), and Texas’ [Austin City Council](#), specifically call on the Governor of their state to act.

The Nevada Legislature, linked its call of action to the federal level by requesting that federal funding be distributed equitably based upon percentages of members of BIPOC communities to address issues that disproportionately impact them in their statewide resolutions ([SCR 1](#) and [SCR 5](#)).

Calls to action were also directed to the public health workforce, such as in the resolution adopted by the [San Luis Obispo City Council](#), which specifically calls on “Public Health Officials” to declare racism a public health emergency. Declaring racism a public health emergency, as opposed to a public health crisis, gives some localities more authority to act. Resolutions that declare racism a public health emergency are [Contra Costa County](#) and the cities of [Goleta](#) and [San Luis Obispo](#) in California.

Other calls to action are quite broad and include diverse institutions. For example in Washington, the [Thurston County's resolution](#) “asks businesses, non-profits, academia, large institutions, faith-based organizations, service clubs, and residents to rise to the challenge of the crisis by committing to help eliminate systemic racism”. On the other hand, [Thurston County's Board of Health proclamation](#) calls on “the greater healthcare community, inclusive of medical, behavioral, and oral, healthcare services, to raise awareness that racism is a serious threat to public health and to the advancement of health equity” and to the “greater health care and social services community to partner and expand efforts that advance racial equity in ways that have local and regional system impacts on the public’s health and well-being.” The Board of Health also calls on [Thurston Thrives](#), “as the community’s collective health impact organization, to bring together partners to implement strategies and actions that close the health equity gaps experience by BIPOC communities.”

Calls to action are important because they can support collaboration, increase engagement and motivation, and build accountability to end racism as a public health crisis. Given the intersectional nature of racism and the role of the social determinants of health in creating poor health outcomes, it is critical that all levels of government and diverse institutions in the public and private sectors commit to taking measures to unraveling structural racism. Public statements declaring racism a public health crisis have been made by a variety of entities, including hospitals and health care systems, professional associations, and institutes of higher education. As noted, these entities are important partners for state and local governments. They serve the same communities; often have flexible resources, including personnel; function as conveners for community conversations; lead, or support research; and play a key role in directly addressing disparities in health and

healthcare. Although cross-collaboration across sectors is occurring, it is essential to sustain and build on this momentum and involve more partners moving forward.

## Conclusion

Systemic problems require systemic solutions, and no agency or organization can do it alone. Efforts at the state and local level should be aligned, while also recognizing and adapting to the differences in and among local communities. These efforts should also be collective – combining the commitment, resources, and networks of the agencies and organizations dedicated to building and sustaining trusting relationships and partnerships and co-creating solutions with community to address structural inequities that improve the health and well-being of all.

Whether a state or local government entity has already passed a resolution or is considering one, it must design and implement ways to be accountable for progress on racial equity goals and dedicate the resources necessary to take meaningful action. Government agencies must change internal policies and practices and ensure the support of leadership, before meaningful changes in law and policy can, and continue to, occur.

We encourage you to contact the Network’s Health Equity Team for technical assistance on implementing strategies to advance racial equity and promote anti-racism in public health practice.

## Summary of Resolutions to Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis

Enacted or adopted as of March 30, 2024, in alphabetical order by state.

Jurisdiction	State	Authority	Date	Citation	Organizational Policy or Practice	Partnerships & Collaboration	Accountability Measures	Issue Focus	Funding & Infrastructure	Call to Action
Pima County	AZ	Board of Supervisors	12/1/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020-92</a>	X		X	X		
Alameda	CA	City Council	7/28/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 15684</a>	X	X	X		X	X
Adelanto	CA	City Council	9/23/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 20-59</a>	X	X		X		X
Banning	CA	City Council	6/23/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020-65</a>	X	X	X	X		X
Coachella	CA	City Council	7/22/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020-45</a>	X	X	X	X		
Contra Costa County	CA	Board of Supervisors	11/10/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020/36</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fontana	CA	City Council	7/16/2020	<a href="#">Proclamation 2020-004</a>	X			X		
Goleta	CA	City Council	6/8/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 20-37</a>		X		X		X
Indio	CA	City Council	9/2/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 10177</a>	X	X		X		





Jurisdiction	State	Authority	Date	Citation	Organizational Policy or Practice	Partnerships & Collaboration	Accountability Measures	Issue Focus	Funding & Infrastructure	Call to Action
Long Beach	CA	City Council	6/23/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 20-0076</a>	X	X	X	X	X	
Los Angeles	CA	City Council	6/24/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Los Angeles County	CA	Board of Supervisors	7/21/2020	<a href="#">Motion 20-3641</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mono County	CA	Board of Supervisors	10/13/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 20-93</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Monterey County	CA	Board of Supervisors	4/6/2021	<a href="#">Resolution No. 21-096</a>	X	X	X	X		X
Moreno Valley	CA	City Council	7/7/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 2020-51</a>	X	X		X		X
Morro Bay	CA	City Council	6/23/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 64-20</a>	X			X		X
Napa	CA	City Council	9/15/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 2020-116</a>	X	X		X		
Oakland	CA	City Council	6/7/2022	<a href="#">Resolution No. 89249</a>	X	X	X	X	X	
Orange County	CA	Board of Supervisors	12/6/2022	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X		X		
Oxnard	CA	City Council	6/30/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 15,354</a>	X			X		X
Palm Springs	CA	City Council	8/6/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 24792</a>	X	X	X	X	X	
Redlands	CA	City Council	7/21/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 8113</a>	X	X	X	X		
Rialto	CA	City Council	7/28/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 7659</a>	X	X		X		X
Rialto Unified School District, San Bernadino County	CA	Board of Education	6/26/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 19-20-65</a>	X	X	X	X	X	
Riverside	CA	City Council	6/30/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 23593</a>	X	X	X	X		X



Jurisdiction	State	Authority	Date	Citation	Organizational Policy or Practice	Partnerships & Collaboration	Accountability Measures	Issue Focus	Funding & Infrastructure	Call to Action
Riverside County	CA	Board of Supervisors	8/4/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020-179</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sacramento County	CA	Board of Supervisors	11/17/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X	X	X	X	
San Bernardino	CA	City Council & Mayor	9/17/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020-232</a>	X	X	X	X		
San Bernardino County	CA	Board of Supervisors	6/23/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020-103</a>	X	X		X		X
San Diego County	CA	Board of Supervisors	1/12/2021	<a href="#">Resolution 21-004</a>	X	X				
San Francisco	CA	Human Rights Commission	6/25/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
San Francisco	CA	Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors	12/8/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
San Francisco, City & County	CA	Health Commission	7/21/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 20-09</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
San Francisco, City & County	CA	Board of Supervisors	8/11/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 366-20</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
San Luis Obispo	CA	City Council	6/12/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 11132</a>	X			X		X
San Mateo County	CA	Board of Supervisors	8/4/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X			X		
Santa Barbara	CA	City Council	6/24/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 20-044</a>	X		X	X		
Santa Barbara County	CA	Board of Supervisors	4/6/2021	<a href="#">Resolution No. 21-55</a>	X	X		X		X
Santa Clara County	CA	Board of Supervisors	8/11/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 2020-119</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Santa Cruz	CA	City Council	11/9/2021	<a href="#">Resolution No. NS-29,893</a>	X	X	X	X	X	



Jurisdiction	State	Authority	Date	Citation	Organizational Policy or Practice	Partnerships & Collaboration	Accountability Measures	Issue Focus	Funding & Infrastructure	Call to Action
Santa Cruz County	CA	Board of Supervisors	8/18/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 176-2020</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Santa Rosa	CA	City Council	11/16/2021	<a href="#">Resolution No. 2021-203</a>	X	X		X	X	
Sonoma County	CA	Board of Supervisors	3/12/2024	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X	X	X		
Southern California Assoc. of Governments	CA	Association of Governments	7/2/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 20-623-2</a>	X	X	X	X		
Ventura	CA	City Council	7/13/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X		X	X	
Ventura County	CA	Board of Supervisors	11/10/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 20-126</a>	X			X		
Yolo County	CA	Board of Supervisors	7/21/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 20-76</a>				X		
Boulder County	CO	County Commissioners & Board of Health	11/9/2020	<a href="#">Joint Resolution</a>	X	X		X	X	
Colorado	CO	State Health Department	4/21/2021	<a href="#">Declaration</a>	X	X	X	X		
Denver, City & County	CO	City & County Council	6/8/2020	<a href="#">Proclamation 20-0543</a>	X			X		
Jefferson County	CO	Board of Health	6/16/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X		X		
Hawaii	HI	State Legislature	4/23/2021	<a href="#">HCR 112, SD 1 (2021)</a>	X			X		X
Hawaii	HI	State Department of Health, Health Reduction Services Branch	7/5/2022	<a href="#">Statement</a>		X		X		
Clark County	NV	County Commissioners	11/3/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X					
Nevada	NV	State Legislature	8/5/2020	<a href="#">2020 S.C.R. 1</a>	X	X		X		X



Jurisdiction	State	Authority	Date	Citation	Organizational Policy or Practice	Partnerships & Collaboration	Accountability Measures	Issue Focus	Funding & Infrastructure	Call to Action
Nevada	NV	State Legislature	5/21/2021	<a href="#">2021 S.C.R. 5</a>	X	X		X		
Nevada	NV	Governor (Steve Sisolak)	8/5/2020	<a href="#">Proclamation</a>	X			X		
North Las Vegas	NV	City Council & Mayor	9/2/2020	<a href="#">Resolution No. 2655</a>	X			X		
Southern Nevada Health District	NV	Board of Health	6/4/2020	<a href="#">Statement</a>				X		
Lane County	OR	County Commissioners & Board of Health	4/21/2021	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X	X		X	X
Multnomah County	OR	County Commissioners	4/9/2021	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X		X		
Oregon	OR	State Legislature	6/30/2021	<a href="#">HR 6 (2021)</a>	X					
Salem	OR	City Council	1/25/2021	<a href="#">Resolution 2021-03</a>	X	X		X		
Austin	TX	City Council	7/30/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X	X	X		X
Dallas County	TX	County Commissioners	6/17/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X	X			
Harris County	TX	County Commissioners	5/30/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X			X		
San Antonio	TX	City Council	8/20/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020-078-0036R</a>	X	X	X	X		
Salt Lake City	UT	City Council, Mayor, Human Rights Commission, & Racial Equity on Policing Commission	6/2/2021	<a href="#">Joint Resolution</a>	X	X	X	X		
Bellingham	WA	City Council	9/27/2021	<a href="#">Resolution No. 2021-26</a>	X	X	X		X	X



Jurisdiction	State	Authority	Date	Citation	Organizational Policy or Practice	Partnerships & Collaboration	Accountability Measures	Issue Focus	Funding & Infrastructure	Call to Action
Clark County	WA	County Council & Board of Health	12/1/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020-12-05</a>	X	X		X		
Jefferson County	WA	Board of Health	10/15/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X		X		
King County	WA	Board of Health	6/18/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 20-08</a>	X	X		X		
King County & Public Health — Seattle	WA	County Executive & Public Health — Seattle & King County Director	6/11/2020	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	X	X	X	X		
Kitsap County	WA	Board of Health & Health District	5/4/2021	<a href="#">Resolution 2021-01</a>	X	X		X	X	
Snohomish Health District ( <i>dissolved</i> )	WA	Board of Health	7/14/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 20-17</a>	X	X		X		X
Snohomish County	WA	County Executive	6/12/2020	<a href="#">Proclamation</a>	X	X	X	X	X	
Spokane Regional Health District	WA	Board of Health	6/25/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 20-07</a>	X	X		X		X
Tacoma-Pierce County	WA	Board of Health	6/17/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020-4648</a>	X	X		X	X	
Thurston County	WA	Board of Health	3/9/2021	<a href="#">Proclamation</a>		X		X		X
Thurston County	WA	County Commissioners	3/9/2021	<a href="#">Resolution No. 15995</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
Washington State Board of Health	WA	State Board of Health	3/1/2023	<a href="#">Statement</a>	X	X				X
Whatcom County	WA	County Council & Board of Health	11/24/2020	<a href="#">Resolution 2020-054</a>	X	X		X		

This Issue Brief was developed by Sara Rogers, M.P.H, C.P.H, Policy Analyst, Health Equity, Network for Public Health Law and Asha Devineni, J.D., former Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Law Fellow at the Network for Public Health Law, with research assistance from Amanda Huston, J.D., R.N. This Issue Brief adds to the collection of Network resources focused on understanding and supporting the movement to address [racism as a public health crisis](#), and is also a part of the series of analyses examining state and local resolutions issued in each region of the country. The Network promotes public health and health equity through non-partisan educational resources and technical assistance. These materials provided are provided solely for educational purposes and do not constitute legal advice. The Network's provision of these materials does not create an attorney-client relationship with you or any other person and is subject to the [Network's Disclaimer](#).

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## **SUPPORTERS**

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<sup>1</sup> The New Mexico Governor informally declared racism a “[public health emergency](#)” and then created a [Governor's Advisory Council for Racial Justice](#) in June 2020. The cities of Albuquerque ([Resolution No. 20-85](#) and [Resolution No. 20-75](#)), Santa Fe ([Resolution No. 2021-6](#) and [Resolution No. 2021-56](#)), and Taos, NM ([Resolution No. 2020-30](#)) adopted resolutions addressing structural racism. However, since these resolutions did not clearly acknowledge racism as a public health crisis, they were excluded from this brief.

In Alaska, the Alaska Public Health Association passed a 2021 Reconciliation ([2021-006](#)) that Racism is a Public Health Crisis. The Reconciliation is a call to action to the State of Alaska to declare racism a public health crisis. The cities of Anchorage ([AR 2024-22](#) and [AR No. 2020-197](#)), and Fairbanks, AK ([Resolution No. 4250](#)) similarly adopted resolutions that calling for an end to systemic racial injustice, but did not include formal language acknowledging racism as a public health crisis, and thus these resolutions were not included in this brief.