

# WHO WE ARE

The **American Public Human Services Association (APHSA)** supports leaders from state, county, and city human services agencies to advance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities nationwide. As a bipartisan membership association, we work with our members to generate pragmatic solutions grounded in lived experience with a lens for equity and belonging.



APHSA members administer, oversee, and align programs that build resilience and bolster family well-being through access to food, health care, housing, employment, child care, and many other key building blocks necessary for thriving communities. Our members also work to modernize and align human services Information Technology (IT) systems, performance measurement and data analysis, workforce development and training, and the legal dimensions of the sector.



## OUR VISION

**A nation of thriving communities built on human potential.**

Dedicated to public service and the common good, our members build well-being from the ground up so that everyone can thrive.



## OUR MISSION

**Influence, Build, Connect**

In partnership with our members, we **influence** modern approaches to sound policy, **build** the capacity of public agencies to enable healthy families and communities, and **connect** leaders to accelerate learning and generate practical solutions together.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging must be advanced in all we do.
- People who experience the human services system must be meaningfully involved in planning and policy decisions.
- Effective solutions consider the whole family.
- Decisions should be informed by data and evidence that are placed-based and contextual to the experiences of the community.
- Cross-system and cross-sector partnerships are essential to innovating and accelerating progress.
- Advancing race equity requires that structural inequities and systemic biases be intentionally dismantled.



## OUR DISTINGUISHING FACTORS

A **committed voice** elevating and sharing the lived experience of families and community leaders to drive community-led solutions.

A **trusted broker** connecting human services leaders to federal policymakers and thought leaders to advance sound national policy.

**Expert facilitators** skilled at enhancing the capacity of human services agencies using proven tools and methodologies to strengthen organizational effectiveness.

A **strategic partner** advancing human-centered solutions across employment, education, health, justice, and other systems that improve the well-being of all people.

A **comprehensive learning hub** providing opportunities for leadership development, technical policy guidance assistance with practice innovation, and peer-to-peer support.

A **driver of productive narratives** that help build common ground and promote systems-level change.

## APHSA IS A NETWORK OF STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY HUMAN SERVICES LEADERS COMMITTED TO SYSTEMS-LEVEL CHANGE.

We work within and across systems and sectors, fostering partnerships and elevating innovations to effect change. APHSA connects with federal agencies, Congress, and the Administration to help federal policymakers understand what works at the state, county, and city levels and how to modernize national policies, through guidance, regulations, and legislation. We bring foundations, researchers, people with lived experience, community-based organizations, and other thought leaders into conversations with our connected network. Together, we facilitate information sharing and catalyze meaningful system change throughout the nation.