OBJECTIVE
With absence of funding and other pressing priorities, the HWALC faces imminent termination. The objective is to preserve HWALC current initiatives in order to build sustainable infrastructure to support healthy weight among women of reproductive age within Los Angeles county.

OBESITY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS
From physiology to physical environment we can link many factors to obesity: genetics, lifestyle/behaviors, culture, access to preventative services and the food and built (physical) environment. (Fig 2).

The HWALC in Los Angeles developed initiatives to address several of these factors (Fig 3):
- Health Education
- Lifestyle Modification
- Quality of physician-patient interactions

POLICY AGENDA SETTING: Framework for development
HWALC has mainly focused on changing lifestyle behaviors by supporting initiatives that deal with the individual. Individual education on nutrition and exercise through the brochures, individual participation in worksite wellness, and individual guidance from a physician. Policies need to be created to support institutionalized change whether in the workplace, in the community or at the state level.

The CORE functions of Public Health (Fig. 4) should be used as a framework to effectively create a policy agenda that will support the development of sustainable infrastructure.

Fig. 4 CORE Functions of Public Health

Assessment:
- Collect data
- Analyze data
- Disseminate pertinent findings

Policy Development:
- Educate individuals equipping them to make healthy choices
- Mobilize the community
- Collaborate with other agencies to identify health issues and policy solutions

Assurance:
- Select standards
- Set objectives
- Evaluate achievement
- Ensure that improvements are made where necessary

POLICY AGENDA SETTING: Process
- Identify the target population and the main public health ‘problems’ that need solutions.
- Prioritize identified problems in order of impact on the public’s health.
- Brainstorm potential policy solutions one item at a time with the organization’s mission in mind.
- Partner with advocacy groups or policy analyst to develop written policies.
- Identify allies and opponents as well as each group’s respective position.
- Develop framing strategies for both allies and opponents.
- Identify windows of opportunity for introducing the policy.
- Utilize voting if consensus among the collaborative proves difficult.