

# Health in All Policies at the Georgia Health Policy Center

The Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) is a national leader in applying a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach to cocreate innovative solutions to promote quality of life, reduce inequities, and build communities in which all people have the opportunities they need to be their healthiest. With more than 30 years of expertise, the center's HiAP team has worked at the national, state, and local levels implementing this approach and training others to do so.

## Why HiAP?

HiAP acknowledges longstanding evidence that where we are born, live, learn, play, and work affect our health more than health care. This is because where we live determines access to health-promoting conditions such as safe and affordable housing, quality schools, and stable, good-paying jobs. HiAP also acknowledges that some communities face more barriers to health than others due to generations of systemic underinvestment. Public- and private-sector policies and practices influence these conditions.

HiAP is a collaborative, systematic strategy to work across sectors to identify policies that reinvest in health-promoting conditions. Such policies range from informal and formal legislation and regulation to everyday processes, procedures, or resource allocation. Reinvesting in all neighborhoods, and especially those that have experienced disinvestment, builds infrastructure, improves health for everyone, bolsters the economy, decreases health care costs, and reduces inequities.

## What Is the HiAP Approach?

HiAP brings together policymakers, community perspectives, and multiple types of data to bring evidence and health considerations into policymaking across multiple sectors and policy areas. At its core, HiAP seeks win-win solutions for all stakeholders. HiAP uses a variety of tools, including health impact assessments (HIAs) and systems thinking, to identify a broad range of effective and innovative solutions that can address multiple challenges simultaneously. GHPC's HiAP work also focuses on evaluation and creating space for meaningful conversations and innovative problem-solving.

### Services

Meeting design and facilitation

Policy and economic analysis

Research and evaluation

Strategic planning

Technical assistance

Workforce development

### Sectors and Topics

Energy

Environmental health

Government

Housing and community development

Land use and planning

Transportation



404.413.0314  
ghpc.gsu.edu  
ghpc@gsu.edu



# Project Examples

## Promoting Health in State Affordable Housing Policies

GHPC worked the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to conduct the nation's first HIA to inform how DCA could better access and incorporate public health evidence into affordable housing policy through changes in how it allocates housing tax credits. Specifically, GHPC recommended strengthening connections between housing properties and their surrounding communities, encouraging access to educational opportunity, and promoting healthy design and operation. Findings also focused on how siting, design, and operations can affect residents' health and well-being. DCA's innovative adoption of these health-related criteria into the annual allocation of \$22 million in tax credits in Georgia has indirectly influenced the well-being of residents in over 10,000 units of affordable housing across the state. This work resulted in a broader collaboration between GHPC, DCA, affordable housing developers, and public housing authorities to identify how health considerations could be incorporated into design and other decisions related to the redevelopment of public housing sites across the state.



## Promoting Health in Federal Transportation and Public Health Policies

GHPC collaborated with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to plan and deliver a session at the 2017 American Public Health Association annual meeting, Promoting Equity Through Health, Transportation, and Other Infrastructure Collaborations. The goal was to broaden dialogue between public health, transportation, and other infrastructure stakeholders on using a HiAP approach to integrate health and equity into infrastructure decision-making. GHPC also worked with community partner ECO-Action to assess potential needs that community-based organizations may have to build the capacity to

lead efforts across sectors to increase collaboration between public health, environment, and infrastructure sectors, and integrate



health equity into infrastructure decision-making.

## Promoting Health and Equity in County Government Policies

GHPC has been working with a county government interested in improving health equity through a HiAP approach. As the county works to develop structures and processes to work collectively to consider health equity effects of their policy portfolio, GHPC and county representatives began a pilot in a community identified through data to have some of the worst health inequities. Community residents and leaders identified their top health priorities as healthy food access, affordable housing, and air quality. GHPC researched policies shown to be effective in each of these priority policy areas. GHPC, the county, and the community then collaborated to identify the top three policies under each priority that were politically feasible and important to the community. This work is ongoing.

