

# City of Richmond: Health in All Policies

## Summary

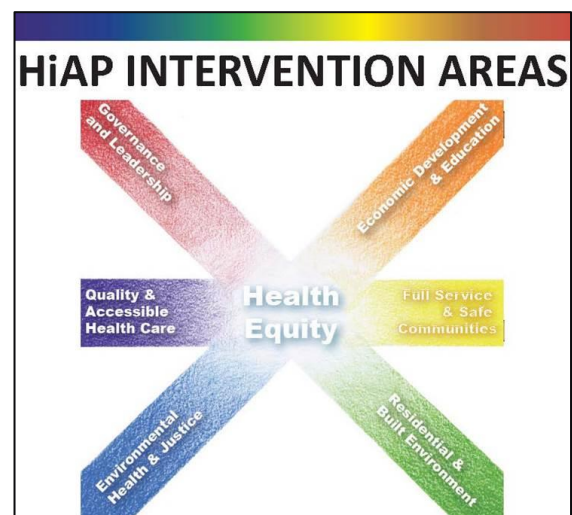
In 2014, the City of Richmond adopted a Health in All Policies (HiAP) Ordinance and Strategy as part of an approach to operationalize the Richmond General Plan 2030, which includes the implementation of the Community Health and Wellness Element. The goal of HiAP is to “address inequities at the systems, policy and structural levels to eliminate the resulting health disparities.” Recognizing that health equity was an issue that extended beyond a routine doctor’s visit, HiAP focuses on the idea that health starts with where people live, work, learn and play and is influenced by more than just individual choices. With this idea as the foundation, the City of Richmond has collaborated with multiple stakeholders, decision makers and agencies to develop a healthier, safer and more engaged community.

## Program Highlights

- HiAP is a multi-sector and comprehensive approach. Through collaboration and partnerships, the city has worked to ensure that multiple viewpoints are included in the planning and implementation process of the HiAP Ordinance and Strategy.
- HiAP is designed to encourage leaders and staff to think of themselves as ‘community clinicians’ and to view their work through a community health lens. This shifted the traditional mentality of health services only occurring at the doctor’s office. Departments that were normally not seen as dealing with health are encouraged to think about how their work impacts community health.
- The city organized a series of community working meetings to identify the primary toxic stressors affecting the health of residents. Following the identification of these stressors, local staff continued to work with the community and UC Berkeley Professor Jason Corburn to identify six key intervention areas that focused on city policy management and service decisions to reduce the stressors.

## Best Practices

- Establishing credibility with residents before adopting an ordinance was key. The city engaged community members and responded to their concerns while concurrently crafting and adopting



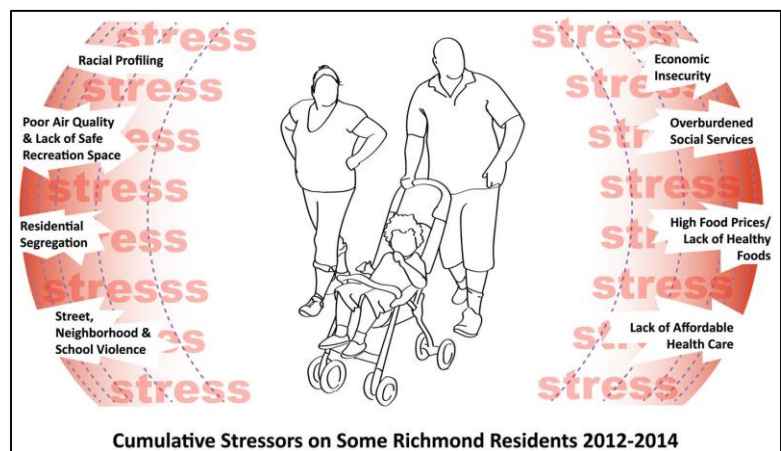
*Richmond CA, HiAP Strategy Intervention Areas*

the HiAP Ordinance and Strategy to ensure that community input was always a key factor.

- Partnering with the University of California, Berkeley was instrumental in the planning process. As a ‘thought partner,’ UC Berkeley and Professor Jason Corburn focused on action oriented research that could be implemented. Additionally, the partnership allowed nearly twenty graduate students the opportunity to work with the city on the HiAP Ordinance and Strategy.
- Remaining flexible in responding to the needs of residents helped maintain community engagement. Over time, needs and concerns can change and evolve so the city must be responsive and flexible with these changes.
- Being a resource to other departments, community based organizations (CBOs), stakeholders and residents helped build trust and relationships that were essential in the development process of HiAP. Relationships are a two way street and requires work and buy in from all involved.

## Health in All Policies Approach

Faced with an overwhelming level of social and health disparities, the City of Richmond adopted the HiAP Ordinance and Strategy in 2014 to advance health for all residents and promote greater health equity. Disparities included the highest proportion of deaths from diabetes and a higher than average rate of children requiring hospitalization due to asthma, in comparison to other cities in Contra Costa County. Taking a more comprehensive approach to health, HiAP recognizes that health spans across multiple sectors and agencies, even those that are not conventionally seen as conducting health related work. As a result, the HiAP focuses on “incorporating health considerations into collaborative decision-making across sectors, agencies, and departments.”



*Eight ‘toxic stressors’ that were identified by Richmond residents through a series of community planning meetings.*

In 2012, the Richmond Health Equity Partnership (RHEP) was formed with the goal of improving health and health equity for all Richmond residents. The partnership consisted of the City of Richmond, Contra Costa Health Services, West Contra Costa Unified School District, UC Berkeley Professor Jason Corburn, the California Endowment and local community based organizations. As an offshoot of this partnership, Professor Corburn collaborated with the HiAP subcommittee once a month to research and develop the HiAP strategy and ordinance. The subcommittee held 18 community meetings, 13 staff meetings and 17 RHEP subcommittees over the course of two years to develop the HiAP Ordinance and Strategy.

Community outreach and engagement was vital during the process of planning and developing the policy. The city organized a series of community working meetings to gain input from residents and CBOs on the

primary stressors affecting the health of residents. From these meetings, eight stressors were cumulatively identified:

- racial profiling;
- poor air quality and lack of safe recreation space;
- residential segregation;
- street, neighborhood and school violence;
- economic insecurity;
- overburdened social services;
- high food prices/lack of healthy foods; and
- lack of affordable health care.

To engage residents and CBOs, the city leveraged the momentum, expertise and leadership of existing efforts of CBOs to meet the needs of residents. Key to building these relationships was meeting CBOs in their own ‘space.’ Instead of initially inviting CBOs to meet with them at city hall, local staff traveled to community organizations’ offices and met on their terms and agendas. It was important to understand the CBO’s goals and missions and to find areas of collaboration and commonality. This allowed local staff to more thoroughly understand the needs and concerns of residents and become trusted allies in the community.

One of these key collaborations has been with Pogo Park—a community based non-profit in Richmond that works to transform public spaces into better parks and play spaces for youth. Access to safe and clean parks helps foster child development and healthier communities. In 2015, the city collaborated with Pogo Park to apply for and secure funding, a \$6.2 million Caltrans grant, for the development of a “yellow brick road.” The project will build a safe walking and biking pathway that connects two parks, Elm Playlot and Harbour-8 Park. The city and Pogo Park organized a series of interagency community meetings and public meetings to gain input on the project. The project will be implemented as part of citywide street renovations in the coming years.

As Richmond continues the process to implement its HiAP, it will maintain and build on the collaborations and partnerships that helped develop the policy.

To read more about Richmond’s health efforts, visit: [www.ca-ilg.org/case-story/partnering-create-new-richmond](http://www.ca-ilg.org/case-story/partnering-create-new-richmond).

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## RESOURCES TO LEARN MORE:

City of Richmond Health in All Policies: [www.richmondhealth.org](http://www.richmondhealth.org)

City of Richmond Health in All Policies Ordinance: [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6999](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6999)

ILG Community Health Partnerships Resource Center: [www.ca-ilg.org/community-health-partnerships](http://www.ca-ilg.org/community-health-partnerships)

Pogo Park: [www.pogopark.org](http://www.pogopark.org)

UC Berkeley Professor Jason Corburn: <http://ced.berkeley.edu/ced/faculty-staff/jason-corburn>