CASE STUDY

Fairfax County Health in All Policies

The Team

Fairfax County's approach to Health in All Policies (HIAP) is holistic and and includes multiple agencies. Partners include personnel from the Department of Economic Initiatives, Transportation Planning Division of FCDOT, Department of Planning and Development and the Fairfax County Health Department.

The team has worked together on numerous initiatives. Support stemmed from the highest levels of leadership within Fairfax County, boosting continued prioritization of HIAP initiatives. An initial health risk assessment was done for the Fairfax County Department of Transportation to show how health interacted with transportation projects. Out of this work, a HIAP Manager position was created to maintain the collaborative work that had already begun, striving to see that health was considered on multiple fronts, across multiple industries.

The Collaboration

When the Fairfax County Health Department received the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) in 2011, they created a council of community leaders to discuss a healthier Fairfax County. This in effect led to other related initiatives - Health in All Policies, ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan, various innovation initiatives, One Fairfax, etc. These initatives have been part of a conglomerate to address how the built environment contributes directly to health impacts on communities. Figure 1 depicts a strategic health planning process, MAPP, to also conduct in-depth community health assessments. Partnerships have included a collaborative approach to typically siloed transportation and economic development efforts. The Active Fairfax Transportation Plan is an example of this collaboration, combining the expertise of 16 different departments across the county to address how to best connect communities for the benefit of health and active living. Figure 2 below shows the impact of various factors in the environment on individual health, as explained by the Center for Disease Control.

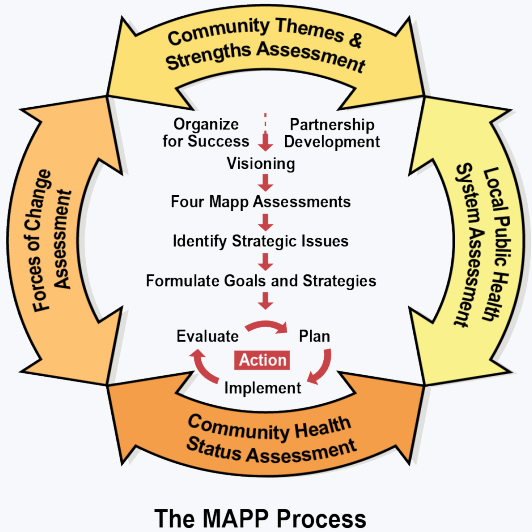

Figure 1. Fairfax Community Health Improvement Plan Health Impact Pyramid

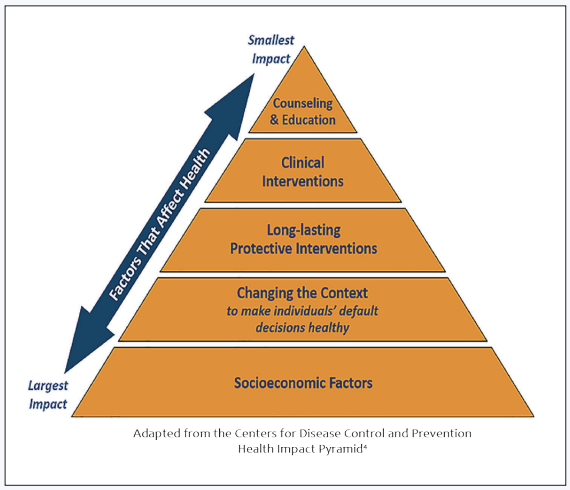

Figure 2. Factors That Affect Health

PATHS
PRIORITIZING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH AND SAFETY IN VIRGINIA

For more information, please contact:
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PATHS is part of the collaboration between the Virginia Department of Transportation and Virginia Department of Health State Engagement Model Active Communities initiative.

On-Going Initiatives:

Listed below are ongoing projects and collaborative efforts in Fairfax County supporting walkability and health equity.

- ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan
- Various HIAP support on multimodal transportation projects

Lessons Learned

When asked what advice they might give to other cities, they offered the following insights:

- Incorporate HIAP in your policy documents, strategies, and statements.
- Maintaining a collaborative team for long periods of time can be challenging.
- Understand who your allies are in building healthy communities.

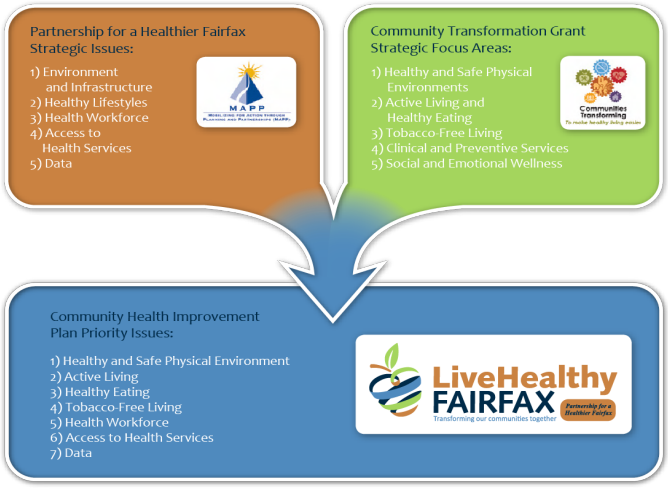

Figure 3. LiveHealthy Fairfax CHIP

Figure depicts Fairfax County's strategic approach in their Community Health Improvement Plan

To Read More:

One Fairfax - Fairfax County's racial and social equity policy

Live Healthy Fairfax: Community Health Improvement Plan

Figure 4. Fairfax County Healthier Fairfax Organizational Model

Figure outlines Fairfax County's organizational model for a Healthier Fairfax.

Resources

1. Fairfax County, Health Department. (2013). "LiveHealth Fairfax Community Health Improvement Plan, 2013-2018)." Last accessed June 15, 2021. https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/livehealthy/sites/livehealthy/files/assets/documents/pdf/community-health-improvement-plan.pdf

2. Fairfax County, Health Department. (2019). "LiveHealth Fairfax Community Health Improvement Plan, 2019-2023)." Last accessed June 15, 2021. http://www.livehealthyfairfax.org/content/sites/fairfax/community-health-improvement-plan-2019-2023.pdf