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Report to The Governor

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**HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES  
2020**

In Accordance with Executive Order 07-15 (2015),  
*Health in All Policies Task Force*

Submitted to: Governor Phil Scott

Submitted by: Mark Levine MD, Commissioner of Health

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## Executive Summary

The following is a report of the activities of the Health in All Policies Task Force and its member Agencies during 2019. The goal of the Task Force is to stimulate action across multiple governmental agencies – through policies, programs and budgets – to support and improve the health of all Vermonters and especially those most vulnerable while advancing shared goals such as promoting economic growth, protecting natural resources and agricultural lands, increasing the availability of affordable housing, improving air and water quality, improving infrastructure systems, promoting public health and active lifestyles, planning sustainable communities, increasing educational attainment and meeting the state’s climate change goals. The Task Force’s work is based on the shared [Health and Equity Framework](#) and a commitment to the values of equity, access and affordability. The Task Force has been credited with providing a forum for cross-sector leadership and is recognized nationally for its innovative efforts.<sup>1, 2</sup> This year, the Task Force identified a number of shared projects and individual Agencies have also pursued independent action to promote health as described below.

## Background

The Executive Order 07-15 (2015) charges the Health in All Policies Task Force with reporting annually on the following:

1. Potential opportunities to include health criteria in regulatory, programmatic and budgetary decisions;
2. Promising practices in other jurisdictions to identify opportunities for innovation and coordination across sectors that include consideration of potential positive and negative health impacts of decisions; and
3. Evidence-based actions and policies to improve the wellness of state employees across state government, including healthy food procurement policies.

## 2019 Mandated Activities and Accomplishments

### Including health criteria in regulatory, programmatic and budgetary decisions

The Health in All Policies Task Force met throughout the year to share updates on pending rules, regulations, and policy proposals. The meetings offered an opportunity to consider issues from multiple perspectives, to identify potential synergies, and to consider development of collaborative programs. Much of the work was then carried out by member agencies and is reported below in the section “Vermont’s Cross-Sector Collaboration and Accomplishments.”

### Promising practices and opportunities for innovation and coordination across sectors

Members of the Task Force reviewed and updated the *2017 Best Practices by Sector* (attached). The update reflects the increased collaboration across agencies in the areas of community development, transportation and housing. These Best Practices now reflect the shared agenda as described below.

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<sup>1</sup> [Vermont’s Push for Cross-Sector Collaboration Among State Agencies](#): With humble beginnings in healthy community design, Vermont’s state mandated Health in All Policies Task Force is an innovative example of partnership building, technical expertise, and dedicated staff members coming together to form something greater than the sum of their individual parts.

<sup>2</sup> [APHA Vermont](#) has established a cabinet level body for health in all policies which particularly targets vulnerable populations.

## Employee Wellness: Healthy Food Standards

In 2016, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 113 which requires state agencies and departments to provide healthy food at any catered events sponsored by the agency or department and at all cafes, cafeterias and concession stands. During 2019, the health department asked a Vermont Certified Public Manager Program team to assess the implementation of the Act and make recommendations to encourage broader participation. Recommendations from the VCPM team include:

- creating and disseminating educational tools on healthy menu planning,
- establishing a tracking system to monitor implementation of healthy food guidelines throughout all agencies; and
- issuing annual reminders that the Act must be followed.

The Vermont Department of Health is currently working with a Green Belt team to develop a tracking mechanism that could be adopted by all state agencies. Next year, the focus will be on developing and implementing training to support use of the healthy food standards and compliance tracking.

## Shared Agenda: Community Development, Transportation and Housing

Members of the Task Force helped to shape the [State Health Improvement Plan](#) (2019-2023) which identifies five health priorities and strategies across the health system and by partners from the variety of sectors that contribute to health and equity. Specifically, the Plan calls for commitment to investing in healthy community infrastructure, enhancing transportation options, and expanding home improvement loans and grants (including for weatherization).

The following outlines some of the key actions taken by members of the Task Force in these priority areas.

### Community Development – Healthy Community Infrastructure

Communities that are built to support physical activity, safe walking and biking, use of public transportation, and easy access to fresh foods are essential for good health. By providing resources and state assistance, the following programs encourages municipalities to proactively coordinate land use decisions with transportation investments that improve water quality, encourages physical activity, and builds community vitality, with an emphasis on projects that support the implementation of innovative transportation and land use concepts. The following provides a short summary of joint investments in 2019. See Appendix B for full descriptions.

#### Better Connections

The [Better Connections Program](#) aligns state and local investments to increase transportation options, build resilience, and strengthen economic vitality in Vermont's community centers through an annual grant program administered by the Vermont Agency of Transportation, in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD). This year, the Better Connections program expanded its partnership to include funding and support from the Agency of Natural Resources, Clean Water Initiative and the Vermont Health Department. The Clean Water Initiative provided additional funds to incorporate storm water management planning into the transportation and land use planning process. The Health

Department targeted additional “quick build” grants to awarded communities to accelerate the implementation of projects that support public health, physical activity, and access to healthy foods to prevent chronic conditions. Projects included rail trail improvements in Danville, a pocket park in Hyde Park, and a parklet and welcome center in Enosburg.

### 3-4-50 Community Projects

The Health Department 3-4-50 campaign is devoted to engaging community partners in creating healthy communities ([Community Tip Sheet](#)) to increase physical activity and good nutrition, and to reduce tobacco use in order to prevent chronic disease. This year, the Department has contributed funds to support infrastructure improvements needed to increase options for physical activity and create safe active transportation routes such as Stark Street Park revitalization in Bennington, creation of a multigenerational community center in Deerfield Valley, and sidewalk improvements in Button and Orleans Villages.

### Placemaking

This innovative program highlights cross-agency collaboration and public/private partnerships to create healthy and economically vibrant communities. AARP Vermont, a leader in creating Livable Communities, began a Placemaking grant and training program in 2018, in collaboration with staff from the Health Department, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Agency of Transportation, and private partners.

Placemaking allows communities to “test” ideas by temporarily (for one day or a weekend) activating public space to allow community members to experience what it could be like if changes were made. These events often become jumping off points to permanent solutions. As an example, Bennington received an AARP Placemaking grant to activate an underutilized and outdated playground that connects trails, a neighborhood, and the downtown. This successful event mobilized strong community support to seek and make further investments to improve the park and its surrounding amenities.

Strong on-going interest and support for Placemaking continues in Vermont with annual, collaborative trainings and mini grants offered annually. State and private partners have been meeting regularly throughout the year with a goal to establish an official Vermont Placemaking program that will oversee coordination of funds, trainings, and resources.

### Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative

Executive Order No. 11-17, Governor Scott established the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative. The VOREC steering committee’s purpose is to engage with businesses, government, the nonprofit sector and the public to identify specific outcomes that promote business opportunities, increase participation opportunities, and strengthen the quality and stewardship of our recreational resources, and provide recommendations to the Governor based on that purpose. VOREC invited the Vermont Department of Health to discuss the public health and wellness components of outdoor recreation and the outdoor recreation economy. VOREC members recommend incorporation of a public health and wellness component into its work. Health department staff will work with VOREC staff to determine next steps and begin implementation in the coming year.

## Transportation, Energy, and Health

The Task Force has also been exploring the interconnection between transportation, energy and climate change. As such, the Health Department recently completed an analysis of the potential health co-benefits associated with meeting the transportation goals outlined in Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan. The Vermont Agency of Transportation and Department of Environmental Conservation both provided data and technical support for the analysis. The analysis indicated that substantial health benefits and health-related cost savings could be achieved by 2050 if the transportation goals are met, with most of the benefits attributable to replacing automobile trips with walking or biking trips. Meeting the electric vehicle goals would have a larger impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the health benefits associated with related air quality improvements would be relatively small compared to the health benefits associated with increased physical activity.

Likewise, the state Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) may have potential health and equity considerations. Many members of the HiAP Task Force are currently engaged in the TCI including: Agency of Natural Resources, the Public Service Department, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Discussion at a future HiAP Task Force meeting will be scheduled in 2020.

## Housing

The 2018-2023 Vermont State Health Improvement Plan identifies the expansion of housing and weatherization programs as a strategic priority, and discussions about the value of increasing access to healthy housing<sup>3</sup> has been a focus of the Health in All Policies Task Force.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified investments into improved housing conditions as one of the *Hi-5* priority interventions that can positively impact health within five years while showing cost effectiveness and/or cost savings over the lifetime of the population. Multiple sectors, both within and outside of state government, have expressed interest in understanding the impacts that weatherization — and home improvements more broadly — can provide to occupants in terms of health and wellness as well as energy consumption and costs.

In an effort to mutually advance State health, energy and economic goals through home weatherization and modification interventions, the Department of Health and the HiAP Task Force have pursued a number of collaborative strategies, including:

- Publication of a report that measured the health and economic impacts of home weatherization;
- Development of a strategic plan for cross-sector collaboration for a Home Health + Energy initiative;
- Exploring opportunities to increase investments into housing improvements from hospitals, insurers and other sectors; and

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<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a Healthy Home as one that is dry, clean, safe, well-ventilated, pest-free, contaminant free, well-maintained and thermally controlled.<sup>3</sup>

- An update of the Best Practices for Housing document authored by Task Force partners.
- Implementation of a pilot project that incorporates falls prevention home modification measures in conjunction with weatherization;
- Proposed data analyses using healthcare data to assess health outcomes for individuals that have received weatherization services through the Department of Children and Families (DCF);

## Community Development, Environmental Protection and Health

### Lead in Drinking Water

Lead is a highly toxic metal that is harmful to human health. Lead can harm anyone, but children and pregnant women are at special risk. To address these risks, Act 66 (2019) was established to require all Vermont schools and child care facilities to test their drinking and cooking water for lead and, if found at or above the action level of 4 parts per billion (ppb), immediately eliminate the exposure.

Over the past year, the Health Department has partnered with the Child Development Division of the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Agency of Education to test the drinking water of more than 440 schools and 1200 childcares. In February, the Health Operations Center was activated, and each partner began participating in the planning and management of this multifaceted project. To date more than 5,000 taps have been tested and 874 have had a result above the action level. More than 80% of schools and 10% of child care facilities had at least one tap above the action level. In the end, approximately 15,000 taps will be tested and, if necessary, remediated. All testing must be completed by December 2020.

### Wastewater

Vermonters living long-term in campers/mobile homes are a population of concern to many Agencies. The Department of Environmental Conservation was interested in exploring the potential formation of a “*Camper Committee*” to figure out how to meet mandates related to wastewater while also supporting the individuals and families who may be living in unhealthy and unsuitable housing. As a result of the discussion, members of the DEC Compliance Division and the Agency of Human Services developed an outreach program to connect individuals to important social services.

### Performance Scorecard

In 2017, the Task Force created the [Health in All Policies Scorecard](#) to track progress in meeting its work and to demonstrate the shared commitment to including health in all agencies’ policies, programs and budgets. This scorecard is intended to align with other existing performance management activities within agencies and report on progress related to best practices for improving health outcomes. Due to staff vacancies the Scorecard has not been updated. A discussion is needed to reassess the value of the Health in All Policies Task Force scorecard and consider whether this separate scorecard is needed or if integrating the measures in other scorecards would be more effective.



## Vermont's Cross-Sector Collaboration and Accomplishments

In addition to the joint work fostered by the Task Force, there are numerous examples of cross-sector and multi-agency collaboration at the state and local level that either directly seek to protect and promote health or are aimed at creating communities with the conditions for health and well-being. The following is a brief description, contributed by members of the Task Force, of a few illustrative and notable initiatives in 2019:

### Agency of Agriculture – Healthy Food Access

The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets has a collected responsibility to facilitate, support and encourage the growth and viability of agriculture in Vermont while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers and the environment. The mission of the Agriculture Development Division is to meet the needs of Vermont's agricultural community by improving agricultural business capacity, consumer awareness and access, and farmland stewardship through technical assistance, grant funding, promotional opportunities, and collaborative efforts. This work is being conducted during a time where there is a growing recognition that access to healthy, nutritious food is essential to personal and community health and wellbeing, as well as a desire and appreciation for protection of our natural resources and support toward resilient and economically viable communities. As a result, both private and public partners are implementing policies and practices to ensure Vermont's most vulnerable populations have access to healthy food. This includes:

#### Workplace Wellness for State of Vermont Employees

- Targeted biannual communication relating to farmers markets, CSAs and other local food markets was shared with 400+ Vermont employees that expressed interest for more information on how and where to access local food from the 2018 survey in the Human Resources Connect Newsletter.
- Continued partnership with the State of Vermont LiveWell Program Team to distribute over 200 Harvest Health coupons to State employees. These coupons are distributed at LiveWell's biometric screenings and incentivize the purchase of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other local products at Vermont farmers markets.

#### Direct to Consumer Marketing Promotion

- Continued collaboration with Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services to increase the promotion of summer and winter farmers market at Vermont's 18 rest areas and information centers with posters and brochures. Posters were also shared with all chambers of commerce in Vermont, as well as, libraries, food co-ops, and other community organizations.
- Outreach in collaboration with Vermont Department for Children and Families, Vermont Department of Health, and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to maintain and grow participation in EBT, Crop Cash, Farm to Family and Harvest Health coupon programs incentivizing the purchase of fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs at Vermont farmers markets that accept 3SquaresVT/SNAP benefits.

- Participation on the Vermont Nutrition Education Committee to work on coordinated strategies that both improve outreach to SNAP eligible customers and improve sales of local fresh fruits and vegetables to EBT customers through local direct market channels.
- Building a partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Health to incorporate food access and local market development into placemaking and community development initiatives.

#### Farm to School Data Highlights

- Strong interagency collaboration, with support from numerous non-profit partners, to further establish Vermont's status as a national leader in farm to school program development and implementation with meaningful long-term impact.
- Vermont's reputation for leadership and innovation played a role in securing two federal grants that will support farm to school activities in the state. Combined the grants amount to \$281,550 in federal funds for Vermont farm to school program development, with a focus on reaching underserved communities.
- Expansion of the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Farm to School Child Nutrition Grant brought farm to school support to three early childhood education organizations around the state in 2019, with more potential recipients applying in the current 2020 funding round.

#### Local Product Procurement in State Government

- Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets hired a new Farm to Institution program manager in summer 2019 who is focused on local product procurement in schools, colleges, hospitals, and other institutions including correctional facilities. The focus on institutions, beyond schools, did not had significant staff capacity over recent years. This position will also work closely with Agency of Education, beginning in 2020-2021 school year, to capture average annual percentages of local food purchased by Vermont k-12 schools. This new legislative requirement will help capture comprehensive local procurement data as well as aid in developing incentives for encouraging growth in schools' local procurement amounts over time.
- In fall 2019, the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility made the commitment to providing fluid milk to their population, and made the additional effort to make that a local fluid milk from Kingdom Creamery dairy in East Hardwick, VT. An identified challenge associated with serving local fluid milk was storage of the gallon jugs served every day. The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets has promoted this effort with Department of Corrections over recent years and so was very happy to direct some infrastructure investment support to the correctional facility to purchase a milk cooler for milk storage. This effort of facilitating the ongoing procurement of local fluid milk will be promoted to other correctional facilities across the state over the coming 1-2 years.

## Agency of Human Services

The mission of AHS is to improve the conditions and well-being of Vermonters and protect those who cannot protect themselves. The work we do in support of that mission touches the lives of thousands of Vermonters every day. Whether helping a homeless family access affordable housing or child care; protecting a young child from abuse; supporting youth and adults through addiction and recovery; providing essential health promotion and disease prevention services; reaching out to older Vermonters in need of at-home or nursing home assistance; enabling individuals with disabilities to have greater independence; or supporting victims and rehabilitating offenders, AHS serves Vermonters with compassion, dedication, and professionalism. What follows are a few examples of how AHS considers the health impact in its programs and policies.

### Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development

The Agency of Human Services, in response to legislation passed in 2018 (ACT 204) has hired a Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development to direct and coordinate systemic approaches across State government that build childhood resiliency and mitigate toxic stress. In addition, this position coordinates the Agency's implementation of and adherence to the AHS Trauma Informed System of Care Policy, adopted in 2017. The purpose of this policy is to foster a human services system that employs and practices trauma-informed principles in relation to staff and the individuals and families it serves. In accordance with this policy, AHS and its departments will continue to adopt and implement policies and practices created with a trauma-informed and prevention focus. In order to ensure that this takes place, the Director has already established a Trauma- Informed Policy Review Process and Protocol for all AHS-wide polices and this process has been used numerous times to date.

### Weatherization

The Department for Children and Families, the Health Department and non-governmental stakeholders (hospitals) are partnering via the Weatherization Program to improve occupant health through the home weatherization projects. Traditional low-income weatherization provides direct benefits to client health, as documented in [Weatherization + Health in Vermont report](#). The **Weatherization + Health Pilot** program hopes to demonstrate that existing benefits can be enhanced when weatherization is paired with home improvements that address specific home health and safety concerns. Pilot partners are continuing to identify and implement strategies and funding opportunities to increase delivery of home-based services that improve building energy efficiency, healthy housing conditions and client health.

In addition, **One Touch**, is a screening and referral process that assists Weatherization professionals identify areas where other assistance may be needed in the client's home. Staff assess housing conditions safety, health, energy efficiency and refer for services, if needed. One Touch screening takes place at every Weatherization appointment and in 2017, over 350 older adults were referred to the Health Department for falls prevention resources (e.g. home

modifications, and classes such as Tai Chi).

#### Family Supportive Housing

The detrimental impact of homelessness and housing instability is well documented. To combat this challenging issue, the Department of Children and Families funds grants to non-profit community-based providers to offer **Family Supportive Housing** to families experiencing homelessness with disabling conditions. Family Supportive Housing is an evidence-informed, trauma-informed model that connects families to permanent housing and provides intensive case management and financial empowerment support to families. Participation in the Family Supportive Housing program increased the likelihood of children receiving primary care healthcare and connecting with mental health services. Among children active in FSH at the end of SFY 2019, 86% (252) were up to date with well child pediatric visits at recommended intervals and 19% (55) were receiving mental health treatment. By year end, 94% (274) were up to date with well child pediatric visits and 22% (65) were receiving mental health services.

#### Green Mountain Passport:

Administered by the Dept. of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL), this program offers free day-use passes to Vermont State Parks and historic sites to Vermont residents at least 62 years of age or Vermont veterans of the uniformed services. Applications are available at town offices.

### Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation – Environment and Public Health Protection

#### Rule updates to support public health and safety

1. Department of Environmental Conservation is in the final stages of drafting new Dam Safety rules as Directed by Act 161 of 2018. These rules will establish requirements for inspecting and maintaining dams that are scaled to the hazard posed by the dam. The rules will support public safety by assisting landowners who own dams to understand when dams should be inspected and maintained.
2. Department of Environmental Conservation is setting forth testing requirements for newly established groundwater wells to ensure that the water is clean and safe to drink, also in response to Act 161.
3. Department of Environmental Conservation has recently finalized a comprehensive update to the Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy, which contains provisions and standards for maintenance of groundwater quality, and for cleanup of contaminated groundwater.

#### Expanded On-Site Loan Fund Eligibility:

The Department of Environmental Conservation is also continuing to use new legislative authority to expand access for lower-income Vermonters to the on-site loan fund; a fund that provides for low-cost loans to remediate failing septic systems that may impact public health.

Under the revised authorities, Department of Environmental Conservation may authorize loans for system replacements in multifamily dwellings, mobile homes, and mobile home parks in addition to single family homes.

#### Clean Water Support and Funding

The Department of Environmental Conservation continues its strong focus on advancing Clean Water goals by managing a tactical basin planning process and integrating State and Federal funding sources to support projects that reduce phosphorus pollution, and the related cyanobacteria blooms that occur in some surface waters.

#### Cyanobacteria Monitoring

Relatedly, the Department of Environmental Conservation has continued a successful partnership with the Health Department, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and the Lake Champlain Committee to continue monitoring for cyanobacteria in Lake Champlain and other surface waters, and to test public drinking water supplies that draw from these waterbodies for related cyano-toxins.

#### Public Drinking Water Systems Upgrades

The Department of Environmental Conservation continues to support municipalities and other public water suppliers to deliver safe and pollution-free drinking water through a variety of technical assistance, funding, and regulatory assistance efforts. Many successful projects were initiated or completed during 2019 to address public health concerns. Noteworthy construction projects for community water systems include distribution line extensions to serve properties with on-site contaminated wells in Bennington and North Bennington, construction of new surface water filtration treatment and distribution improvements for East Berkshire Fire District 1 Water System, construction of filtration treatment to remove arsenic for the Coventry Fire District 1 Water System, construction of a new surface water treatment facility for the Smugglers Notch Water System, construction of a replacement storage tank for the Fairlee Town Water System, and construction of new filtration treatment to remove PFAS from the Rutland Airport Business Park Water System. .

#### Lead in Schools Initiative

Department of Environmental Conservation collaborated with the Health Department, the Agency of Education, the Department of Children and Families, and the Agency of Digital Services to implement the directives of Act 66, an act relating to testing and remediation of lead in the drinking water of schools and child care facilities to ensure sampling and remediation of every tap used for providing water for consumption at every school and child care facility in the state. Numerous resources, including in-person trainings were provided to better-prepare the regulated community of the requirements of the Act.

### Investigations of Per-fluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS)

Multiple programs within the Department of Environmental Conservation have been working together to implement the requirements of Act 21, an act relating to the regulation of polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking and surface waters. The Department of Environmental Conservation has also worked with the Department of Buildings and General Services to establish state-wide contracts for sampling of PFAS at public drinking water systems and to procure a source of PFAS-free water, should a public drinking water system confirm it has PFAS chemicals above the interim standard.

### Agency of Transportation

#### Public Transit Policy Plan Update

The Agency of Transportation embarked upon a detailed update of its [Public Transit Policy Plan](#) in 2019. This plan outlines specific policy and strategies to guide the ongoing development and administration of Vermont's public transit program. Major areas of action with specific strategies include Addressing Aging Vermont, Expansion of Transit Access, Outreach and Raising Awareness, and Leveraging Technology to Improve Ride-Scheduling.

#### Rides to Wellness

The Public Transit program continued implementation of the [Rides to Wellness](#) pilot project with the goal of improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations by increasing access to preventive health treatment through community health centers. This program is designed to result in positive health outcomes as well as to improve financial performance of health centers by reducing missed appointments and reducing the use of emergency services, thereby saving additional resources. Initial pilots in the Northeast Kingdom and the Mt. Ascutney region are operational. The next projects at Porter and Gifford Medical Centers in Addison County and Orange County respectively are under development and design.

#### Highway Safety Public Outreach and Media Initiatives

The Agency continued its efforts to improve highway safety through enhanced driver-safety campaigns, including increased creative use of its variable message signs along major routes. Social media messaging focused around holidays and foul-weather events to increase awareness of the importance of sober driving and defensive driving appropriate to variable weather conditions. The Agency also put out messages about distracted driving and reminders that the use of hand-held devices is not permitted while driving in Vermont. Public service announcements in the traditional news media focused on work zone safety and winter highway safety ("Don't Crowd the Plow"). The initiatives generated positive responses from residents and visitors alike.

The Long-Range Transportation Plan is a major accomplishment which outlines a vision and plan

for the future. Additionally, VTrans has been steadfast in incorporating health in existing activities. Some notable initiatives include: the Better Connections Program (described above); Safe Routes to School; and adopting health criteria in prioritizing transportation projects.

## Appendix A: Participating Agencies and Departments

- Agency Commerce and Community Development, Elaine Haney
- Agency of Administration, Buildings and General Services, Erik Filkhorn
- Agency of Agriculture, Abbey Willard
- Agency of Transportation, Dave Pelletier
- Health Department, Dr. Mark Levine
- Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Jennifer Hollar
- Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Seth Leonard
- Agency of Human Services, Martha Maksym and Alison Harte
- Agency of Natural Resources, Neil Kamman and Kim Greenwood
- Public Service Department, Riley Allen, TJ Poor
- Public Service Board, Thomas Knauer

### Health Department Staffing:

- Brendan Atwood, Policy Advisor
- Suzanne Kelley, Heathy Communities Coordinator, SNAP-Ed Program Manager
- Heidi Klein, Director of Planning
- Jared Ulmer, Climate and Health Program Manager



## Appendix B: Healthy Community Development Investments

These grants are intended to accelerate the implementation of projects that support public health, physical activity, and access to healthy food. Each of these projects would not have been possible without the strong support and donation of time and resources from local community members.

### Quick Build for Health Grants

**Town of Danville:** A water station and bike repair station have been installed at the Railroad Station situated along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and Peacham Rd. This location has an existing bike rack and bench that was built and installed by an Eagle Scout last year. To make this space more inviting and to increase the visibility of the amenities, additional landscaping will be added in the spring. A student from the Danville School is interested in helping with this as part of her senior project along with a local landscaper and the Danville Village Improvement Society who will assist with planning and installation.

Bike racks have also been installed on the Danville Village Green, Hill Street, Marty's 1st Stop and Good Fella's restaurant. One additional bike rack will be installed at the new Red Barn Brewing site on Route 2. Next Spring a temporary bike lane "treatment" will be installed, as a test, to connect the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail where the improvements were made to the town where the bike racks are located.

**Hyde Park:** A "Pocket Park" has been installed on the Lamoille County Courthouse lawn, a location identified as a focal point of the state designated Village Center. The park will serve as an outdoor space to build community, enable residents to congregate for social activity, as well as take a break when walking or biking to local neighborhoods, coming off the nearby Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, or visiting the local library or post office. Benches, water access, and new plantings will be added in the Spring.

**Enosburg Falls:** A parklet and welcome/informational kiosk have been created along the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail on in Enosburg Falls, where the Missisquoi Valley trailhead crosses Main Street. The Franklin County Industrial Corporation donated a black iron bench for this location, which will be installed in the Spring of 2019. In the future the Village may install trash cans, a bike rack, a picnic table and a snowmobile parking area.

### 3-4-50 Community Investments

**Mad River Valley Unified Trailhead Kiosk and Mapping Project:** Outdoor activity, community health and wellbeing, and environmental stewardship are defining features of the Mad River Valley Planning District where residents understand part of its community identity as being "active at any age in any stage". Looking toward its future, funds were used to do GIS mapping, create trail maps, design, fabricate and install trailhead kiosks to enable full utilization of its outdoor recreation assets to enhance community health and connectedness. The trail network will benefit the broad community, serving a diverse range of trail users, including vulnerable populations, by removing barriers and promoting the wealth of open-access opportunities for all.

**Stark Street Park Revitalization, Bennington:** Funds were used to purchase and install natural play equipment at the Stark Street Park. This park improvement strategy expands current community assets and provide an intergenerational outdoor recreation destination that will decrease social isolation, provide a safe, accessible space for grandparents and the grandchildren they are raising. Participating partners in the Stark Street redevelopment include: The Town of Bennington, Bennington County Regional Commission, RiseVT, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, Bennington Area Trail Society, Alliance for Community Transformations, the Stark Street neighborhood residents, and various faith communities in Bennington.

**Old School Community Center, Deerfield Valley:** Funds were used for the creation of a multi-generational community center focused on health and wellness. Prior to this project, there is no recreation or community center in the Deerfield Valley. Part of the Deerfield Valley is heavily visited by tourists and the main employers are ski areas. Existing facilities are for paying guests or are very expensive to access. The Old School Community Center provides indoor space for physical activity with a large gymnasium and multiple rooms for classes and other activities. A trail was created to connect the multi-generational community center with the downtown.

**Barton Village and Orleans Village:** Northeast Kingdom Learning Services worked to improve the walkability and bike ability of both Barton Village and Orleans Village. Based on recommendations from a walkability and bike ability assessment completed by Local Motion in 2017, funds were used to improve sidewalks, traffic calming measures and to promote walking and biking to schools.

#### [The 2019 AARP Placemaking Awardees](#)

**Brattleboro:** The Downtown Brattleboro Alliance will transform a dark, unappealing alley at the Transportation Center into a pop-up communal gathering space during the September 6, 2019 Gallery Walk. "Alley Lane" will use lighting, play and the arts to engage people in the space.

**Fairfax:** This demonstration project will transform a vacant lot in the heart of the Village Center into a vibrant community gathering space through the installation of shared garden beds, a community messaging board, pedestrian wayfinding signage, and outdoor seating. These changes will be implemented through an inclusive Community Build Day.

**Fairhaven:** This project will transform a 40'x30' unused paved area into a more inviting and accessible public space. The location is adjacent to the sidewalk and is very close to a brewery and cafe. Plans call for cordoning off the 40'x30' spot and to add planters, benches, tables and umbrellas to encourage socialization and to beautify the area.

**Northfield:** This plan will connect downtown Northfield with the newly established, flood-resilient, Water Street River Park via a temporary, accessible and safe urban pedestrian route. This connection will be highlighted by a non-motorized parade from Downtown that leads to a community celebration in the park with food, games and educational programming.

## Appendix C: Best Practices for Cross Sector Action for Health

Agriculture

Energy

Housing

Land Use Planning and Community Development

Natural Resources

Transportation

# HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES BEST AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



## SUMMARY

Health in All Policies recognizes that health is determined not only by genetics, health care, and individual behaviors but by a complex set of social, economic and environmental factors. HiAP is a collaborative approach to engage all sectors and branches of government to ensure that the potential health consequences are identified and considered during decision-making processes.

### THE GOAL OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document draws upon the best practices and innovative approaches in the agricultural sector that advance positive health outcomes.

The document describes current action in Vermont and outlines approaches for future planning to synergistically meet agricultural and health goals.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

A vibrant and viable agricultural community will support equity and a high quality of life for all Vermonters. Access to local food supports our rural communities and builds a culture of investing in Vermont agricultural business viability. Eating healthy food, especially a variety of nutritious foods including fruits and vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy, is essential to promoting and maintaining good health. Local, regional, and state policies can help people access healthy, local food and maintain our working landscape. Adequate access and availability of safe nutritious food to all Vermont communities remains an aspirational goal for this next year.

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## Sector - AGRICULTURE

### MISSION

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets facilitates, supports and encourages the growth and viability of agriculture in Vermont while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers and the environment.



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2020

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**BUDGET**

**COMMUNITY  
AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

\* Increase financial and technical assistance support to independent retailers and distributors to increase offerings of local Vermont products.

\* Establish marketing resources for promotion of Vermont agriculture and food businesses and products.

\* Expand financial assistance and service provider support to small businesses in the agricultural/forestry sector which helps support the local economy and a viable working landscape.

Oversee grant programs that enhance food safety, protects natural resources, and improves efficiency and capacity of critical agricultural industries, including dairy, meat, produce, maple, specialty crops, and value-added products.

Administer grants to help provide decent paying jobs/training and new economic development opportunities for rural Vermont.

Aid in the development and marketing of Vermont agricultural products which builds communities and supports the local economy.

Participate in federal programs that reimburse organic farmers for a percentage of their organic certification costs.

**INSTITUTIONS AND  
HEALTHY FOODS**

Continue to fund healthy food procurement programs with a specific focus on K-12 schools, colleges, hospitals, and state of Vermont facilities.

\* Increase investments in creating a healthy and local food culture in preK-12 schools.

Increase investments in nutrition education and agriculture literacy in preK-12 school environments.

Incentivize service of local fluid milk in Vermont's correctional facilities. Build on successful pilot at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility and expand to other facilities in 2020-2021.

**REGIONAL  
FOOD SYSTEMS  
AND  
AGRICULTURE**

Continue to provide financial support and regulatory technical assistance around processing and distribution of local product to access regional markets.

\* Connect Vermont agricultural businesses to resources and market opportunities to meet new consumers and convene with buyers and other food system stakeholders.

**POLICY**

**COMMUNITY  
AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

Encourage partners to consider healthy food retail in community development plans and land use decisions.

\*Support accessory on farm business development as a mechanism for supporting farm viability, diversification, and agritourism.

\* Explore a pilot program and metric tracking mechanism to offer eligible agricultural producers a payment for the ecosystem services they provide to our communities.

\* Develop an agricultural strategic plan to support the stabilization, diversification, and revitalization of Vermont's agricultural industry.

Continue to regulate Required Agricultural Practices which promotes clean water in Vermont.

Continue to promote innovative accessory businesses and land use approaches to support a viable agricultural economy.

Remain committed to educating the agricultural community on new laws and regulations that take effect, which includes protecting the health of our community, and the environment.

**INSTITUTIONS AND  
HEALTHY FOODS**

\* Continue to encourage schools, colleges, hospitals, and state facilities to purchase foods that promote health, nutrition, and stewardship for the environment.

\* Continue to orchestrate technical assistance support to schools and other institutions to assist in increasing local food procurement.

Explore nutrition standards for meals and snacks served in early childhood and after school settings as well as nutrition education programs for day care workers.

Explore nutrition standards for foods sold in vending machines on government owned property, including libraries, recreation center, and government work sites.

\* Establish healthy food procurement policies that encourage government agencies and institutions to purchase foods that promote health, nutrition, and stewardship of the environment.

Collaborate with Agency of Education on new initiative to track and capture annual reporting of % estimates of local food purchases by Vermont schools, beginning in the 2020 school year.

Encourage local agriculture and food purchasing through the Health Care Shares, Workplace CSA and Buy Local Market models.

Engage with partners in conversations about addressing food security and food access issues on college campuses.

**REGIONAL FOOD  
SYSTEMS AND  
AGRICULTURE**

Continue to conserve and support access to agricultural land that helps support the increased availability of affordable, healthy, local food throughout the state.

Establish and enforce policies that support the health and well-being of farm workers.

Increase worker protection and housing standards awareness that improves appropriate housing for laborers and farm worker safety.

Support local, municipal, and regional government and planning agencies in designating certain areas primarily for farming through agricultural protection zoning, including specific protections such as limiting the density of residential developments and allowing growers to sell at roadside stands.

\* Continue to enforce pesticide labeling laws and work to ensure standards meet or exceed fair labor practices.

Support local or state food policy councils to develop strategies that focus attention on the entire regional food system.

**PROGRAM**

**COMMUNITY  
AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

\* Assist state and federal nutrition programming to ensure that all retail stores, farmers' markets and interested CSAs are well equipped to accept SNAP and WIC benefits.

Coordinate with the Vermont Agency of Transportation and municipal planning officials to ensure public transportation is available to connect neighborhoods to grocery stores and farmer's markets.

Maintain programs and funding opportunities that promote local food and markets that support local farmers.

Maintain efforts to conserve farmland which preserves Vermont's rural communities and cultural heritage.

Explore opioid workforce development opportunities for agriculture and food-based occupations.

Explore partnership opportunities to expand agriculture and food manufacturing jobs within Vermont's rural communities.

**INSTITUTIONS AND  
HEALTHY FOODS**

\* Expand and continue to support farm to school programs to provide students with foods grown locally and regionally.

Support Agency of Education in administering federal nutrition programs in promoting nutrition education and the incorporation of local food in healthy food policies.

\* Increase amount of local food served in Vermont schools, colleges, healthcare, and state institutions.

Expand outreach and simplify application procedures to increase participation in SNAP and make resources available in other languages.

\* Ensure Electronic Benefit Transfer access, Farm to Family and Crop Cash outreach at farmers' markets of all sizes.

\* Expand access to federal child nutrition programs, including school breakfast, national school lunch, summer food service, and child and adult care programs.

Provide technical assistance to vendors contracted to sell food on State of Vermont property on compliance with state policies on healthy food, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Health.

Continue to support public health and safe food initiatives as more Vermont produce operations align practices with the Produce Safety Rule of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

**REGIONAL FOOD  
SYSTEMS AND  
AGRICULTURE**

Support equitable business assistance to small and mid-sized farmers, farmers of color, and women through grants, technical assistance, and marketing.

\* Establish incentives and resources for growers to produce healthy and safe products including fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy and other food products available to consumers with values-based buying preferences.

Ensure that all Vermont farms, nurseries, and greenhouses are prepared to meet or exceed the revisions to the Worker Protection Standard, which went into effect January 2, 2017. Strengthen enforcement of these regulations.

\* Educate and encourage farmers to use integrated pest management practices, follow nutrient management plans, and be compliant with the Required Agricultural Practices to protect human, animal, and plant health.

\* Provide financial resources, technical assistance, and logistics services for food producers who are expanding to regional and international markets.

Continue to support public health and safe food initiatives as more Vermont produce operations align practices with the Produce Safety Rule of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

# HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES BEST AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



## SUMMARY

Health in All Policies recognizes that health is determined not only by genetics, health care, and individual behaviors but by a complex set of social, economic and environmental factors. HiAP is a collaborative approach to engage all sectors and branches of government to ensure that the potential health consequences are identified and considered during decision-making processes.

### THE GOAL OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document draws upon the best practices and innovative approaches in the energy sector that advance positive health outcomes.

The document describes current action in Vermont and outlines approaches for future planning to synergistically meet energy and health goals.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Energy is essential to health and wellbeing; it is necessary for cooking, heat, transport, medical care, and more. Energy efficiency programs such as weatherization of homes and the use of renewable energy are beneficial to the health of all people and their environment.

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## Sector - ENERGY

### MISSION

To serve all citizens of Vermont through public advocacy, planning, programs, and other actions that meet the public's need for least cost, environmentally sound, efficient, reliable, secure, sustainable, and safe energy, telecommunications, and regulated utility systems in the state for the short and long term.

### STRATEGIC GOALS

- 1 Promoting the interest of the general public in the provision of the state's regulated public services - electricity, natural gas, telephone, cable television, and to a limited degree water and wastewater
- 2 Ensuring that the state's telecommunications infrastructure can support a diversified set of services that address the current and potential needs of the state's residents and business entities
- 3 Protecting the public health and safety and ensuring that safety regulations established by federal and state government for nuclear facilities, natural gas, and certain types of propane installations are met



## BUDGET

The Department's operations include Regulated Utility Planning, Efficiency & Energy Resources, Engineering, Telecommunications & Connectivity, Public Advocacy, and Consumer Affairs & Public Information. These are primarily supported by the gross revenue tax on utility bills. The Department houses the Clean Energy Development Fund with no current dedicated funding source. Opportunities within the current scope and scale of the Department's budget to promote health, include:

- The Clean Energy Development Fund has budgeted its remaining funds to support advanced wood heating systems for residential, commercial, and nonprofit institutional entities.
- The Department's Building Energy Standards, in both the residential and commercial sectors, set minimum efficiency requirements for new and renovated buildings. The standards are designed to provide more reductions in energy use and emissions over the life of a building when compared with a similar building constructed prior to the standards going into effect. They also can promote certain types of fuels that have an impact on building owners' health and comfort.
- The Department oversees the budgets and performance of the state's energy efficiency utilities, which are working to help weatherize existing homes and businesses, facilitate the deployment of highly efficient new structures, and decrease the use of electricity and fossil fuels.
- The Department continues disbursing funds to assist regions and municipalities with implementation of Act 174 enhanced energy planning, wherein regions and municipalities assess their energy use, set goals for reducing energy usage and increasing the share of that energy provided by renewables, determine pathways to meet their goals, and map potential and unsuitable areas for clean and renewable energy projects.

With additional funding, the following actions could be taken to promote health:

- The Clean Energy Development Fund could again offer grants, loans, and incentives to support renewable energy systems, including support to the popular wood stove changeout program which helps upgrade older wood stoves and boilers.
- The Department could work with the Department of Health to develop and implement health impact assessments for energy projects.

## POLICY

The Department advocates for policies by participating in proceedings before the Vermont Public Utility Commission regarding energy project proposals. As a party, the Department analyzes, recommends, and litigates in support of projects that reflect the state of the science and meet statutory criteria. Issues the Department examines in this context include safe blasting procedures, noise levels, and electromagnetic fields.

The Department also recommends that (1) underground lines be owned by a member of Dig Safe to prevent a person from digging into an electrical line and (2) that all projects comply with the electrical code to prevent injury. The Department also inspects natural gas and certain propane pipelines for compliance with regulatory rules and safety standards.

If an issue requires expertise on a health impact, the Department will contact the Department of Health to suggest it join the proceeding. Other sister agencies examine other issues with health implications, such as air purity, water purity, and greenhouse gas impacts.

The policies below are contained within the Department's 2016 Comprehensive Energy Plan that were developed in collaboration with the Department of Health. The Plan contains "guiding economic, environmental, and health goals." It seeks to balance these sometimes competing or conflicting goals and prioritize actions that positively affect all the goals.", The items below reflect the priorities related to health when developing or evaluating energy policies.

**POLICY - CONTD.**

<p><b>OVERALL</b></p>	<p>Collaborate with other state agencies including Health in the development of the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) and Electric Plan (required through by 30 V.S.A. §202b and 30 V.S.A. §202 respectively) to ensure health goals are considered in the plans, as well as in the Department of Building &amp; General Service’s overall—and each agency’s individual—State Agency Energy Plan.</p> <hr/> <p>Work with the Department of Health to implement the policy goals in the State energy plan for health.</p>
<p><b>ACTIVE LIVING</b></p>	<p>Encourage active lifestyles and reduced energy use through compact development, and by providing safe opportunities for walking, biking, and using public transit.</p> <hr/> <p>Promote the development of complete streets and safe and efficient pedestrian, biking and transit networks to reduce the amount of energy used for transportation.</p>
<p><b>AIR QUALITY</b></p>	<p>Improve outdoor air quality by reducing emissions from transportation, home and business heating and energy usage, and energy production.</p> <hr/> <p>Provide incentives and promote the use of cleaner energy sources (e.g., solar and wind) that reduce negative impacts on respiratory health</p> <hr/> <p>Improve energy efficiency, foster cleaner fuels, shift to cleaner transportation technologies (e.g., electric/hybrid vehicles),</p> <hr/> <p>Change behaviors – reduce personal vehicular travel, increase transit/biking/pedestrian travel, support telecommuting – to ease air pollution and improve overall air quality.</p>
<p><b>INDOOR ENVIRONMENT</b></p>	<p>Improve building weatherization and the use of advanced heating and ventilation technologies to improve the health and comfort of the indoor environment and reduce energy bills.</p> <hr/> <p>Promote the use of advanced wood-burning stoves and boilers to improve home-heating efficiency and reduce the detrimental impacts of wood burning on indoor and outdoor air quality, especially in areas with at-risk populations.</p>
<p><b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b></p>	<p>Consider the negative impacts of climate change on health when developing energy policies.</p> <hr/> <p>Ensure the use of strategies to improve the efficiency of heating and cooling systems and reduce the need for heating and cooling with appropriate building, landscape, and community design.</p> <hr/> <p>Foster environments that promote active transportation (walking, biking, transit) and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <hr/> <p>Continually seek and promote alternative clean and renewable energy projects and the use of clean energy.</p>
<p><b>HEALTH EQUITY</b></p>	<p>Assess the health impacts of the energy system to avoid or mitigate potential negative impacts, especially for the most vulnerable population groups such as the elderly, low-income households, and those with chronic or pre-existing medical conditions.</p> <hr/> <p>Ensure the continuity of energy services—particularly space heating and cooling, food refrigeration, and emergency services—for those most vulnerable.</p>

## PROGRAM

The Department has limited direct involvement in program administration, though it is involved in program oversight discussed in the Budget section above (oversight of efficiency utility budgets and programs, limited remaining Clean Energy Development Fund rebate programs for advanced wood heating systems).

The Department is more likely to be involved in development of programs related to energy that are overseen and administered by others, some of whom will be incorporating health in their policies more directly through this HiAP initiative. In the instances where that is not the case, the Department can facilitate the involvement of the Department of Health in development or enhancements to programs to better reflect Vermonters' health as a key priority.

Some opportunities to elevate health as a priority include:

- Promote delivery of services that improve energy efficiency and healthy housing in tandem.
- Promote, coordinate and deliver (when funding is available) wood stove change-out programs and guidance on healthy and efficient wood burning practices.
- Collaborate with the Health Department and Agency of Natural Resources to communicate the health benefits of clean energy technologies.
- Work with the Department of Health to develop and implement measures to help track and evaluate how energy policies and decisions are impacting health, especially for those most vulnerable.
- Prepare for increased energy demands due to the warming climate and extreme weather conditions. Consider mitigation strategies such as modifying building design and energy system standards, promoting heat pump installs in lieu of air conditioners, and promoting urban heat island mitigation strategies.
- Work with partners to support programs that address challenges related to improving energy efficiency in older buildings, including hazards from lead and vermiculite insulation.
- Ensure consideration of the health impact of energy usage when evaluating energy program benefits, particularly when programs are delivered to those most vulnerable.

# HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES BEST AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



## SUMMARY

Health in All Policies recognizes that health is determined not only by genetics, health care, and individual behaviors but by a complex set of social, economic and environmental factors. HiAP is a collaborative approach to engage all sectors and branches of government to ensure that the potential health consequences are identified and considered during decision-making processes.

### THE GOAL OF THIS DOCUMENT IS

This document draws upon the best practices and innovative approaches in the housing sector that advance positive health outcomes.

The document describes current action in Vermont and outlines approaches for future planning to synergistically meet housing and health goals.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Safe, stable and affordable housing is an essential element of healthy communities and the opportunity for living long and well.

The connections between health and housing are significant, and there is increasing recognition across the public health and housing fields that in order to combat unhealthy housing conditions and related health outcomes, a comprehensive and coordinated approach to programs, policies, and resources is vital.

## SECTOR - HOUSING

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) helps Vermonters improve their quality of life and build strong communities.

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The Agency of Human Services seeks to improve the conditions and well-being of Vermonters and protect those who cannot protect themselves.

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The Vermont Housing Conservation Board promotes a comprehensive approach to affordable housing and community development linked with land conservation and historic preservation.

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The Vermont Housing Finance Agency seeks to finance and promote affordable, safe and decent housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income Vermonters

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**BUDGET**

**HOUSING  
CONDITIONS**

Provide funding to private-sector landlords to remove health or safety hazards through housing loan and grants programs. Provide Rental Housing Health Code and Registration compliance support.\*\*

Sustain and expand financial support for healthy housing initiatives, such as lead, asbestos, and mold abatement across state agencies to promote further collaboration and reach.

Provide funding for accessibility improvements to homes - particularly with funding to Vermont Center for Independent Living

Expand financial support for high utility costs through the Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, as well as similar state and voluntary programs that assist households with unaffordable cooling and electricity bills.

Increase funding and resources for, as well as expand the role of, state agencies in housing education, inspections, and enforcements at the local, state, and national levels.

**HOUSING  
AFFORDABILITY**

Sustain and expand state funding that expands permanent affordable housing options that enable individual tenants to rent in privately-owned housing.

Maintain state and advocate for federal low-income housing tax credits.

Preserve existing public and private affordable housing where there is a danger of conversion to more expensive homes.

Expand state and encourage local housing trust funds for the creation and preservation of safe, decent and affordable housing.

Sustain funding for non-profit housing delivery system to ensure local capacity to develop, operate and maintain health-promoting affordable housing for the most vulnerable Vermonters.

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
CONDITIONS**

Invest more in Section 4 grant dollars to build the capacity of community development organization.

Increase and target state and local government investments toward expanding the supply of permanent affordable and supportive housing options for people coming out of Corrections, as well as other vulnerable Vermonters involved in multiple service systems. Create policies that incentivize Continuum of Care and non-profit affordable housing developers to do the same.

**POLICY**

**HOUSING  
CONDITIONS**

Strengthen priorities in state housing programs to encourage supportive housing units for vulnerable populations.

Maintain smoke-free policies for multi-unit housing and other indoor and outdoor areas.

Adopt a statewide Housing First approach so that all Vermonters have equal access to permanent, affordable housing regardless of substance use, employment status or mental health conditions. Utilize trauma-informed approaches in all housing interventions designed for formerly homeless individuals and families. Increase the supply of permanent, affordable housing with support services for formerly homeless families and individuals.

Address regulatory inefficiencies and program conflicts to allow more effective results from lead-based paint and healthy homes programs.

Expand LIHEAP as well as winterization and energy audit programs.

**HOUSING  
AFFORDABILITY**

Implement state and local land use and zoning policies to promote fair housing choices in low-income communities and communities of color through the Fair Housing Trainings and Zoning for Great Neighborhoods initiative\*\*\*

Continue Federal involvement in lending and fairness standards for banking and loan institutions, while improving banking and lending procedures of the private sector to create equal opportunities for credit.

Maintain affordable tax increment financing.

Harness growth to expand financial resources for affordable housing.

Improve Medicaid reimbursement for housing support services.

Encourage nonprofit health organizations to consider affordable housing in their community health needs assessments and community improvement plans.

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
CONDITIONS**

Strengthen enforcement of fair housing laws, including the Federal Fair Housing Act and other state and local regulations prohibiting racial discrimination in housing markets.

Evaluate housing anti-discrimination policies for effects on health.

Through statewide permitting (Act 250) and funding priorities, facilitate housing development and improvements in areas targeted for growth and reinvestment that enable healthy lifestyles through access to health services and outdoor recreation.

Expand use of Inclusionary Zoning, a type of incentive zoning that requires developers to reserve a portion of housing units for low income residents, often with restrictions on resales that specify purchase by low or moderate-income households.

Include incentives for developers and affiliated organizations to build non-profit "co-housing" community models that are income-sensitive and income-adjusted.

Facilitate the acquisition of land for affordable housing.

**PROGRAM**

**HOUSING  
CONDITIONS**

Educate and empower private and public-sector housing providers, owners, and tenants through national, state, and local public campaigns and programs to address the dangers of unsafe and unhealthy housing and about their rights and responsibilities.

Establish and expand permanent service-enriched housing; basic rental housing where social services are available onsite or by referral through a supportive services program or service coordinator. Focus these efforts on aging communities, low-income communities, veterans, disabled person, and communities of color.

Increase resources and expand the role of state agencies in housing education, inspections, and enforcements at the local, state, and national levels.

Create educational/training resources for Town Health Officers on available interventions or programs from all state agencies. Provide online training materials (e.g., webinars or PowerPoint slides) for their ongoing education.

Educate owners and empower tenants of pre-1978 housing about Vermont lead law to ensure properties are kept free of harmful peeling and/or chipping paint and lead paint dust (the leading source childhood lead poisoning)

Conduct Healthy Home Environment Assessments to help residents assess and remediate environmental home health risks and recommend low cost changes.

Implement multi-component falls prevention interventions for older adults and conduct risk assessments to develop personalized approaches to falls prevention among older adults.

**HOUSING  
AFFORDABILITY**

Explore private initiatives, such as Habitat for Humanity and programs encouraging accessory dwelling units, to create more affordable, healthy housing.\*\*\*

Create or expand a housing subsidy program to build quality housing or dedicate vouchers for vulnerable populations.

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
CONDITIONS**

Ensure affordable housing development is integrated with market rate housing and promote interaction and cooperation between individuals of different backgrounds that meets the of all residents, especially children and older adults.

# HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES BEST AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



## SUMMARY

Health in All Policies recognizes that health is determined not only by genetics, health care, and individual behaviors but by a complex set of social, economic and environmental factors. HiAP is a collaborative approach to engage all sectors and branches of government to ensure that the potential health consequences are identified and considered during decision-making processes.

### THE GOAL OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document draws upon the best practices and innovative approaches in the energy sector that advance positive health outcomes.

The document describes current action in Vermont and outlines approaches for future planning to synergistically meet community development and health goals.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Community planning is essential to creating places that: support active living (walking, biking, recreation); expand access to healthy and affordable foods; have tobacco and substance free spaces; and protect people's safety, air and water quality – all of which are essential for good health. "Healthy community design" changes the physical environment, community infrastructure and local policies to create such an environment. Healthy community design means planning and designing communities to make it easier for people to live healthy lives.

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## SECTOR - LAND-USE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### MISSION

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) helps Vermonters improve their quality of life and build strong communities.

### VISION

ACCD encompasses three major state departments and many programs that serve the Vermont public by enhancing the Vermont business climate, marketing Vermont to tourists and others, and strengthening our communities in a wide variety of ways.



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2020

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**BUDGET**

**CONCENTRATED  
MIXED-USE  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
SMART GROWTH**

Continue to provide financial incentives for state designated Downtowns, Village Centers and Growth Centers – all of which are compact, mixed use, and smart growth.

Continue to prioritize state investments in public buildings, transportation, and other infrastructure improvements in state designated centers where it leverages the most benefit.

Increase tax, finance, and permitting incentives for private development projects in state designated areas to “level the playing field” and educate the community about these efforts.

Allocate resources to Department of Housing and Community Development and the regional planning commissions to create and disseminate model zoning that enable smart growth, increase housing opportunities and healthy activity through the *Zoning for Great Neighborhoods program*

**BICYCLE- AND  
PEDESTRIAN-  
FRIENDLY  
COMMUNITIES**

Continue to provide funding opportunities and incentives for regional and municipal plans and projects that support and promote active transportation (walking and biking) for all users.

Target, align, and prioritize funding in areas of Vermont that are in greatest need of increased biking and walking (areas where there are poor health outcomes and limited access to walking and biking).

**PARKS,  
RECREATIONAL  
FACILITIES, AND  
OPEN SPACE**

Continue to identify and preserve open public spaces and make them available for recreation through local and regional planning processes.

**HEALTH EQUITY**

Continue to prioritize grant applications (evaluation criteria) for development in distressed regions and low-income areas.

Fund projects that integrate land use, community development, and equitable transportation in areas that have worse health outcomes and health disparities.

Continue to provide incentives for community development projects in state designated areas that help to revitalize the economy and increase access to goods, services, and jobs, especially for low-income communities and communities of color.

**POLICY**

**CONCENTRATED  
MIXED-USE  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
SMART GROWTH**

Continue to support state, regional, and local placemaking initiatives that activate under-utilized public spaces to improve public health, build social capital and community cohesion

Provide guidance and support to the regional planning commissions regarding state health goals and smart growth principles and using these goals in developing regional plans.

Support the regional planning commissions in providing technical assistance to municipalities regarding smart growth land use planning and development and including health in town plans.

Offer financial, tax, permitting, and other incentives to the private sector for development decisions that result in smart growth and concentrated downtown, mixed use development in municipalities/towns.

Work with the Department of Health to develop and offer health impact assessment training, tools, and guidance for use in regional and local land use and community development decisions.

Consider adding the use of health impact assessment (HIA) for priority projects (such as the siting of schools, grocery stores, and housing) to existing regulatory processes. Target HIAs for significant development and public investments that are proposed in remote or auto-oriented locations.

Continue to work with other state agencies (e.g., Departments of Health, Agriculture, Transportation) to support Vermont's land use goals of compact centers surrounded by working lands (which also helps to decrease vehicle miles traveled and car emissions) through funding or other incentive opportunities.

Continue to support an interagency task force to work with the Agency of Natural Resources to address sewage solutions to encourage growth, business and community development potential for Vermont villages that lack wastewater treatment facilities.

Continue to work across agencies to help meet Vermont's climate and energy goals; e.g., through concentrated development and decreasing vehicle miles traveled (and decreasing harmful emissions).

**BICYCLE- AND  
PEDESTRIAN-  
FRIENDLY  
COMMUNITIES**

Fund local and regional bicycle and pedestrian master plans to identify and coordinate future investments and to maximize benefits to the community (before investments are made).

Continue interagency work with the Department of Transportation and other relevant agencies/departments including the Department of Health to improve active transportation (walking and biking), especially in combination with land use and community design interventions (such as mixed land use, downtown and dense residential development, proximity to parks and recreation) to promote physical activity and improve access to goods and services, economic development, and the environment.

**PARKS,  
RECREATIONAL  
FACILITIES, AND  
OPEN SPACE**

Continue to support municipal plans that aim to preserve undeveloped land in a community as open space for land conservation, wildlife protection, public access, and recreation.

Develop trails and networks for recreation but also help increase access to services especially in low-income communities.

Continue to support the use of schools and school grounds for community gatherings, events, and physical activity for the whole community.

**FRESH AND  
HEALTHY FOOD**

Continue to support regional planning commissions in approving town plans that are consistent with state planning goals regarding agriculture and forest industries, and encourage strategies to protect long-term viability of agricultural land and forest lands, maintain low overall density, and target public investments to alleviate development pressure on agricultural and forest land.

Support access to healthy and local food by helping municipalities and regions develop robust food system plans.

**HEALTH EQUITY**

Engage the Department of Health in the development and review of regional plans to consider incorporating current 2020 Healthy Vermonter goals and health disparities (e.g., obesity and the need to include physical activity, mental health, access to services and goods).

Support the formation of an interagency collaboration (that includes VDH) on collecting and analyzing health data related to land use patterns and transportation to better understand and map areas with the greatest health inequities within the state.

**PROGRAM**

**CONCENTRATED MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT AND SMART GROWTH**

Continue to work with other Agencies and programs to use the state designation programs (Downtowns, Village Centers, New Town Centers, Growth Centers, and Neighborhood Development Areas) to provide incentives, align policies, and give communities the technical assistance needed to encourage new development and redevelopment in compact, designated areas for both the public and private sector.

**These include:**

- tax credits for historic building rehabilitations and code improvements; permitting benefits for new housing;
- funding for transportation-related public improvements; priority consideration for other state grant programs.

Continue to work across agencies to provide support for public and private investment in designated areas that enables coordination among state, regional, and municipal planning

Continue and expand programs (training/marketing, funding, tax, and regulatory incentives) that support concentrated and mixed use downtown and village development (includes public services, business, retail, and housing).

**BICYCLE- AND PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES**

Continue to support programs that assist municipalities in creating safe places to walk and bike (through good design and access e.g., sidewalks) for all users by:

- focusing funding for designated areas (through grant eligibility or selection process) and creating and improving funding for special programs such as Downtown Transportation fund, Better Connections, and Bike/PedGrants.
- providing support to municipalities in identifying projects and obtaining funding (RPCs, technical assistance, helping to pay staff)
- modeling bylaws for municipalities to use in requiring bike and pedestrian-friendly development

Coordinate state funding programs – such as Municipal Planning Grants, Bike/Ped program, Better Connections, Clean Water Fund, VCDP – to make best use of funding and assistance available for bike/ped improvements.

**PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE**

Support school programs that promote health such as Safe Routes to School, Farm to School, and schools as places for physical activity and community gathering and events.

Continue to support state, regional, and local placemaking initiatives and programs to activate under-utilized public spaces in communities to increase physical activity, build social capital, and reduce social isolation.

**FRESH AND HEALTHY FOODS**

Work with Farm to Plate, Agency of Agriculture, and the Department of Health to help planners include food systems plans as part of their local or regional plans to ensure support for local agricultural economy and access to healthy and local food.

**HEALTH EQUITY**

Provide tools and resources (maps, audits, checklists) to help towns and citizens assess how well land use and community development decisions support health, active living, and access to healthy food especially for those most vulnerable.

Support the use of community health assessments in planning and development decisions, and projects that ensure all residents have access to goods and services (especially low income and seniors).

# HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES BEST AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



## SUMMARY

Health in All Policies recognizes that health is determined not only by genetics, health care, and individual behaviors but by a complex set of social, economic and environmental factors. HiAP is a collaborative approach to engage all sectors and branches of government to ensure that the potential health consequences are identified and considered during decision-making processes.

### THE GOAL OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document draws upon the best practices and innovative approaches in the natural resources sector that advance positive health outcomes.

The document describes current action in Vermont and outlines approaches for future planning to synergistically meet natural resource and health goals.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Respect. Protect. Enjoy. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources promotes the sustainable use of Vermont's natural resources, protects and improves the health of Vermont's people and ecosystems, and promotes sustainable outdoor recreation. Vermonters are proud of our state's beautiful natural resources. Parks, forests, wildlife, lakes, rivers; we have many opportunities for fun, physical activity, and improving mental health. The economic benefits of natural resources are also important to public health.

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## Sector - NATURAL RESOURCES

### MISSION

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources promotes the sustainable use of Vermont's natural resources, protects and improves the health of Vermont's people and ecosystems, and promotes sustainable outdoor recreation.

### VISION

To draw from and build upon Vermonters' shared ethic of responsibility for our natural environment, an ethic that encompasses a sense of place, community and quality of life, and an understanding that we are an integral part of the environment, and that we must all be responsible stewards for this and future generations.

## BUDGET

### SUSTAINABILITY

Across multiple programs, ANR's budget supports sustainability of environmental protection to support ecosystem services, and resilience in infrastructure that supports public health and safety.

### FORESTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION

Work across agencies and boards to include health considerations and goals in budgeting for the acquisition of lands.

Provide opportunities and spaces for Vermonters to have active lifestyles, access to the outdoors, and safe, and available places for recreation and physical activity for all users.

Promote and deploy tools to enable Vermonters to take reasonable precautions against the inherent risks of outdoor recreation such as melanoma, ticks, cyanobacteria etc.

Continue to support grant programs that maintain working forests and promote development of recreational opportunities and facilities that keep Vermonters and visitors outdoors.

### WATER AND WASTE

Maintain funding for comprehensive management of clean water (watershed management, drinking and groundwater, and recreational water uses).

Provide grants for municipalities to develop necessary water infrastructure (e.g., downtown development and growth and brownfield redevelopment).

Provide low or no-cost loans for necessary water infrastructure.

Direct funding towards projects and municipalities identified by an Interagency working group to support targeted planning and funding that efficiently delivers environmental and public safety improvements including funding for solid waste infrastructure and assisting with emerging contaminant costs.

### AIR QUALITY AND EMISSIONS

Maintain the capacity to conduct air quality monitoring, permitting and enforcement and emissions modeling and to develop air pollution emissions inventories that document progress in reducing statewide criteria and toxic air pollutants and greenhouse gases.

Continue to seek funding opportunities for incentive programs (e.g., wood stove change out programs) and other initiatives that reduce air emissions.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Support State of Vermont investments in helping Vermonters save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Conduct environmental monitoring of climate change effects in air and water.

### FISH AND WILDLIFE

Continue to conduct statewide outdoor education and mandatory training programs that support health and well-being by encouraging outdoor recreation, immersion in nature, and the consumption of sustainably-harvested fish and wildlife.

Maintain the significant decline in hunting-related injuries by continuing to sponsor hunter education courses and promoting safe hunting practices.

Continue to invest significant staff time, training and resources into public health-related activities including: responding to potentially-diseased or otherwise dangerous wildlife; monitoring for new and existing wildlife diseases that may pose a risk to humans; and reducing the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions.

Continue to invest significant staff time, training and resources, primarily through State Game Wardens, into public safety-related activities including: search and rescue; snowmobile, boat and ATV enforcement; hunting incident investigation; road kill removal; general state law enforcement; and, when needed, providing assistance to other state and federal law enforcement agencies.

## POLICY

### SUSTAINABILITY

Consider health equity and environmental justice in natural resources procurement, contracts and policies.

Work across agencies within the aforementioned Interagency Initiative to promote Smart Growth, Complete Streets, Concentrated and Mixed-Use Development, Sustainability and other such policies that benefit health and are vital to economic development.

### FORESTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION

Pursue policies that limit fragmentation of forests in order to protect and maintain healthy forest lands that support numerous health benefits and outcomes.

Work across agencies and boards to include health considerations and goals in state level land-use and long-range management plans.

Provide smoke and tobacco free spaces policies in State parks.

Make state parks, forests, and open green spaces accessible, safe and available as places of recreation and physical activity for all users.

Work with the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) to include health and health goals as a consideration and benefit in the growth and promotion of the industry.

### WATER AND WASTE

Incorporate public safety and human health considerations in the implementation of best/recommended practices, establishment of new programs, and in ongoing clean water and site remediation funding actions including emerging contaminants.

Protect recreational and drinking water (public & private) quality as affected by storm water, chemical contamination, cyanobacteria and other known and emerging contaminants.

Coordinate with the Department of Health to communicate health risks associated with poor water quality and contaminated sites.

Coordinate with the Department of Health and all other affected agencies in the development of scientifically-based implementable human health criteria in relevant chapters of the Vermont Environmental Protection Rules.

Work collaboratively across agencies and with various stakeholders on clean water and waste management practices.

### AIR QUALITY AND EMISSIONS

Promote the public and environmental health benefits of reducing emissions of air pollution, including criteria pollutants, air toxics, and greenhouse gases.

Continue to support and participate in state and regional planning efforts to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants, air toxics, and greenhouse gas.

Encourage policies and actions that result in concurrent reductions in emissions of criteria air pollutants, air toxics, and greenhouse gases.

Continue to monitor, evaluate, and address wood heater impacts on air quality.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Support interagency work groups for climate change, land use, transportation, and energy issues that are crosscutting and where impacts and solutions have a significant impact on public health and equity.

Continue close coordination with the Department of Health Climate & Health Program on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and communication activities.

### FISH AND WILDLIFE

Continue to conduct statewide outdoor education and mandatory training opportunities that support health and well-being by encouraging outdoor recreation, immersion in nature, and the consumption of sustainably harvested fish and wildlife.

Continue to administer rules and regulations that encourage the public use and enjoyment of fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Continue to consider wildlife-vehicle collisions in the establishment of wildlife population goals, and continue to work with Vermont Agency of Transportation to identify and address problem areas on state roads with the placement of wildlife passages and other mitigation efforts.

Continue to consider rabies and other wildlife-transmitted diseases in the establishment of wildlife population goals, and ensure that management, primarily through regulated trapping, addresses disease concerns.

Continue to direct staff time toward public health-related activities including: responding directly to potentially-diseased or otherwise dangerous wildlife incidents; monitoring for new and existing diseases that may be a risk to humans; and reducing wildlife vehicle collisions.

Continue to prioritize the importance of public safety-related activities in State Game Warden job duties.

Continue to emphasize outdoor recreation in the management and acquisition of department lands and access areas.

# HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES BEST AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



## PROGRAM

### SUSTAINABILITY

Promote the development of sustainable communities (and the benefits to health) through partnerships, trainings, tools and toolboxes and citizen engagement.  
Adopt integrated pest management for agriculture and outdoor use; support a four-tiered approach to outdoor pest control and minimize potential harm to people, property, and the environment.

### FORESTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION

Continue programs that support healthy forests to maintain and enhance Vermont's working landscape, provide clean air and water, and support widespread recreational uses that draw Vermonters and visitors into forests.  
Continue programs that encourage the use of state forests and parks (e.g., free entrance and the ParkRx pass program).  
Partner with the health community to expand the ParkRx pass program to encourage the use of state forests and parks, and recreation areas to improve mental and physical health.  
Promote the use of state forests, parks, and recreational places and their benefits to health through educational and promotional activities.  
Identify and support the development of parks, gardens, green open space, and tree canopy especially in areas of the state and communities of greatest need. Raise awareness about the health benefits of trees, target efforts toward underserved communities, and promote green streets.  
Partner with regional planning commissions, municipalities, land trusts and other conservation partners to improve access, awareness, and amenities at non-state parks and recreation sites, particularly in underserved and high-risk communities.  
Encourage the use of park trails and health workbooks (a tool for planners, parks and recreational professionals, and health practitioners) to help create and maintain parks and trails that benefit public health and provide equitable access.  
Address safety issues and concerns such as crime, vandalism, and proper management in trails, parks, and connecting streets and paths. Work across agencies to address safety issues (e.g., VTrans, police).  
Provide adequate physical access to state parks for everyone, regardless of user ability—parks should meet or exceed ADA standards and attract underserved populations.  
Provide infrastructure within state parks that encourages physical activity such as ball fields (volleyball, basketball), fitness stations, skate parks, and open areas for running and unstructured play as well as amenities that are conducive to social gatherings.  
Support worker safety and protection for forest economy workers

### WATER AND WASTE

Provide technical and financial assistance to improve water quality (e.g., through reduced nutrient and sediment loadings to surface waters from agricultural sources).  
Continue to implement and fund clean water and site remediation programs and provide tools (maps and trainings) to assist regions and municipalities in water management and protection, and in site management.  
Administer regulatory programs that implement environmental and human health standards within authorizations and permits.  
Continue Brownfields Economic Revitalization Alliance work to restore prior contaminated sites to useful green or developed spaces.  
Provide assistance and training on water and environmental pollution prevention  
Enforce water quality and waste management regulations that support human health whenever needed.  
Conduct regular tap water testing and publicize results to make water consumption more appealing.  
Implement a pilot program for targeted contaminant testing of drinking water in school settings.

### AIR QUALITY AND EMISSIONS

Continue to monitor air quality across the state, and to provide air quality forecasts and alerts to notify the public of poor air quality days.  
Support low-emissions vehicles and zero-emissions vehicles.  
Enforce air quality regulations that support human health whenever needed.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Capture and provide information on climate change and associated trends (e.g., in the form of dashboards) to increase understanding about the health impacts of climate as well as strategies and actions for adaptation and mitigation.  
Provide information and tools on climate science and solutions (actions) that are accessible and relevant for various stakeholders including the public.

### FISH AND WILDLIFE

Continue to provide input on development projects through regulatory programs aimed at preserving fish and wildlife habitat and, in turn, outdoor and nature-related recreation.  
Continue to provide input on development projects through regulatory programs aimed at reducing forest fragmentation, a key factor in Lyme disease.  
Continue to conduct youth and adult hunting, fishing, and trapping education programs that emphasize health benefits and address safety issues related to recreational use of fish and wildlife resources.  
Continue to provide outdoor recreational access on department land.  
Continue to support Natural Heritage Program activities that promote non-hunting and fishing related public uses in the outdoors.  
Continue to partner with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (APHIS – WS) and other organizations with wildlife disease surveillance and research.  
Continue to support the APHIS – WS rabies hotline.  
Continue to work with Vermont Department of Health to educate Vermonters about wildlife-related diseases that pose a threat to humans, including tickborne illnesses.

# HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES BEST AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



## SUMMARY

Health in All Policies recognizes that health is determined not only by genetics, health care, and individual behaviors but by a complex set of social, economic and environmental factors. HiAP is a collaborative approach to engage all sectors and branches of government to ensure that potential health consequences are identified and considered during decision-making processes.

### THE GOAL OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document draws upon the best practices and innovative approaches in the transportation sector that advance positive health outcomes.

The document describes current action in Vermont and outlines approaches for future planning to synergistically meet transportation and health goals.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

A connected network of adequate, safe, and accessible transportation options is essential for people of all ages and abilities to access goods and services, including education, jobs, food, health and dental care, recreation and social opportunities. Local, regional, and state policies that ensure all modes of transportation are included in all transportation and development projects will support good health.

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## Sector - TRANSPORTATION

### VTRANS MISSION

Through excellent customer service, provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

### VTRANS VISION

A safe, reliable and multimodal transportation system that grows the economy, is affordable to use and operate, and serves vulnerable populations.

### VTRANS STRATEGIC GOALS

- 1 Promote organizational excellence by attracting, developing, and retaining a talented, diverse, and engaged workforce.
- 2 Grow Vermont's economy by providing a safe, reliable and efficient transportation system in a state of good repair.
- 3 Make Vermont more affordable and serve the vulnerable by providing accessible, convenient and affordable travel choices.
- 4 Transition to an energy efficient, advanced technology transportation system.
- 5 Modernize and improve government efficiency through innovation, continuous improvement and quality customer service.



**BUDGET**

**PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY**

VTrans uses the prioritized bicycle network map from the On Road Bike Facility Plan for making planning, design and operations decisions. Investments are prioritized within grant programs such as the Transportation Alternatives Program and the Bike/Ped Program to prioritize bike and pedestrian infrastructure investments that make walking and biking safer and more convenient.

Vermont statutory language clarifies that highway funds may be used for bicycle and pedestrian facilities; by flexing funds, increased investments in public transportation and bicycle-pedestrian improvements support active transportation.

Continue to target infrastructure investments that support biking and walking in designated downtowns and village centers while also using the On Road Bike Facility Plan to prioritize investments to improve road shoulders.

**AIR  
QUALITY**

VTrans encourages funding and policy decisions that strengthen public transportation, congestion relief, air quality improvements, and non-motorized and rail travel through the Agency budget and other Agency actions.

Consider support for the development of cleaner bus and truck fleets and invest in freight rail infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve local air quality, promote health, and foster energy independence.

Consider providing incentives for motor vehicle drivers to purchase vehicles with technologies designed to control pollution and reduce emissions.

**EQUITABLE  
ACCESS**

Implement criteria in grant evaluation processes to prioritize transportation investments in distressed regions, low-income neighborhoods, communities with high unemployment and poverty rates, and communities of color to stimulate economic growth and provide access to jobs.

Emphasize projects that will revitalize the economy of struggling communities, lower health disparities, and connect vulnerable populations to jobs, business opportunities, healthy food outlets, medical services, and other necessities.

Emphasize accessibility, instead of simply mobility, in transportation policies and programs.

Ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful participation by residents, advocates with diverse interests, and experts from different fields. Engage new partners in decision making and provide the training, data and resources to allow full informed participation by the people affected most by decisions and investments.

Encourage and appropriately fund equitable transit oriented development by considering the creation of incentives for integrated land use and transportation planning.

Explore means of providing low-income rural communities greater access to public transportation funds from federal transportation funding sources in order to increase access to employment and educational opportunities.

**SAFETY**

VTrans develops and implements design guidance to provide safe facilities for all transportation users. All grant recipient of funding from VTrans must follow the design guidance standards, the Agency also provides technical assistance both internal and external to the Agency in support of advancing these standards. VTrans offers trainings on bike/ped design and the Americans with Disabilities Act standards and design applications.

VTrans is committed to ensuring safety investments continue and occupant protection strategies, as well as roadway and community design modifications, promote the protection and safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and passengers.

**POLICY**

**PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY**

VTrans works closely with the VT Department of Health and Agency of Commerce and Community Development on land use and active transportation issues. Through our relationship with the Regional Planning Commissions, as defined by the Transportation Planning Initiative work program each year, VTrans works on land use and transportation policies at the local and regional level that encourage transit oriented developments and other mixed-use developments, and increase connectivity among neighborhoods and communities for all transportation modes.

Through the Transportation Planning Initiative and participation in the State Comprehensive Energy Plan, VTrans supports policies that reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita, including land use policies that reduce vehicular travel, increase public transportation service, increase the number of park and ride facilities statewide and increase active transportation infrastructure.

Consider the evaluation of policies that increase motor vehicle driver responsibility for accidents involving child pedestrians and child bicyclists in residential neighborhoods and school zones.

**AIR  
QUALITY**

Consider measures to enable state, regional and local planners to protect residents from local air and noise pollution from high-volume roadways and airports by discouraging new development, including public facilities investments, near these air and noise pollution sources. Consider constructing barriers to reduce nearby residents' exposure to noise pollution, paying particular attention to low income communities and communities of color.

Consider policies that reduce environmental pollution caused by transportation by migrating to renewable transportation energy sources.

**EQUITABLE  
ACCESS**

Consider creating incentives and accountability measures to ensure that state, regional and local transportation plans account for impacts on health, safety, and equity of all community members, including people with disabilities, individuals with limited English proficiency, low income communities, and communities of color.

Consider giving state, regional, and local governments more flexibility to move transportation program investments among funding categories to target spending to local transportation needs which address equitable access to transportation services.

**SAFETY**

Consider policies to continue to expand the use of ignition interlock systems for offenders convicted of driving under the influence, as well as a requirement for mandatory alcohol and drug assessment and treatment for impaired offenders.

Consider lowering the permissible blood alcohol content level and enhance enforcement of laws prohibiting alcohol sales to minors.

Consider strengthening and enhancing enforcement of motorcycle and bicycle helmet laws.

Consider strengthening and enhancing enforcement of distracted driving laws, including texting while driving.

**PROGRAM**

**PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY**

Consider investments which create dense networks of connected streets that serve the needs of all transportation modes using “complete streets” design guidelines.

Design streets considering the context of the road and incorporate appropriate levels of biking and walking infrastructure to reduce motor vehicle speeds and minimize pedestrian and bicycle injuries throughout towns and cities.

Consider implementing multimodal level of service indicators as performance measures for roadways that include measurements of pedestrian bicyclists, car-shares, and public transportation operability.

**AIR  
QUALITY**

VTrans provides incentives via the Capital Commuters and the Go Vermont program that reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita and implement active living environments that promote walking and bicycling, using public transit, and reducing air pollution.

Consider providing bicycle storage at public transportation stations, bus stops, city car share point-of-departure locations, and all state office buildings.

Consider retrofitting existing diesel vehicles with current pollution control measures to reduce emissions.

Consider requiring inspection and maintenance programs for medium and heavy duty vehicles to assure air emissions requirements are met.

Consider promoting bike-share programs statewide in areas where density indicates a likelihood of program success and promote the implementation of protected bike lanes in high density travel areas in accordance with design and contextual standards.

**EQUITABLE  
ACCESS**

Strive to concentrate greenways, bikeways, and sidewalks in areas with high rates of health disparities and chronic disease, especially in low-income communities and communities of color.

Continue to support transportation services for areas with low population densities using a mix of publicly funded, private enterprise and volunteer based demand response and scheduled transportation services to meet basic needs and support local work forces.

Ensure that communications regarding transportation plans, projects and programs are available to all Vermonters through translation, written and verbal messaging, and braille and ensure that VTrans staff receives training in communicating with people with disabilities and Limited English Proficiency.

**SAFETY**

Through the VT Highway Safety Alliance and implementation of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan VTrans has developed and implemented a curriculum at the VT Police Academy to reinforce knowledge of existing laws around how motorists interact with bicyclists and pedestrians. Other safety initiatives to consider include strengthening and enforcing traffic policies that will lead to reduced injury and death of motor vehicle drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

VTrans continues to support the Safe Routes to School program via a website and through educational programs implemented by Local Motion. Safe Routes to School infrastructure projects continue to be supported via the Transportation Alternatives and Bike/Ped grant programs.

Continue to implement and publicize systematic sobriety checkpoints.

Continue to enhance seat belt enforcement programs.

Continue to utilize context sensitive design standards which include bicycling and walking infrastructure while mitigating potential adverse effects of motor vehicles utilizing a “Complete Streets” design philosophy.

Reduce barriers to receiving subsidized car seats and bicycle helmet distribution and education, such as eliminating rule that those receiving car seats must have a car.