



## What is an HIA?

**Health Impact Assessments (HIAs)** are a combination of procedures, methods, and tools by which a policy, program, or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population. *It is a tool to measure the health outcomes of decisions.*

Land use, transportation, and other planning decisions have a substantial impact on the public's health. HIAs allow decision-makers the opportunity to both maximize the health benefits and mitigate potential or real negative outcomes of policy decisions.

HIAs can be a rapid “desktop” version (review) (usually 2-6 weeks) up to a more comprehensive or structured version that can take 6 months or more.

It is a systematic process<sup>i</sup> that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed, in progress, or existing policy or other project on the population's health. HIAs also assess the distribution of those effects within the population – health disparities among various racial and socioeconomic groups are a key component. HIAs then provide evidence-based recommendations aimed at enhancing positive health impacts and minimizing negative ones.

## What is this training about?

This one-hour introductory class will discuss the over-arching concept of Health in all Policies and introduce you to HIAs, giving examples and best practices. We will begin the conversation of what's next. Instructors from Rutgers Bloustein *Planning Healthy Communities Initiative (PHCI)* will facilitate the training.

There will be a Webinar released soon for review and for those that could not attend. The Network will offer a longer, more in-depth version of the HIA training during the summer for those that wish to learn more and to initiate an HIA within their community.

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<sup>i</sup> HIA steps: Screening, Scoping, Assessment, Decision-Making & Recommendations, and Evaluation