



## NEW MEXICO HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP

# Capacity Building and Training for Health Impact Assessments (HIA)

## About Us

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership (HEP) is a statewide network comprised of diverse community organizations and members committed to creating access to affordable transportation, fresh food, clean environments, safe places, health care, quality education, and fair wages for all New Mexicans. We envision a New Mexico with healthy and thriving children, families and communities.

HEP is building grassroots infrastructure to support groups to improve community health and wellness by training community members and organizations on how to use Health Impact Assessments (HIA) to:

- Engage community in an authentic way that elevates their strengths;
- Gather data, stories and evidence to effectively communicate with decision makers; and
- Prioritize health in decision making.

## What is a Health Impact Assessment (HIA)?

HIA is a structured process that helps assess the potential health effects of a proposed policy, plan, or project. An HIA provides recommendations to increase positive health outcomes and minimize adverse health effects.

## Benefits of HIAs

- Looks at health from a broad perspective.
- Brings different types of health concerns into the conversation and decision making process (i.e. historical or generational trauma)
- Bridges partnerships between community members and stakeholders across sectors.
- Elevates community voice and strengthens community leadership.
- Connects community narratives with data to present to decision makers.
- Offers decision makers comprehensive information and practical recommendations to maximize health gains and minimize adverse effects.
- Considers whether certain impacts may affect community members in different ways and can ensure fairness.

## Benefits of HIA Capacity Building and Training

Depending on the community, there may be limited awareness or knowledge about HIA and how to assess a project is a good fit. Having support through the process helps to ensure each HIA is aligned with practice standards, and enables groups to confirm that HIA is the right tool for them.

*"We learned a great deal about the HIA process during the January training. No one on our team was an expert in the area of conducting an HIA and we've come to understand the process. Our skills and knowledge were strengthened by the training and we continue to grow as the process proceeds..." – 2016 HIA Training Participant*

HIA capacity building and technical assistance helps groups to successfully manage all steps of the HIA process. HIAs provide communities and organizations with the information necessary to:

- Influence how decision-makers think about health
- Present a convincing argument for why health needs to be incorporated into policy decisions
- Prioritize community voice in all types of decision-making
- Strengthen community member's leadership skills
- Conduct rigorous and evidence-based analysis
- Use data to build bridges between diverse stakeholders

## HIA Services

HEP offers both general technical assistance to communities implementing HIAs as well as a train the trainer program for organizations who would like to have their staff trained on how to support others in implementing an HIA. Our HIA technical assistant services include:

- Customized support to help groups with preliminary steps of moving towards systems change.
- Assistance with screening potential policies and plans for HIA.
- "HIA 101" webinars and/or half-day training workshops.
- A customized training curriculum tailored to New Mexico with an emphasis on rural and tribal examples.
- Customized (one or two-day) training kick-off for new HIA teams.
- Ongoing technical assistance for HIA teams.
- Peer learning opportunities for new technical assistance providers.
- Hands on opportunities for new HIA TA providers to apply learnings in the field.
- Training on Health in All Policies and additional strategies to advance health equity.
- Partnerships with universities to support interns who are being trained on HIAs.

## Why work with us?

We believe that communities impacted by health inequities are the experts. This belief is reflected in our approach to customized training, facilitation, technical assistance, and evaluation.

We work out of multiple geographic locations and are experienced in supporting diverse communities.

Our trainers' expertise includes:

- A background in racial justice, environmental justice, labor, health and public policy, communications, epidemiology, statistical analysis, advocacy, community organizing, and program monitoring & evaluation;
- A robust understanding of New Mexico's cultural, geographical, and political contexts (i.e. border areas and multi-jurisdictions); and
- Experience conducting HIAs on a variety of topics across urban, rural, and tribal area, as well as with border and immigrant communities.

We have trained and supported diverse communities using HIA. We can adapt the structure and content of our trainings to meet your specific needs. Contact us today to learn more!



**HIA Training participants appreciate....**

*“Everyone being included and the step by step process of the learning the HIA process.”*

*“The push to think outside the box and the introduction of new concepts in HIAs.”*

*“Learning the process and seeing examples. Hearing other people's ideas and work---& results!!”*

## Pricing of Services

Pricing for our customized HIA training facilitation and preparation are:

- Customized (two-day) training kick-off for new HIA teams - \$12,000 - \$20,000
- Customized (one-day) training kick off for new HIA teams - \$7,500 - \$12,000
- HIA 101 half-day training workshop - \$2,500 - \$5,000

NMHEP has also previously funded HIAs in the amount of \$35,000. However, costs of HIAs are contingent on the scope and scale of the project.

Please inquire with the HEP team regarding pricing for ongoing HIA technical assistance, other HIA services, and logistics and technical support of community-focused trainings. HEP supports all types of organizations, locally and regionally, and in particular has discounted rates for nonprofits and community organizations. For more information regarding services people should please contact Jessica Jensen at [jjensen@nmhep.org](mailto:jjensen@nmhep.org).

## Health & Equity in All Policies

Health doesn't just happen as a result of diet, exercise and regular visits to the doctor's office. Health is impacted by the policy decisions that shape where we live, work, learn and play.

