



# **Environmental Health Fact Sheet: Health Department Strategies for Implementing Health in All Policies as a Part of Lead Poisoning Prevention**

**Introduction**

## Strategies for Implementing Health in All Policies

HiAP comprises different strategies and tactics for increasing health considerations in government practices and processes at multiple scales, scopes, and levels of government. HDs can use the following seven strategies for implementing HiAP at the state and/or local level.<sup>1</sup> Along with each strategy, local- and state-level examples are provided to illustrate the strategy in action. Additional examples are also available at (insert NCHH link for full crosswalk document when available)

### Develop and Structure Cross-Sector Relationships

Meaningful collaboration is the foundation of successfully implementing HiAP. Tactics for developing and structuring cross-sector relationships can be formal or informal. Formal structures, such as councils, committees, task forces; management practices; and memorandums of understanding help ensure accountability but can lack

such as temporary workgroups and voluntary teams, can inform initial working relationships and provide the basis for a more formal relationship to take shape.

#### HIAP IN ACTION: RELATIONSHIPS



Under New York City (NYC, NY) Local Lead Law 1, once the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) or the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene issues a lead paint violation, the building owner has 21 days to repair the hazard or, if the presumed violation was issued, to contest the violation. If the owner either fails to meet the deadline for the repairs or is not given an extension (called a postponement), the city must try to perform, or contract for, the repairs at the owner's expense. The city's Department of Finance bills the property for the cost of the emergency repair, related fees, and/or the cost of any repair attempts. It is likely to be far more expensive for the city to arrange repairs than if the owner had taken care of them up front.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has built robust cross-sector relationships to couple strong public enforcement of the Maryland Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing Act with local enforcement coordination

to reduce childhood lead poisoning statewide. MDE utilizes a team from the

and facilitate tenant access to family advocate attorney representation from the





*HDs can use a HiAP approach to address highly complex health challenges in their communities by initiating the ways that decisions are made and carried out at all levels.*

## Synchronize Communications

Communication is the foundation for building a common vision among HDs and partners. Tactics include framing activities in terms of how they relate to different sectors; developing common messages across sectors; establishing a shared platform for cross-sector communication; and developing joint policy statements.

### HIAP IN ACTION: COMMUNICATIONS



The City of Lawrence (MA) Lead Abatement Program partnered with the Mayor's Health Task Force (MHTF) and the Merrimack Valley Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to host a Lead Awareness Community Fair, where attendees received cleaning kits, education, and child lead screenings. In promoting this initiative, the partners presented at a MHTF meeting, issued a press release, included community stakeholders, and published outreach and advertisements on social media, radio, and local newspapers. Since the event, the Lead Abatement Program has remained connected to 80 other agencies through the MHTF and other partnerships created during the initiative.

Washington, DC passed the Childhood Lead Screening Amendment Act of 2006, mandating that all District children be tested twice by the time they are two-years-old; additional screening is required up to age six under certain circumstances. Laboratories must report all test results to DOEE's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and health care providers must notify DOEE about lead-poisoned children within 72 hours. To increase compliance with the District's lead screening and reporting law, DOEE provides education to health care providers and builds community awareness, especially among at-risk populations. DOEE has also created formal data-sharing agreements with several District agencies to identify and reach out to families who need to update their children's screenings.

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