

# ***Understanding Nutrition:*** **Primer Module on Key Issues**

## **Health in All Policies**

On February 23, 2010, then-Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-04-10 to create California's Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force. The Task Force is charged with identifying and helping to implement programs and policies to promote the health of Californians.

With the creation of the Task Force, California joined an international effort<sup>1</sup> to formally assess how governmental programs and policies affect community health.

Managed by staff at the California Department of Public Health and based at the state's Strategic Growth Council (SGC), the work of the Task Force is guided by three intersecting goals:

***Encourage Collaboration of State Agencies*** – The HiAP Task Force includes 19 State agencies, departments, and offices.

***Address Social Determinants of Health*** – Researchers have determined that medical care is responsible for about 10-15 percent of an individual's health and longevity. *Environmental factors* have greater influence on health and well-being, and Californians experience considerable variability in the quality of their physical, social, economic and service environments, which are known as the "social determinants of health."

The Task Force is working with state agencies to map how the policies and programs that impact our environments (for example, housing, parks, schools) can be harnessed to promote positive and minimize negative health outcomes.

***Sustain Resources*** – The Task Force aims to identify and implement projects that improve health *and* preserve resources for future generations (described by the Task Force as *co-benefits* and *win-win actions*). For example, getting people to walk and bike, instead of drive cars, improves individual health and also reduces air pollution, traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

Following an extensive outreach process, the HiAP Task Force released a report in December 2010 that included 34 recommendations to promote healthier, more sustainable communities and incorporate health considerations into the state's decision-making processes.<sup>2</sup>

Four of these recommendations focused on healthy food:

**Farm-to-Fork (I.E1.)**

Encourage and expand the availability of affordable and locally grown produce through “farm-to-fork” policies and programs.

**Food Assistance Programs (I.E2.)**

Better utilize State-administered food assistance programs to increase consumption of healthy foods; decrease consumption of low-nutrient, high-calorie foods; reduce hunger; and add dollars to the local economy.

**California Food Policy Council (I.E3)**

Establish a California Food Policy Council comprised of State agencies and other relevant stakeholders involved with food production, distribution, purchase, promotion, provision, and health, in order to build a more robust, sustainable food system, alleviate hunger, and promote consumption of healthy foods.

**Healthy Food Procurement (I.E4)**

Leverage government spending to support healthy eating and sustainable local food systems.

The HiAP Task Force then conducted another round of hearings, discussion and analysis to develop a set of 11 priority recommendations, which were adopted by the Task Force and the SGC in June 2011.<sup>3</sup> These “near-term priorities” include two of the four healthy food recommendations – farm-to-fork and healthy food procurement (see Table 1).

With the near-term priorities identified, the HiAP Task Force is now working with state agencies to develop implementation plans for each priority. On August 3, 2011, the SGC approved the Task Force’s implementation plan on healthy food procurement. See <http://www.sgc.ca.gov/meetings/20110803/aug2011-hiap-foodprocurement.doc>

**For more information on HiAP**, go to: <http://sgc.ca.gov/hiap/>

**Table 1:**  
**Detail of “Healthy Food” Near-Term Priority Recommendations**  
**California Health in All Policies Task Force & Strategic Growth Council**  
**Adopted June 2011**

**I.E. Healthy Food**

**I.E1. Encourage and expand the availability of affordable and locally grown produce through “farm-to-fork” policies and programs.**

- a. Promote farm-to-school programs to increase fresh produce offerings in school breakfast and lunch programs.
  - i. Establish a farm-to-school statewide coordinator to facilitate the development of farm-to-school programs.
- b. Explore methods to make it easier for small/local farmers to consolidate produce supply in order to sell to institutions.
- c. Promote school and community garden and orchard programs (including incorporation into learning curriculum), and explore funding streams to support such programs (e.g., United States Department of Agriculture specialty crop block grants).
- d. Encourage labeling of produce origin so that purchasers can select local produce if desired.
- e. Identify State and local regulations that pose barriers to access to locally grown or healthy foods, and recommend changes to:
  - i. Make it easier for farmers’ markets and produce vendors to operate in neighborhoods that lack access to fresh produce.
  - ii. Eliminate contracting and other barriers to procurement and use of fresh fruits and vegetables by institutions.
  - iii. Make it easier for school cafeterias to serve food grown in school gardens, including through identification of best practices for safe use of school-grown food.

**I.E4. Leverage government spending to support healthy eating and sustainable local food systems.**

- a. Adopt a healthy food procurement policy, pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 12400-12404, to ensure that foods purchased for consumption or sale on State property (e.g., vending machines, institutions, cafeterias, concessioner contracts) meet minimum nutritional standards.
  - i. Establish nutrition standards for foods and beverages available in government-run recreation centers and parks.
  - ii. Implement and strengthen existing legislation to promote healthier options in vending machines.
  - iii. Enhance vendor and concession policies to support the availability of healthy foods, for example through bid incentives for healthy options and locally-grown produce. Policy revisions should consider potential cost implications.
  - iv. Identify existing best practices and provide training and technical assistance on implementation of healthy procurement policies.

Source: [Health in All Policies Priorities for Near-Term Implementation](http://sgc.ca.gov/hiap/publications.html), downloaded on August 16, 2011, from <http://sgc.ca.gov/hiap/publications.html>

## END NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Health in All Policies Task Force. *Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council Executive Summary*. Sacramento (CA): (December 2010). Available at [http://sgc.ca.gov/hiap/docs/publications/HiAP\\_Task\\_Force\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://sgc.ca.gov/hiap/docs/publications/HiAP_Task_Force_Executive_Summary.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Health in All Policies Priorities for Near-Term Implementation*. (n.d.) Retrieved on August 16, 2011, from <http://sgc.ca.gov/hiap/publications.html>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

This key issue on Health in All Policies (HiAP) is one component of *Understanding Nutrition: A Primer on Programs and Policies in California*. Go to [www.ccrwf.org](http://www.ccrwf.org) to access additional modules.

The primer was produced by the California Center for Research on Women and Families (CCRWF), in partnership with California Food Policy Advocates and the California Department of Public Health's *Network for a Healthy California (Network)*, a public health effort working with hundreds of partners and organizations to empower low-income Californians to live healthier lives through good nutrition and physical activity.

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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