



Health Impact Assessments (HIAs)

Policies and systems that start with health, build resilient, vibrant communities. Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) are an evolving and important tool for analyzing how policies, programs or community projects may affect the health of a community.

In the U.S., Arizona has become a leader in this discipline, with 20 HIAs either completed or currently in progress. Arizona’s HIAs have covered a range of topics, including transportation, affordable housing redevelopment, recreational trails, shared use of school property, community garden ordinances, county nutrition standards, and more.

Vitalyst is a strong advocate of HIAs in Arizona, supporting various efforts, including the development of the Arizona Alliance for Livable Communities (AALC), a coalition of HIA practitioners, and Reinvent PHX, a five-part HIA in Phoenix.

To learn more, read *Lessons Learned from Arizona: Promising Practices for Health Impact Assessments*, a report that captures insights from Arizona’s HIA practitioners.

Arizona Alliance for Livable Communities (AALC)

As the practice of HIAs has grown in Arizona, so has the network of HIA practitioners. In “Lessons Learned from Arizona: Promising Practices for Health Impact Assessments” Arizona practitioners spoke highly about the AALC as a central figure in Arizona HIAs, a source of expertise, and a group that facilitates collaboration among professionals. The AALC advocates for health in all policies and focuses on Arizona’s HIAs. The Alliance meets monthly to discuss progress on current HIAs.



For more information on the AALC and to explore Arizona’s ongoing HIAs, visit www.livableaz.org.

Reinvent PHX

Reinvent PHX is an initiative that works with community partners in five districts along the light rail system to create action plans to



improve the quality of life for all residents, focusing on making the most of the light rail’s presence. Vitalyst and other members of the health team were tasked with gathering information from residents in each district. With this information, along with other primary and secondary data, the health team finalized production of HIAs for each district, paying special attention to access to healthy food, recreation and pedestrian safety.

For more information and to view all 5 Reinvent PHX HIAs, visit www.vitalysthealth.org/reinventing-neighborhoods.

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