

December 10, 2025

Subject: Health in All Policies 15-Year Anniversary & SGC Program Access Highlights

Reporting Period: December 2024 – December 2025

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Summary

This staff report includes an update from the California Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force and a summary of The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) initiatives that aim to improve health and access to resources for all Californians.

Background: Health in All Policies

The SGC's Health & Equity Program (HEP) facilitates the HiAP Task Force in partnership with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the nonprofit State of Equity (a program of the Public Health Institute). The HiAP Task Force was created in 2010 by [Governor's Executive Order S-04-10](#). In alignment with SGC's mission, the Task Force brings together California state agencies and departments to discuss, collaborate, and learn about how their work can make communities healthier. The Task Force helps integrate health and equity into state programs and policies that serve all Californians.

Task Force activities are based on quarterly interagency meetings. Meetings include presentations, input opportunities, and updates on public health initiatives within the state, local government, community-based organizations, academia, and other partners. This year, HEP is excited to share two reports celebrating HiAP's 15-year anniversary and recommendations for future efforts.

Health in All Policies 15-Year Anniversary

Since 2010, California's HiAP approach has drawn national and international attention, helping guide government practices in the state and around the world. HiAP is a collaborative approach that helps governments make better decisions to improve health, fairness, and quality of life of its residents. HiAP aims for participating agencies to accomplish shared objectives, enhance performance of programs through collaboration, and create a space for state employees to learn about each other's work. California's HiAP Task Force has been recognized by the American Public Health Association, Pan-American Health Organization, World Health Organization, and the Global Network for Health in All Policies through numerous publications, case studies, letters of recognition, presentations, and contributions to global HiAP frameworks.

To celebrate 15 years of this groundbreaking work, HEP contracted with the State of Equity to develop a comprehensive report. The HiAP 15-Year Anniversary Report shares the history of the Task Force, context for its founding, the priorities it has set, major accomplishments, and best

practices for advancing a HiAP approach. HEP and the State of Equity will publish and share the report publicly in 2026.

Health in All Policies Recommendations Report

In 2025, HEP contracted with the Equity and Wellness Institute (EqWI) to evaluate the HiAP Task Force and develop future priorities. EqWI attended HiAP meetings, met with partners and members, and reviewed guiding documents to better understand HiAP's strengths and identify opportunities for growth. EqWI's recommendations will be compiled in a report that builds on an internal Summer 2025 evaluation of the Task Force. The report highlights HiAP's ability to promote collaboration and facilitate discussions across state government. EqWI recommends consistent evaluation to ensure HiAP is meeting the needs of its state agency members and for all Californians. Additionally, EqWI suggests improved collaboration between HiAP Partners (SGC, CDPH, and State of Equity) to increase staff capacity and engage new and existing Task Force members. Lastly, EqWI recommends creating a communication strategy to share HiAP efforts and wins. EqWI will continue working with HEP through 2026 to finalize recommendations and Task Force actions plans.

Health in All Policies Grant Evaluation Tool

HEP and EqWI are developing a HiAP Grant Evaluation Tool. The tool supports SGC's [Council Priority 2](#) on technical assistance (TA) and capacity building. The purpose of the tool is to guide state agencies and departments through their grant and contracting process to ensure fair and flexible processes. With the tool, HEP aims to increase contracting opportunities with small businesses, non-profit organizations, and other entities who do not usually contract with the state due to complicated and lengthy processes. In 2026, HEP and EqWI will continue to refine the tool and test it with state programs.

SGC Program Highlights

HiAP, like many SGC programs, is focused on structural and systems change efforts. This includes upstream support of initiatives that impact the social determinants of health and health equity. HiAP, for example, focuses on systems change within government and public health approaches. This aligns with SGC's mission to coordinate and work collaboratively with public agencies, communities, and partners to achieve health, sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians. In 2023, SGC developed a set of priorities to carry on this mission, and SGC programs and initiatives have achieved significant progress. The achievements of SGC programs and initiatives are summarized below.

Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities (AHSC)

- The funding goal for Tribal entity projects changed from one per round, to \$50 million per round. In Round 9, the minimum award requirement for Tribal entity projects was reduced from \$10 million to \$1 million. These changes seek to make AHSC more accessible to Tribal entities. However, Round 9 did not receive any Tribal applicants, indicating that additional efforts are needed to identify and remove remaining barriers to participation.

- In April 2025, Council approved \$30 million in AHSC funding for the Tribal Housing and Capacity Building Initiative. The broad goals of the initiative are to cover three categories of TA: Tribal Capacity Building, Housing Project Development, and Pre-Development Infrastructure. Since April, the team has held key informant interviews and is currently drafting program guidelines and application materials.
- In Round 9, AHSC staff expanded engagement with Tribal entities and unawarded communities. During guidelines development, staff introduced Guidelines Office Hours—including Tribal-specific office hours—to gather feedback on guidelines and engage with underserved communities. Throughout Round 9, AHSC staff and TA providers held 45 workshops, meetings and outreach opportunities, reaching an estimated 1,600 individuals.
- Round 10 Capacity Building TA outreach was expanded to meet more potential applicants, including Orange County, Fresno and the Central Coast.
- The Climate Matrix (a tool in the application process) incorporated a new section to show how projects will increase climate resiliency and health equity.

Agricultural Land Equity Initiative (ALEI)

- SGC staff engaged over 400 people through the Agricultural Land Equity Task Force's outreach efforts including engagement sessions, a survey, public comment letters, and site visits on farms, ranches, urban gardens, and Tribal lands across California.
- ALEI staff conducted an interagency review process to gather input from agency staff on the Task Force's draft report of recommendations.
- Staff facilitated 12 public Task Force meetings and 33 subcommittee meetings to support the development and refinement of the Task Force's report of recommendations.

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment (Fifth Assessment)

- The Climate Change Research Program at SGC previously led outreach for the Fifth Assessment. This work has fully shifted to the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) as of June 2025.
- Since 2023, the California Energy Commission has provided \$3 million to support Tribal engagement around the Fifth Assessment. Participants include Tribes and Tribal nations, Tribal organizations, and Tribal-serving non-governmental organizations.
- The Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) welcomed three new members in 2025, bringing total membership to 10. TAG guides the Fifth Assessment Tribal Research Program, ensuring that the work is meaningful to Tribal communities and supports their work to advance climate resilience.
- Engagement around the Fifth Assessment prioritizes building long-term relationships and connecting with communities throughout the planning, development, and sharing of Fifth Assessment resources. Since 2023, Fifth Assessment staff have:
 - Coordinated 46 regional and statewide research contracts;

- Hosted more than 30 virtual and in-person workshops, meetings, and presentations;
 - Posted 18 research and public solicitations; and
 - Coordinated 50 interagency and expert meetings.
- In 2025, Coordinating Lead Authors were selected for the Fifth Assessment's Topical Reports. These reports focus on climate change impacts and risks related to Tribal and Indigenous communities, climate equity and justice, climate-induced human displacement and migration, economic impacts, and public health.

Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)

- CACE developed and launched the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program, which provides funding and technical assistance to California Native American Tribes to build staff capacity to advance their climate-related work. Six Tribal grantees were awarded a total of nearly \$1.5 million and the Tribal-led technical assistance team hosted 10 workshops and four peer-learning sessions.
- CACE awarded \$8.5 million to six Round 1 Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) with 88% of grantees' work focused on underserved communities. The six grantees received over \$64 million in federal, state, and philanthropic funds. RCC is a capacity-building program that funds coalitions in under-resourced communities to establish community priorities, develop a pathway of projects, and align projects with state, federal, and philanthropic funding opportunities.
- CACE launched the Imperial Valley Civic Ecosystem Initiative, a collaboration between SGC, the Governor's Office, the California Energy Commission, the Institute for Local Government, and the Latino Community Foundation to promote civic engagement and achieve the community's vision of a thriving Imperial Valley. This initiative features two interconnected programs that engage local public and nonprofit sectors: BOOST Imperial Valley and Activate Imperial. Through this effort, the initiative trained over 50 public servants on community engagement and governance best practices, applied for \$27 million in funding (with \$3 million already awarded), and launched the quarterly newsletter *Imperial Impact: Interagency and Partnership Highlights*.
- CACE updated SGC's *TA Toolkit: A Funders Guide to Building Community Capacity and Resilience* (formerly called "Technical Assistance Guidelines for State Agencies"). CACE added more resources and guidance on providing technical assistance for Tribes and launched the interagency TA and Capacity Building Workgroup for state agency staff to share best practices and lessons learned.

Community Resilience Centers (CRC)

- CRC awarded 4 projects (representing ~12% of awards) to Tribally led resilience center projects in 2024.
- In October 2025, CACE hosted a Tribally focused community input session for Round 2 Guidelines with plans for follow up with Tribal communities.

- All 24 Round 1 CRC grant recipients were SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities or AB 1550 Designated Low Income Communities, or represented both.
- Community input sessions for Round 2 funding were conducted with Spanish interpretation available.

Health & Equity Program (HEP)

- HEP evaluated the Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force in 2024 and 2025. Evaluation efforts included member surveys, key informant interviews, and focus groups. In 2025, HEP contracted with the Equity and Wellness Institute to expand on the evaluation findings and efforts to develop a recommendations report and updated action plans and priorities for HiAP in 2026 and beyond.
- HiAP Task Force Convenings and Special Forums
 - Since 2023, HiAP Task Force quarterly and work group convenings have hosted nearly 50 guest presenters, including from state government, non-profits, academia, and more.
 - The Task Force hosted a Forum on Outreach and Engagement Best Practices for state employees on Sept. 12, 2023, and a TA and Capacity Building Forum for state employees on May 14, 2024.
 - The California Transportation Commission supported the Task Force in administering a survey to state organizations on Tribal contracting practices (August 2024).
 - The HiAP Task Force hosted the Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable, culminating in 2025. The Roundtable brought together state government practitioners working in public health, violence prevention, and community engagement. The Roundtable was facilitated by State of Equity and featured a partnership with Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice.
- In collaboration with SGC Leadership, HEP developed and administered demographic and workforce experience surveys in 2024 and 2025. Findings from the surveys are used to guide organizational efforts to improve staff representation of Californians and recruitment and retention practices.
- In December 2024, HEP represented California at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Intersectoral Experts Meeting on Health in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. HEP staff contributed to a draft framework on monitoring HiAP in the Americas. HEP brought best practices and lessons learned in the HiAP field since 2010, while engaging with health practitioners from over 20 health agencies around the world.

Sustainable Agriculture Lands Conservation (SALC)

- SALC Round 10 awards included eight fee acquisition projects awarded to Tribal entities. This is four times more than the awarded acquisition projects from the prior round and is the result of major outreach and technical assistance efforts led in the previous year.

- SALC updated the Round 10 guidelines to include Tribal notification processes and advance payment options for Tribal-led organizations and non-profits in disadvantaged communities. Previously, SALC expanded the definition of agriculture to include Tribal/cultural stewardship to increase Tribal access to SALC.
- SALC concluded two technical assistance grants in 2025, providing technical assistance to 14 organizations and Tribes for acquisition and capacity grant development.
- In 2025, SALC awarded grant funds totaling over \$33 million to eight Tribes/Tribal non-profits to conserve over 11,300 acres of land, over eight counties (from Humboldt down to Los Angeles County) across the state.
- SALC led seven TA workshops and presented program offerings at four workshops with Land Trusts, Tribes, and cities/counties. Topics included land access, equity, and Tribal grant management. In addition, SALC initiated semi-regular office hours throughout the year to provide TA and receive feedback on a variety of topics ranging from application assistance to guidelines to template updates.

Transformative Climate Communities (TCC)

- TCC approved \$7.4 million in advance pay across eight eligible grantees from low-capacity communities.
- Guideline development for Rounds 4-6 included revisions to increase access for unincorporated and Tribal communities. This included prioritizing technical assistance for Tribes and creating funding goals for Tribal and unincorporated communities. This resulted in six of ten Project Development Grant (PDG) applications including disadvantaged unincorporated communities. Two applications included at least one Tribe as a co-applicant and six of 15 Planning Grant applications.
- SGC and TCC created the Connecting Communities Initiative to assist former TCC applicants in successfully applying for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Community Change Grants and other streams of funding. Now that many federal funding opportunities have been rescinded, Connecting Communities continues to look for innovative solutions. The initiative supports SGC grantees and unawarded applicants in accessing funding pathways and works to demonstrate proven strategies that advance community climate leadership.

Next Steps

SGC will continue to collaborate with all SGC member agencies to align programmatic efforts and report to Council on an annual basis and expand on the HiAP recommendations and engagement efforts.

Attachments

Attachment A: Health in All Policies 15-Year Anniversary Report