



Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Health in All Policies Implementation Policy

The health and well-being of the residents of Montgomery County are critical for a prosperous and sustainable community. There is consistent epidemiological evidence that demonstrates that physical activity is a major modifiable risk factor in the reduction of morbidity and mortality from many chronic diseases, and there is growing awareness that health is influenced by the interaction of many factors and not simply by genetics, individual behavior, or access to medical care. It is now widely accepted that conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, and age – known as the social determinants of health – have the greatest influence on health outcomes across populations.

Because the social determinants of health affect chronic disease rates, mental illness, injuries caused by accidents and violence, they also influence the adoption of healthy lifestyles by making it more or less difficult for individuals to choose behaviors that either promote or diminish health.

Montgomery County, PA recognizes that policies beyond the traditional health sector such as planning, land use, transportation, public safety, education, economic development, sustainability, climate change, parks, air and water quality, criminal justice, food access, and housing significantly affect the social determinants of health, and therefore addressing social determinants of health can lead to reduced health care costs.

By adopting a “Health in All Policies” approach, Montgomery County recognizes that diverse governmental entities and stakeholders have a role to play in attaining the highest level of health for all people and simultaneously advance other goals such as promoting economic stability, transportation access and mobility, environmental sustainability and educational attainment.

Therefore, the Montgomery County government shall apply a Health in All Policies approach to its decision-making by considering the inclusion of “health” in all future policy development and implementation, budgeting, and delivery of services.

