

# The Utah Healthy Places Index Policy Action Guides

While the Utah Healthy Places Index (HPI) provides a lot of data quantifying community conditions known to impact health — like education, job opportunities, and transportation — it can be challenging to put those data into action. That's why we've included evidence-based policy opportunities in the Utah HPI. Communities can explore over 300 evidence-based policy opportunities organized by the eight Policy Action Areas that make up the Utah HPI Score.

Local communities can use the Utah HPI to identify indicators at a variety of geographic levels to determine for themselves which policy opportunities work best. The Utah Department of Health and Human Services does not recommend any specific policy in the Utah HPI policy guides.

## Navigating the HPI policy opportunities

- **Option 1:** Click on a specific community, then locate an indicator of interest by navigating through the *Policy Action Areas* under *Community Conditions* located on the left side of the screen. Click the arrow to the right of the selected indicator, then scroll down the indicator details panel to find the *Policy Opportunities* button, right below the *Connection to Health*. You can explore a number of different policy opportunities connected to the selected indicator.
- **Option 2:** Go to *Policy Opportunities* in the *Tools* menu on the left side of the map screen. With no community selected, you'll see a list of all the available *Policy Action Guides* (e.g., housing, education, transportation, etc.). Click through to read each guide's contents.
- **Option 3:** Go to *Policy Opportunities* in the *Tools* menu on the left side of the map screen. Then click on a community of interest on the map. The map will automatically elevate key policy opportunities likely to have the greatest impact in this specific community, based on individual HPI indicator rankings.
- **Option 4:** Visit the Policy Action Guide section of the Utah HPI website.



## The importance of policy in public health

A policy, systems, and environmental change approach promotes healthy behaviors by making healthy choices readily available and easily accessible to communities. To ensure that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible, we need to improve unhealthy conditions wherever they exist. That is why the Utah HPI is a sound public health approach that provides evidence-based and practical policy opportunities to communities.

