

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of the residents of the Township of Woodbridge are critical for a prosperous and sustainable Woodbridge Township; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, interagency collaboration can lead to improved decision-making and outcomes and greater efficiencies in service delivery; and

WHEREAS, by adopting a “Health in All Policies” approach, the Township of Woodbridge recognizes that all Departments and Agencies have a role to play in achieving health equity, defined as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people; and

WHEREAS, addressing the social determinants of health can lead to reduced health care costs; and

WHEREAS, the social determinants of health affect chronic disease rates, mental illness, as well as 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; and

WHEREAS, the social determinants of health further contribute to health inequities, defined as differences in health associated with individual or group specific attributes (e.g., income, education, or race/ethnicity) that are connected to social disadvantage, historical, and contemporary injustices, and which can be minimized through changes to policy, programs, and practices; and

WHEREAS, policies implemented by all Departments of the Township of Woodbridge and the Municipal Council outside of the traditional health sector significantly affect the social determinants of health, including policies related to food access, housing, transportation, public safety, education, sustainability, climate change, parks, air and water quality, criminal justice, and economic development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it shall be the policy of the Township of Woodbridge to apply a Health in All Policies approach to the Township’s decision-making, including policy development and implementation, budgeting, and delivery of services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Woodbridge establishes a Health in All Policies Task Force to identify and pursue opportunities to improve health, including but not limited to affordable, safe and healthy housing; active living and transportation; access to healthy food; clean air, water, and soil; parks, recreation, and green spaces; economic opportunity; safety and violence prevention. The Health in All Policies Task Force shall be

composed of the Township's Directors or their designees, and the Township's Chief of Staff and Health Director shall lead the Task Force. All participating departments shall report to the Task Force on how their policies, practices, and procedures affect health outcomes. The Task Force shall also solicit broad input from residents, and community-based and private sector organizations about how the Township's policies, practices, and procedures affect health outcomes; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Task Force shall submit an annual report to the Municipal Council on any new Task Force's findings and updated policies.

ADOPTED: MAY 17 2022

I hereby certify that the above Resolution is a true and exact copy of the Resolution adopted by the Municipal Council of the Township of Woodbridge at their Regular Meeting on
MAY 17 2022


JOHN M. MITCH, RMC, CMC, CMR
MUNICIPAL CLERK