



**Contact:** Emily Richardson, JD  
Public Health Communications Manager  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
erichardson@nnphi.org  
nnphi.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Funding in South Carolina and Wisconsin will Ensure Health is Considered in Comprehensive Neighborhood Planning and Decisions Related to Transitional Jobs Programs**

**April 2, 2012, New Orleans, LA:**

The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, have awarded funding to South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (SCIMPH) and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI) to serve as models of public health institutes conducting Health Impact Assessments (HIAs). Their work forms an integral part of NNPHI and the Health Impact Project's broader initiative, *Increasing the National Capacity for HIAs: Utilizing the Nation's Public Health Institutes*, which is intended to promote and support the growth of the HIA field. Currently, NNPHI is funding two regional training centers at the Georgia Health Policy Center and the Oregon Public Health Institute to provide training and technical assistance on HIA.

An HIA is a type of study that helps decision-makers identify the likely health impacts of a decision in another field. "HIAs have gained increased attention as a tool for considering health in decision making. The increased focus on HIAs is due to the recent Institute of Medicine report, *For the Public's Health: The Role of Measurement in Action and Accountability*; National Prevention Council's focus on health in all policies; and overwhelming interest in the inaugural National HIA Meeting (April 3-4, 2012 in Washington, DC). HIAs are a tool for supporting health in all policies, which public health institutes support as an important approach to improving health outcomes," says Erin Marziale, MPH, Program Manager for NNPHI.

Public health institutes (PHIs) are nonprofit organizations that improve the public's health by fostering innovation, leveraging resources, and building partnerships across sectors, including government agencies, communities, the health care delivery system, media, and academia. PHIs address current and emerging health issues by providing expertise in areas like fiscal/administrative management; population-based health program delivery; health policy development, implementation, and evaluation; training and technical assistance; research and evaluation; health information services; health communications and social marketing; and convening/partnering.

By conducting model HIAs, the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute add to the growing number of PHIs participating in the *Increasing National Capacity for HIAs* project, leveraging the NNPHI membership's geographic diversity, scientific

credibility, policy expertise, multi-sectoral partnerships, and emerging leadership in the field of HIA. In South Carolina, the HIA will inform the City of Greenville's Planning Commission and City Council in the development of their comprehensive plan. The HIA will ensure a focus on health related to decisions regarding parks, green spaces, and trails. In Wisconsin, the HIA will inform decisions related to transitional jobs programs. The HIA will examine the potential health impacts of the jobs program, including outcomes such as mental health, violence, and community health.

###

#### **About the Health Impact Project**

The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is a leading national initiative dedicated to promoting the use of health impact assessments (HIAs) in the United States. For more information about the projects and HIA in general, including a searchable map of HIA activity in the U.S., visit [www.healthimpactproject.org](http://www.healthimpactproject.org).

###

#### **About the National Network of Public Health Institutes**

Created in 2001 as a forum for public health institutes (PHIs), today NNPHI convenes its members and partners at the local, state, and national levels in efforts to address critical health issues. NNPHI's mission is to support national public health system initiatives and strengthen PHIs to promote multi-sector activities resulting in measurable improvements of public health structures, systems, and outcomes. Learn more about NNPHI and its member institutes at [www.nnphi.org](http://www.nnphi.org).