Poverty rates in Salinas are at 22.3% compared to 17.3% for Monterey County. Economic conditions can substantially impact a person’s or community’s ability to achieve optimum health. For example, 43.5% of 5th grade Salinas students have an unhealthy BMI compared to 33.9% for the state. Limited access to fresh fruit and vegetables contributes to this reality.

The Salinas City Council unanimously approved the EDE that included these health-oriented provisions:

- Reduce hunger and food insecurity by supporting government and private programs that enhance community education, urban agriculture and emergency food sources.
- Reduce disparities in life expectancy and disease by working closely with Monterey County Health Department to track trends and support targeted prevention and wellness programs.
- Acknowledge that individual income and wealth is a strong predictor of health and well-being and strive to increase income among the lowest income groups in Salinas.

Policy ED QL 1.1: The City must lead take action to improve perceived and actual safety in Salinas by addressing the root cause of crime and violence in tandem with traditional public safety measures.

Monterey County Health Department promotes Health in All Policies (HiAP) to incorporate health and wellbeing considerations into population-based policies that affect individual and public health. HiAP addresses health determinants and work “upstream” of problems by changing social and environmental influences. The HiAP method reflects #4 of the 10 Essential Services of Public Health: Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.