



San Francisco City and County
Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Section

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is proud to announce the launch of www.TheHDMT.org. – the website for the **Healthy Development Measurement Tool** (HDMT). www.TheHDMT.org provides San Francisco residents, community organizations, and public agencies with a source of data on neighborhood and city conditions that are important to healthy living. The site also provides San Francisco with a set metrics to assess how well urban projects, plans, and policies promote community health.

More and more, public health and land use planning communities realize they need to work collaboratively for a healthy built and natural environment and to meet the needs of communities they serve. The Healthy Development Measurement Tool is an evidence-based practice to examine land use planning from a health perspective. It is the most significant product resulting from the Eastern Neighborhoods Community Health Impact Assessment (ENCHIA), an 18-month process involving diverse organizations and public agencies to assess the health benefits and burdens of development in the San Francisco neighborhoods of the Mission, South of Market, and Potrero Hill.

The Healthy Development Measurement Tool is organized around seven elements that comprise a "Healthy City". These elements include environmental stewardship; sustainable and safe transportation; public safety; public infrastructure; adequate and healthy housing; health economy; and, community participation. Healthy Development Measurement Tool elements are further organized by:

- 27 community health objectives that, if achieved, would result in greater and more equitable health assets and resources.
- Health-based rationales that describe the nexus between the objectives and public health.
- Over 120 measurable indicators and data to help evaluate progress towards the objectives and evaluate the benefits of projects, plans, and policies.
- Numerous development targets that, if achieved by a project or plan, are a proxy for improvement of an indicator.
- Policy and design strategies to support the achievement of development targets and that ultimately support overall public health promotion.

Good development will always represent an optimal balance between competing objectives. The Healthy Development Measurement Tool works as a voluntary assessment tool, ideally applied with public agencies and community stakeholders working together. Users of www.TheHDMT.org should expect that for any given project or plan application, the HDMT will reveal trade-offs between positive and negative effects. Currently, www.TheHDMT.org only provides San Francisco data. For other localities that are interested in using www.TheHDMT.org indicators, they would need to gather relevant data themselves.

www.TheHDMT.org provides step-by-step instructions on how to conduct an evaluation using tool indicators and supplies several examples of how it can be done. www.TheHDMT.org will soon include completed case studies of applications on the Executive Park SubArea Plan, the Eastern SoMa Area Plan, the Mission Area Plan, and the People's

Plan for Housing, Jobs and Community. In a future iteration of www.TheHDMT.org, we hope to provide on-line trainings and website interactivity. SFPDH is committed to maintaining www.TheHDMT.org and conducting a number of applications annually.

We dedicate www.TheHDMT.org to the members of the ENCHIA Community Council for their generous commitment to the process. Collectively, their experiences inspired and motivated www.TheHDMT.org, and their participation and commitment ensured its completion.

Many SFPDH staff worked tirelessly to develop indicators and gather data, health research, and policy and design strategies that largely make up the content of www.TheHDMT.org. Throughout the process, staff working on the project never forgot that they were in uncharted territory for public health and they brought a steady stream of energy and excitement that kept the process moving forward. Numerous individuals, experts, organizations and public agencies contributed valuable ideas and specific suggestions on how to improve www.TheHDMT.org, and make it more user-friendly and scientifically sound.

www.TheHDMT.org owes its existence to Joe Murray, our web developer, who skillfully developed our website and converted unwieldy data and research into a user-friendly website. Without him, many of us would still be flipping through the pages of a print-out scratching our heads.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to share our work with you. We look forward to hearing your feedback and believe this work contributes to a larger public health movement that advances health, equity and sustainability.

Sincerely,

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